

## **Council Minutes**

**May 2, 2022**

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City Council was held on Monday, May 2, 2022, in the council room in the Newport Municipal Building immediately following a Public Hearing. Present were Mayor Paul Monette, Council President John Wilson, council members Melissa Pettersson, Kevin Charboneau, and Christopher Vachon, City Manager Laura Dolgin, City Clerk/Treasurer James D. Johnson, Tom Bernier, John Harlamert, Michael Brown, Travis Bingham, Jen Smith, Jamie Comtois, members of the Press and Public.

Mayor Monette called the meeting to order at 6:35PM.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Vachon moved to approve the minutes of April 18, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried unanimously.

### **Comments by the Public**

Pam Ladds stated that she did not find any attachments for tonight's meeting. Jennifer Hopkins noted that she looked for attachments just before tonight's meeting and could not locate them on the city's web site.

### **Recreation Committee Update (attached)**

Jamie Comtois and Jen Smith updated the council on the Recreation Committee.

### **Annual Appointment of Community Broadband Communications Union District (attached)**

Ms. Patterson moved to appoint Representative Woodman Page to the Governing Board of NEK Broadband with Paul Monette and Christopher Vachon as alternates for terms of one year. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried unanimously.

### **Water and Sewer Rates Amendment**

Discussion was held on the proposed water/sewer rates. Asst. City Clerk/Treasurer explained the proposed rate structure. The council decided to table the proposed amendment until next meeting and make it available to the public for comment. Mr. Wilson moved to table the amendment until the May 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried unanimously.

### **New Business**

Mr. Johnson presented a request for Niles Funds. Ms. Pettersson moved to approve the request for Niles Funds. Seconded by Mr. Vachon, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Johnson presented a request for a Special Events Permit for the Newport Country Club. Mr. Charboneau moved to approve the Special Events Permit for Newport Country Club. Seconded by Mr. Vachon, motion carried unanimously.

The council signed 2022 Liquor License Renewal applications.

Mr. Charboneau stated that the new street sweeper does an excellent job.

### **Old Business**

Mr. Charboneau asked about the status of the local VA Clinic. Mr. Wilson stated that VA has received from Senators Leahy, Sanders, Representative Welch as well as our local legislators urging the Veterans Administration to not close the local clinic. Letters from individuals, clubs, and business are also being sent.

Mayor Monette thanked Mr. Harlamert for getting East Main St. cleaned up.

Ms. Dolgin reminded the council of the update on summer events at the Gateway tomorrow at 3PM.

### **Next Meeting Date**

Monday, May 16, 2022, at 6:30 PM.

### **Executive Session to Discuss the Appointment or employment of a Public Officer or Employee.**

Mr. Charboneau moved to enter executive session to discuss the appointment or employment of a public officer or employee 1 VSA, 313 (3) (a) (3). Seconded by Mr. Vachon, motion carried unanimously.

In open session, Mr. Wilson moved to grant Mr. Harlamert a stipend of \$200 per week out of the Zoning budget until a new Zoning Administrator is appointed. Seconded by Ms. Pettersson.

Discussion: Mr. Harlamert asked if it was retroactive to date of appointment or effective immediately? Mr. Wilson responded it would be effective immediately. Motion carried unanimously.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Charboneau moved to adjourn at 8:00 PM. Seconded by Mr. Vachon, motion carried unanimously.

Attested: James Johnson this 16<sup>th</sup> day of May 2022

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

In October of 2013, Gardner Park Restoration began with two working moms who had a vision of a newer, safer, updated playground at Gardner Park. Fundraising began immediately with a variety of events ranging from winter carnivals, BINGO nights, snack bar sales and more!

Today's Recreation Committee is made up of 8 committed volunteers, some of whom you see here with us today (Deborah Smith, Jaime Comtois, Jennifer Smith, Kelli Rhodes, Matt Kiley, Shari-Lee Ryan, Nicholas Whitehouse, and Sean Pilker).

Over the past several years, the committee held various fundraisers in order to meet our goal of \$24,000 for the playground and splash pad, and I'm pleased to report we have exceeded our goal by raising nearly \$29,000! We have even started a fund for upkeep and maintenance of the playground as well as our own Rec Committee Project Line. We continue to accept bottle donations at Buzzy's, Thompson's and Jimmy Kwik toward the playground.

We have been working with the Rec Department and the City to stay updated on the environmental studies that have been conducted at Gardner Park over the last year. We expect an update within the next couple of weeks from the Environmental Protection Agency and the Dept of Environmental Conservation. Once we understand their clean up criteria, we can then work towards implementation and we are excited about this.

We held a wonderful event yesterday. The Rec Committee hosted a Bike Rodeo at the hospital with 45 kids showing up for this free event. Deb Smith, one of our long-time committee members, spearheaded this with many committee members there to assist. Kids could either bring a bike or borrow a bike. They had their bike checked out by Bob Primeau. He checked the air, their chains, and even spent time taking

off training wheels. Jennifer Leithied was there from the Hospital to do helmet checks. If the child did not have a helmet, they were given one. Donations and support came from Louis Garneau, North Country Hospital, and Vermont Parks and Rec. The Newport Police Department & the Sheriff's Dept were there helping out with stations. The kids went through a bicycle course set up by 'Local Motion.' Kids learned how to start riding with a jump start, how to use hand signals, turn, stop, yield, and even how to ride slowly. There was also a station set up where kids could learn how to ride a bike without training wheels. This was a very popular station. Community National Bank was there volunteering. They purchased two bikes for us to raffle off. They also bought all the volunteers pizza! Northern Counties Health Care was there to hand out snacks, Covid Tests, and other goodies for families. We had so many great volunteers and sponsors. It was a pleasure to be involved in this healthy community event.

Next up for the committee will be the Mother Son and Father Daughter dances. Those will be happening at the Gateway Center. The Mother Son dances will be June 10, 11, and 12th. The Father Daughter Dances will be on June 17, 18, and 19th. We are going with a Hawaiian theme this year. We know the community looks forward to these events every year and we work hard to make this event special for all who attend.

If anyone is interested in learning more about the Recreation Committee, or volunteering, we meet on the third Thursday of every month in this room. More information can be found on the Newport Recreation website.

We plan to participate in the June 15th Community Summit Update and look forward to continuing to make a positive impact on this community.

Thank you.

**RESOLUTION FOR ANNUAL APPOINTMENT OF A REPRESENTATIVE TO THE  
NEK BROADBAND GOVERNING BOARD**

WHEREAS, the Town of \_\_\_\_\_ is a current member of the NORTHEAST KINGDOM COMMUNITY BROADBAND COMMUNICATIONS UNION DISTRICT (The "District", or "NEK Broadband") under the provisions of 30 V.S.A. Chapter 82 and

WHEREAS, as provided in Section 3059 of said chapter, the legislative body or each member town shall appoint annually on or before the last Monday in April a representative and one or more alternates to the Governing Board of the District for one-year terms, and

WHEREAS, as provided in Section 3060 of said chapter, the Governing Board of the District shall hold its organizational meeting annually on the second Tuesday in May following the appointments contemplated in Section 3059,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

(1) The Selectboard of the Town of \_\_\_\_\_ hereby appoints the following representative and one or more alternates to the Governing Board of NEK Broadband for terms of one year each:

Representative: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate 1: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate 2: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Adopted at a regular meeting of the Selectboard of the Town of \_\_\_\_\_ duly held on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Selectboard Chair Date  
Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Town Clerk Date  
Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_