

* Amended

NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
April 4, 2022

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City Council was held on Monday, April 4, 2022, in the Council Room in the Newport City Municipal Building. Present were: Mayor Paul Monette, Council President John Wilson, Council Members Kevin Charboneau, Melissa Pettersson, and Christopher Vachon, City Manager Laura Dolgin, Assistant City Clerk/Treasurer Stacey Therrien, Public Works Director Thomas Bernier, Fire Chief John Harlamert, Recreation Director Michael Brown, and members of the press and public.

Mayor Monette called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Wilson moved to approve the minutes of March 21, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Vachon, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Vachon moved to approve the minutes of March 28, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried unanimously.

Comments by the Public

None.

Newport Development Funds & Discover Newport Funds Update

Mr. Tim Tierney, Director of Business Recruitment and International Trade, VT Agency of Commerce and Community Development updated the board about the award process for the *Discover Newport Business Grant Program*, which was a set-aside funding opportunity aimed to incentivize businesses to expand or locate within the City of Newport, grow job opportunities, and attract visitors to the Newport area, and the *Newport Development Fund (NDF)* which was an effort aimed at businesses to expand or locate within the City of Newport that grow and improve opportunities and connections, create job opportunities and attract visitors to the Newport area. The grants were spearheaded by the City of Newport, the State of Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD), and Northeastern Vermont Development Association (NVDA).

A total of \$1,529,015.71 was made available and all but \$40,215.71 have been awarded and infused into the community. The grants came from the sale of the Quiros properties & the Stenger settlement funds and were designated by Governor Phil Scott to help the City of Newport recover from the failed EB-5 projects. The funds were awarded as follows:

Newport Development Grant Program:

Tanguay Homes received \$300,000

The Northeast Kingdom Development Corporation (NEKDC) received \$1,029,000

The Northeast Kingdom Tasting Center received \$79,500

Discover Newport Business Grant Program:

Memphremagog Community Maritime received \$20,000

Thrive Holistic Healing Center received \$20,00
Inked Arches received \$20,000
Inspired Yoga received \$20,000

- * Mr. Wilson stated he felt that City Management and members of the City Council should not be on a selection committee that refers/references city businesses. He believes it would be a conflict of interest to favor one business over another.

Grandstand Association Update

Mayor Monette represented for the Grandstand Association to inform the public that the Association will not pursue grants, but instead will fundraise for their feasibility study, and use the same hold harmless agreement that was used for the structural analysis.

Hazard Mitigation Plan Grant Award & Notice to Proceed, Vote

FEMA approved the City of Newport's current Hazard Mitigation Plan on December 5, 2017 and it is time for the plan to be updated. Vermont Emergency Management has awarded the City of Newport a subgrant under the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities 2020 in the amount of \$7,612.50 with a \$2,537.50 in-kind match. A motion was made by John Wilson to accept and agree to comply with the conditions of the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities 2020 project, and appoint the city manager as the authorized representative, seconded by Kevin Charboneau, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Bylaw Modernization Grant Consultant Vetting Volunteer

Mr. Chris Vachon, representing the City Council, volunteered to be a member of the Bylaw Modernization grant vetting committee for the consultant selection process.

Capital Investment Plan Review

Mr. Monette stated that there will be public hearings on May 2, 2022, and June 6, 2022.

Annual Roads and Bridge Standards, Vote

Mr. Vachon made a motion to approve the City's Compliance Standard for Town Road and Bridges. Seconded by Ms. Pettersson, motion was carried unanimously.

Annual Financial Plan for Town Highways, Class 1, 2, & 3 Road State Funds, Vote

Mr. Wilson made a motion to approve the Annual Financial Plan – Town Highways 19 V.S.A. § 306(j), seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried unanimously.

New Business

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New Business

Ms. Therrien presented liquor licenses to the council for their approval and signatures.

Old Business

None.

Next Meeting

April 18, 2022 @ 6:30 pm

Adjournment

Ms. Petterson moved to adjourn at 7:46 pm. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried unanimously.

Attested James Johnson This 18th Day of April 2022.

[Signature] Mayor