

City Manager..... (802) 334-5136
City Clerk/Treasurer 334-2112
Public Works/Parks 334-2124
Zoning Adm./Assessor 334-6992
Recreation 334-6345
Fax..... 334-5632



City of Newport
222 Main Street
Newport, Vermont 05855
www.newportvermont.org

Newport City Council Meeting
Regular Meeting Agenda
Monday, June 20, 2022, beginning at 6:30 p.m.
Newport City Council Room

Google Meet joining info
Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/ofh-mvzs-jdr>
Or dial: (US) +1 508-970-9153 PIN: 244 584 888#

City Council: Paul Monette, Mayor
John Wilson, Council President
Melissa Pettersson
Kevin Charboneau
Chris Vachon

Laura Dolgin, City Manager
James D. Johnson, City Clerk/Treasurer

1. Call the Regular Council Meeting to Order
2. Approve Minutes of June 6, 2022
3. Comments by Members of the Public
4. Authorization to use ARPA funding for Reservoir Cover Replacement, VOTE
5. New Business
6. Old Business
7. Set next meeting: Regularly Scheduled Council Meeting: June 20, 2022 @ 6:30pm
8. Adjourn

Non-confidential materials pertaining to this agenda are available for inspection at the City Clerk's office commencing at 9:00 a.m., the morning of the meeting.

Newport City Council Meeting Participation Guidelines

Newport City Council meetings are for the purpose of allowing Council members to conduct City business. Distinct from public hearings or town meetings, City Council meetings are held in public, but are not meetings of the public. City Council meetings are the only time the City Council members have to discuss, deliberate and decide upon City matters. In an effort to conduct orderly and efficient meetings, the Mayor kindly requests your cooperation and compliance with the following guidelines:

1. Please be respectful of each other, Council members, city staff, and the public.
2. Please raise your hand to be recognized by the Mayor. Once recognized, please state your name and address or affiliation.
3. Please address only the Mayor and not members of the public, staff, or presenters.
4. Please abide by any time limits. Time limits will be used to ensure everyone is heard and that there is sufficient time for the Council to complete their agenda within a reasonable timeframe.
5. The Mayor will make a reasonable effort to allow everyone to speak once before speakers address the Council a second time per the limited 2 minute timeline adopted on January 23, 2017.
6. Once public comment has been heard, discussion will be limited to the City Council members.
7. Please do not interrupt or mock other speakers or otherwise exhibit disruptive behavior during the City Council meeting.
8. Please do not repeat the points made by others, except to indicate agreement or disagreement with other views.
9. Please use the hallway for side conversations. It is difficult to hear speaker remarks when side conversations are occurring in the Council Chamber.
10. Presentations to the Council are not open to public comment. However, per the policy adopted on December 21, 2015, matters on the agenda requiring a vote are open to public comment immediately prior to the Council vote.
11. Individuals who do not abide by these procedures will be asked to leave the Council Chamber.

Council Minutes

June 6, 2022

DRAFT

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City Council was held on Monday, June 6, 2022, immediately following a Public Hearing on the Five-Year Capital Plan. 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 Johnson, Police Chief Travis Bingham, Fire Chief John Harlamert, PW Director Tom Bernier, Recreation Director Michael Brown, NCUHS Principal Chris Young, Wendy McGillivray, Anthony Moccia, Stacey Therrien and Rebecca Therrien by phone, members of the Press and Public.

Mayor Monette called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM following a Public Hearing on the Five-Year Capital Investment Plan.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Wilson moved to approve the minutes of May 16, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Vachon, motion carried unanimously.

Comments by the Public

Pam Ladds commented on the process for the executive session held at the last council meeting.

Mr. Wilson apologized to the public for abstaining on the vote held at the last council meeting on the cost-of-living increase for non-certified employees.

Approval of Five- Year Capital Plan

Mr. Wilson moved to adopt the Five-Year Capital Investment Plan. Seconded by Ms. Pettersson, motion carried unanimously

Water & Sewer Rates

A discussion with the attending members of the public on the proposed water/sewer rates took place, no vote was taken.

DRAFT

Conflict of Interest Policy

Ms. Petterson brought up her concerns with the Conflict of Interest Policy.

New Business

Mr. Charboneau moved to approve the Special Event Permit for Lawson's Finest Liquids, LLC. Seconded by Ms. Petterson, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Charboneau moved to approve Vendor Permits for Joe Silvestri and Rick Lansing. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Monette thanked the city departments for the Memorial Day Celebration.

Ms. Dolgin reminded everyone of the Community Summit on June 15th.

Old Business

Mayor Monette noted that the Earmark Grant for the Grandstand that the city had applied for was chosen by Rep. Welch as one of his fifteen projects to move forward to the U.S. House Appropriations Committee.

Next Meeting Date

June 20, 2022, at 6:30 PM.

Executive Session to Discuss a Contract

Mr. Vachon moved to that for the board's specific finding premature public knowledge of the subjects of the anticipated executive session tonight would clearly place the board and/or persons involved at a substantial disadvantage. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Vachon moved to enter executive session to discuss a contract 1 V.S.A. sec 313(a)(1)(A). Seconded by Ms. Petterson, motion carried unanimously.

In open session, Mr. Charboneau move to enter into a Payment in Lue of Taxes Agreement with North Country Hospital and authorize the City Manager as signatory. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session to Discuss Real Estate Purchase and Lease Options

Mr. Vachon moved to enter executive session to discuss Real Estate purchase and lease options 1 V.S.A. sec. 313(a)(2). Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried unanimously

DRAFT

In open session Mr. Wilson moved to approve, subject to review and approval by the City Attorney, the City's release of its access easement and right-of-way through the Built by Newport property at 450 Main Street by Quitclaim Deed to Newport Furniture Parts Corp. (NFPC) in exchange for NFPC's conveyance to the City of easements over two fire hydrants and associated water lines on the same property by Easement Deed, including the posting and the publication of the Notice of Sale of Municipal Real Estate for the Quitclaim Deed, and to authorize the Mayor to execute the Quitclaim Deed releasing the City's access easement rights on the property to NFPC, as well as any other related closing documents, if no petition is submitted objecting to said conveyance. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session to Discuss Labor Relations 1 V.S.A. 313(a)(1)

Mr. Charboneau moved that for the board's specific finding that premature public knowledge of the subjects of the anticipated executive session tonight would clearly place the board and/or persons involved at a substantial disadvantage. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Charboneau moved to enter executive session to discuss the labor relations agreements 1 V.S.A. 313 (a)(1). Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried unanimously.

No action taken.

Adjournment

Mr. Charboneau moved to adjourn at 8:41 PM. Seconded by Ms. Pettersson, motion carried unanimously.

Attested _____ this _____ day of _____ 2022

Mayor

To: Water Commissioners/City Council

cc City Clerk & Treasurer James Johnson

From: Laura Dolgin, City Manager & Tom Bernier, Director of Public Works *T.B.*

Date: June 20, 2022

Re: Seeking Authorization to use ARPA Funding for the Reservoir Cover & Liner

Water Commissioners/City Council are well aware of the need to replace the liner and the cover for the reservoir, as this has been an identified issue since 2014 upon an Inspection by the State Drinking Water Division, with the anticipated end of life being 2019. The City's primary water storage is the reservoir. The liner and cover protect the City's drinking water from contamination, but have reached the end of their useful life span.

The Water Tower bond vote on March 2, 2021, stated in part, approval for a general obligation bond for the City of Newport in an amount not to exceed Four Million Nine Hundred Eight-Five Thousand Dollars (\$4,985,000), subject to available state and federal reductions and other financial assistance to be issued for the purpose of acquiring land and easements, constructing a water storage tank, replacement of the Palin Hill Reservoir Liner and floating cover, installation of water service connections, with functionally related storage, pumping and transmission, appurtenances and additions.

The estimated cost of the cover and liner replacement at the time of the vote was \$406,000.00. This portion of the Water Tower Project is ready to go to bid.

On Friday, June 17, 2022, the city's engineering firm, Aldrich and Elliott, provided an updated replacement amount due to the increased costs in goods and services and supply chain issues, which is good through September 2022. The Palin Hill Reservoir Liner/Cover updated construction cost estimate is \$560,000.

Notes:

- This includes a 15% contingency.
- It includes both the liner and cover. It sounds like the liner is probably in acceptable condition, so we recommend setting the liner as a bid alternate that would only be selected if the pricing is favorable. The Permit-to-Construct application noted that this is how it might be handled, so shouldn't be a surprise to the State, and will provide more flexibility, which is a very good thing to have these days.
- It includes removal/disposal costs for the existing liner/cover.

Since the bond vote, the City has received \$636,926.71 in ARPA funding and is expecting to receive another \$636,926.71 in October of 2022. The purpose of ARPA funds are many, including making investment in water. This project is an eligible use for these funds and can be used to offset the costs of the total project. The successful bond vote serves as community endorsement.

Should the water commissioners/council see fit, a vote to authorize using a portion of the ARPA funds, as outlined, for this purpose is requested.