

Special Council Meeting Minutes

May 31, 2023

A special meeting of the Newport City Council was held on Wednesday, May 31, 2023, in the council room in the Newport Municipal Building. Present were Council President John Wilson, Council members Kevin Charboneau, Clark Curtis, Chris Vachon, City Manager Laura Dolgin, City Clerk/Treasurer James Johnson, City Attorney David Rugh, Asst. Clerk/Treasurer Stacey Therrien, Fire Chief John Harlamert, Public Works Director Tom Bernier, Recreation Director Mike Brown, Programs Director Rebecca Therrien, members of the Press and Public.

Council President Wilson called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

Additions, Changes, Deletions to the Agenda

None

Public Comment

Heidi Eichenberger commented on the lack of answers to questions.

Sue Watson commented on the audit.

Beth Barnes commented on her resignation as mayor.

Amy Gillespie commented on the council.

Anne Chiarello commented on the appointment of the mayor.

Mr. Wilson responded to some allegations about him on social media.

Acceptance of Mayors Resignation

Mr. Charboneau moved to accept the resignation of Beth Barnes as mayor. Seconded by Mr. Vachon.

During discussion, Mr. Charboneau responded to allegations of bullying and harassment from former Mayor Beth Barnes. Motion carried.

Approval of Notice of Vacancy for the Appointment of a New Mayor

Mr. Wilson read the Notice of Vacancy.

Mr. Vachon moved to approve the notice of Vacancy. Seconded by Mr. Curtis, motion carried.

Discussion of Labor Relations Agreements Regarding Dept. of Public Works AFSCME (likely executive session) 1 VSA sec 313(a)(1)(B) (4:58 PM)

Mr. Vqchon moved that premature general public knowledge of the City's Labor relations agreement and its negotiations with Department of Public works AFSCME would place the City at a substantial disadvantage because it would give away the City's negotiating position and likely lead to the disclosure of attorney-client privileged and confidential communications. Seconded by Mr. Curtis, motion carried.

Mr. Vachon moved to enter executive session under 1 VSA 313(a)(1)(B) to discuss labor relations agreements with the Department of Public works AFSCME and ask that the City clerk and City Manager and/or the city attorney join the executive session. Seconded by Mr. Curtis, motion carried.

Out of Executive session at 5:17 PM, no action.

Interview and Discussion Regarding a Potential Candidate for Interim City Manager Position (likely executive session) 1 VSA sec 313(a)(3) (5:21 PM)

Mr. Charboneau moved to enter executive session to interview a potential candidate for Interim City Manager. Seconded by Mr. Vachon, motion carried.

Out of executive session at 6:52 PM.

Mr. Charboneau moved to contract with Karen Geraghty for a scope of professional services for city administration effective June 5, 2023, and authorize the Council President to sign the contract pending approval of the City Attorney. Seconded by Mr. Vachon, motion carried.

Adjournment

Mr. Curtis moved to adjourn at 6:56 PM. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried.

Attested James Johnson this 5th day of June 2023

John Wilson Council President