

Council Minutes

June 26, 2023

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City Council was held on June 26, 2023, at the Gateway Building. Present were Council President John Wilson, Council Members Kevin Charboneau, Clark Curtis and Chris Vachon, Programs Director Rebecca Therrien, City Clerk/Treasurer James D. Johnson, Fire Chief John Harlamert, Police Chief Travis Bingham, Public works Director Tom Bernier, Asst. Clerk/Treasurer Stacey Therrien, members of the Press and Public.

Council President Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM.

Additions, Deletions, or Changes to the Agenda

Mr. Charboneau moved to approve the Warning for the Special Meeting on August 1, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Curtis, motion carried. (attached)

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Charboneau moved to approve the minutes of June 5, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Vachon, motion carried.

Consider Interim City Manager Letter of Intent Offering Employment – Executive Session.

Mr. Charboneau moved that the Council find that premature general public knowledge regarding the City's Letter of Intent for the employment of an Interim City Manager would clearly place the City at a substantial disadvantage because the council risks disclosing its negotiation strategy if it discusses the proposed contract terms in public. Seconded by Mr. Curtis, motion carried. Motion carried.

Mr. Charboneau moved that the council enter executive session to discuss the City's proposed Letter of Intent for the employment of an Interim City Manager pursuant to Title 1 Section 313(a)(1)(A). Seconded by Mr. Curtis, motion carried.

In open session, no action was taken.

Consider Appointment of Interim City Manager – Executive Session 1 VSA 313(a)(3)

Mr. Charboneau moved that the Council enter executive session to consider the appointment of an Interim City Manager pursuant to 1 VSA Section 313(a)(3) and invite Karen Geraghty into executive session. Seconded by Mr. Curtis, motion carried.

In open session. Mr. Vachon moved that the Council appoint Karen Geragthy to be Interim City Manager and approve the offer of employment through the Letter of Intent drafted by the City's legal council which sets forth the terms and conditions. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried.

Mr. Wilson introduced Karen Geragthy, the new Interim City Manager. Ms. Geragthy spoke about her appointment as Interim City Manager and her style of management.

Comments by the Public

Anne Chiarello commented on the change in the minutes of May 15th and that the minutes hadn't been approved. Mr. Curtis moved to approve the minutes of May 15th with changes. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried.

Heidi Eichenberger commented on the role of the mayor and council.

Beth Barnes commented on the success of the Pride Parade.

Special Meeting Concerns

Jay Walsh submitted questions on the policy and guidelines for calling special meetings.

2023-2024 Line of Credit

Mr. Charboneau moved to approve the 2023-24 Line of Credit in the amount of \$1,000,000. Seconded by Mr. Curtis, motion carried.

Legal Services Agreement for Causeway/Gardner Park Streetscape Project and USDA Grant

Mr. Charboneau moved to accept the Legal Services Agreement for Causeway/Gardner Park Streetscape Project and USDA Grant with Stitzel, Page, and Fletcher. Seconded by Mr. Vachon, motion carried.

Consider Ratifying NEPBA Contract – Executive Session 1 VSA 313(a)(1)(B)

Mr. Charboneau moved that the City Council find that premature general public knowledge regarding the City's contract with NEPBA would clearly place the City at a disadvantage, because the Council risks disclosing its negotiation strategy if it discusses the proposed contract terms in public. Seconded by Mr. Curtis, motion carried.

Mr. Curtis moved that the Council enter executive session to discuss the City's labor relations contract with NEPBA pursuant to Title 1, section 313(a)(1)(B). Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried.

In open session, Mr. Charboneau moved to accept and ratify the NEPBA contract. Seconded by Mr. Curtis, motion carried.

New Business

Mr. Johnson presented liquor licenses from Memphremagog Community Maritime and Eden Ice Cider. Mr. Charboneau moved to approve both liquor license applications. Seconded by Mr. Vachon, motion carried.

Mr. Vachon moved to approve a Vendor's permit for Mead-Fournier Enterprise. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried.

Mr. Wilson noted that the project at the reservoir and the reservoir cover is moving forward. The snags on the Spruce S., water and sewer project are being taken care of.

Old Business


Mr. Charboneau moved to approve the minutes of May 15, 2023, with changes. Seconded by Mr. Curtis, motion carried.

Next Meeting Date

July 10, 2023, immediately following a Public Hearing.

Adjournment

Mr. Charboneau moved to adjourn at 8:54 PM. Seconded by Mr. Curtis, motion carried.

Attested  this 10th day of July 2023

Council President 