

Council Minutes

June 5, 2023

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City Council was held on Monday, June 5, 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 Clerk/Treasurer James Johnson, Programs Director Becky Therrien, City Attorneys David Rugh and Marilyn Mahusky, Public Works Director Tom Bernier, Fire Chief John Harlamert, Police Chief Travis Bingham, Recreation Director Mike Brown, Zoning Administrator Francis Cheney, members of the Press and Public.

Council President John Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:12 PM immediately following a public hearing on the Capital Improvement Plan.

Additions, Deletions, or Changes to the Agenda

Mr. Wilson noted that numbers 6 & 11 will be tabled until the next meeting on June 26, 2023.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Vachon moved to approve the minutes of May 15, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau. During discussion Ms. Chiarello suggested that the words verbally assaulted be removed from the minutes under public comment. Mr. Charboneau withdrew the second and Mr. Vachon withdrew the motion. Mr. Vachon suggested the direct quote from the minutes be included.

Mr. Vachon moved to approve the minutes of May 18, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Curtis, motion carried.

Mr. Charboneau moved to approve the minutes of May 20, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Vachon, motion carried.

Mr. Vachon moved to approve the minutes of May 22, 2023, with corrections. Seconded by Mr. Curtis, motion carried.

Mr. Charboneau moved to approve the minutes of May 24, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Vachon, motion carried.

Mr. Vachon moved to approve the minutes of May 31, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Curtis, motion carried.

Comments by the Public

Anne Chiarello commented on voting for the mayor and offered to pay for the election.

Teresa Gerade commented on the mayor's resignation.

Heidi Eichenberger commented on emails she has sent to the city council.

Susan Watson commented on the general ledger.

Laurie Grimm commented on the city council.

Donna Marie Constantineau commented that the city needs to spend the \$1,000 for an election.

Susan Mund commented on the vote for mayor.

Jennifer Bjurling commented on 1 VSA, 313. Specifically, what she believes was an Open Meeting law violation at the May 15th meeting. Ms. Bjurling stated that the council refuses to disclose what was said in the executive session on May 15th that caused the mayor to walk out of the meeting.

Jay Walsh commented on a public apology to the former mayor.

Mr. Wilson noted that there would be an election for mayor on August 1, 2023. Mr. Johnson explained the details of the election. (attached)

Review Proposed Contract for Professional City Administrative Services. Anticipated Executive Session Pursuant to 1 VSA 313(a)(1)(A).

Mr. Charboneau moved to find that premature general public knowledge of the City's draft contract for Professional City Administrative Services would place the City at a substantial disadvantage because it would likely lead to the disclosure of attorney-client privileged and confidential communications. Seconded by Mr. Vachon, motion carried.

Mr. Vachon moved to enter executive session under 1 VSA 313(a)(1)(A) to discuss the draft Contract for Professional Administrative Services and ask that the City Clerk, City Attorneys, David Rugh, Marilyn Mahusky, Becky Therrien, and Karen Geraghty join the executive session. Seconded by Mr. Curtis, motion carried.

No action in open session.

Recreation Committee Appointments

Mr. Charboneau moved to appoint Susan Kylie and Carter Finegan to the Recreation Committee. Seconded by Mr. Vachon, motion carried.

MCM Second Floor Lease Ratification

Mr. Charboneau moved to ratify the lease agreement with MCM for two years. Seconded by Mr. Curtis. Discussion on the terms of the agreement and a security deposit. Motion carried.

Fuel and Propane Pre-Buy Authorization

Mr. Vachon moved to accept the fuel and propane pre-buy from Fred's Energy and authorize the Programs Director to sign the agreement. Seconded by Mr. Curtis, motion carried.

Vicious Dog Appeal

Complaint by Ms. Brynn against the dog owned by Ms. Veilleux. Ms. Veilleux replied to the complaint. Ms. Brynn felt things have gotten better. Mr. Wilson stated that Ms. Veilleux has done a lot to correct the situation. If it happens again there will be other consequences.

New Business

None

Old Business

None

Next Meeting Date

June 26, 2023, at 6:30 PM.

Adjournment

Mr. Charboneau moved to adjourn at 8:02 PM. Seconded by Mr. Curtis, motion carried.

Attested _____ this _____ day of _____, 2023.

John A. Wilson Council President



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June 5th, 2023

Genevieve Veilleux
62 Loop Road
Newport, VT. 05855

Re: Vicious Dog Hearing held June 5, 2023 regarding Max

Dear Genevieve Veilleux

On May 16, 2023, you received a Vicious Dog notice via certified mail which deemed Max a vicious dog. On May 18, 2023 you indicated to City Manager, Laura Dolgin, that you wish to appeal the notice. On June 2, 2023 a notice was posted via the Newport City Council agenda that a hearing would take place on Monday June 5, 2023 during the regularly Scheduled council meeting.

On June 5, 2023 the Newport City Council, hereafter referred to as the Council, convened a Vicious Dog Hearing where Council members (Wilson, Charbonneau, Vachon, Curtis) were present to hear evidence presented by Officer William Kulakowski and Genevieve Veilleux. Additional evidence was provided to the council marked "PD Exhibit 1" "PD Exhibit 2" "PD Exhibit 3" "PD Exhibit 4" "G.V. Exhibit 1" "G.V. Exhibit 2".

After hearing testimony from both parties the Council agreed that Genevieve Veilleux had taken the correct steps to mitigate any future situations. Council President, John Wilson stated, "If it happens again there will be other consequences".

The following conditions that Genevieve Veilleux has put in place since the incident are as follows;

1. An Electric Collar (E-Collar) to keep the dog from barking and helps with obedience
2. A six foot high fence in the back yard so the dogs can't jump over or get out of fenced in area.
3. A better locking system on the house door so the dogs can't defeat the latch and get out of the house without the owner letting them out
4. Make sure they remain on leash when outside of the fenced in area

Respectfully Submitted,

Chief Travis R. Bingham