

Special Council Meeting

July 19, 2023

A duly warned Special Meeting of the Newport City Council was held on July 20, 2023, in the council room in the Newport Municipal Building. Present were Council President John Wilson, Council Members Kevin Charboneau, Clark Curtis, and Chris Vachon, Interim City Manager Karen Geraghty, City Clerk/Treasurer James D. Johnson, Beriah Smith and David Rugh from Stitzel, Page and Fletcher, Rebecca Therrien, members of the Press and Public.

President Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.

Additions, Changes, deletions to the Agenda

None

Public Comment

Jennifer Bjurling stated that she felt that the council and appointed officials are not performing their duties. She felt they do not listen to the public and need training.

Response of the City Council to the Notice of open Meeting Violation in compliance with 1 V.S.A. sec. 314(A)(2); (Possible executive session 1 V.S.A. sec. 313(a)(1)(F)

Mr. Vachon moved to find that premature general public knowledge of the City Attorney's legal advice to the City council regarding the Open Meeting Law would clearly place the public body at a substantial disadvantage by disclosing privileged and confidential attorney-client communications. Seconded by Mr. Curtis, motion carried.

No action during executive session.

In open session, Mr. Vachon moved that.

Whereas, the City received written notice from Jennifer Bjurling alleging that the City violated the Open Meeting Law by failing to post minutes of the April 3, May 15, and June 26, 2023, City Council meetings on the city website within five calendar days of said meetings pursuant to 1 V.S.A. Sec. 312(b)(2) and

Whereas, the minutes of the city council meetings held on April 3, May 15, and June 26, 2023, were not publicly viewable on the city website five calendar days after the April 3, May 15, and June 26, 2023, City Council Meetings and

Therefore, the City Council acknowledges that failing to post the meeting minutes of April 3, May 15, and June 26, 2023, City council meetings to the City website so they are publicly viewable within five

calendar days of the meetings was a violation of 1 V.S.A. sec 312(b)(2). Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried.

Consider Policy Adoption Regarding Posting of Minutes (attached)

Mr. Charboneau moved to adopt the policy regarding posting of minutes. Seconded by Mr. Vachon, motion carried.

Adjournment

Mr. Charboneau moved to adjourn at 7:02 PM. Seconded by Mr. Vachon, motion carried.

Addressed James John this 20th July 2023
John A. Wilson