

Council Minutes

July 24, 2023

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City Council was held on Monday, July 24, 2023, at the Gateway Center. Present were Council President John Wilson, Council Members Clark Curtis, Chris Vachon, Kevin Charboneau by phone, Interim City Manager Karen Geraghty, City Clerk/Treasurer James Johnson, Rebecca Therrien Programs Director, and members of the Press and Public.

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

Additions, Deletions or Changes to the Agenda

None.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Vachon moved to approve the minutes of July 10, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Curtis, motion carried.

Mr. Curtis moved to approve the minutes of July 17, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Vachon, motion carried.

Mr. Vachon moved to approve the minutes of July 19, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Curtis, motion carried.

Comments by the Public

Anne Chiarello commented on expenditures i.e., the Annual report, Stonegarden, Fire Equipment and Grants, and the Parklet.

Jay Walsh commented on establishing an advisory committee to interview candidates for City Manager.

VELCO request for Waiver of 45-Day Advance Notice Requirement as Permitted by 30 VSA § 248(f) (attached)

Mr. Vachon moved to approve VELCO's request for a waiver. Seconded by Mr. Curtis, motion carried.

New Business

Ms. Geraghty thanked all city departments for their hard work during the heavy rain and subsequent flooding.

Mr. Wilson thanked the City of Magog for opening the flood gates.

Ms. Geraghty noted that Chief Bingham and all of duty officers attended the funeral at Castleton for an officer from Rutland killed in the line of duty.

Mr. Wilson noted the mayoral debate on June 26, 2023.

Old Business

Mr. Wilson noted the line striping on West Main St.

Mr. Wilson read the cities response to questions from Jay Walsh on June 26, 2023 (attached)

Labor Negotiations Status and Possible Ratification Vote, Possible Executive Session 1 VSA\$ 313(a)(1)(B)

Mr. Vachon moved to find that open discussion of contract negotiations with the city's Public Works Union would place the city at a substantial disadvantage because premature disclosure would impair the city's bargaining position and violate ground rules. Seconded by Mr. Curtis, motion carried.

Mr. Vachon moved to enter executive session to discuss collective bargaining negotiations and to invite Karen Geraghty, James Johnson, Rebecca Therrien, John Klesch, and Marilyn Mahusky to the executive session. Seconded by Mr. Curtis, motion carried.

No Action Taken.

Next Meeting Date

August 7, 2023

Adjournment

Mr. Curtis moved to adjourn at 7:32 PM. Seconded by Mr. Vachon, motion carried.

Attested James Johnson This 7th Day of August 2023.

Paul J. Sullivan Mayor/Council president

City Manager (802) 334-5136
334-3891
City Clerk/Treasurer 334-2112
334-3892
Public Works 334-2124
Zoning Adm./Assessor 334-6992
Recreation/Parks 334-6345
Fax 334-56-32



City of Newport
222 Main Street
Newport, Vermont 05855

July 24, 2023

Shana Louiselle
Vermont Electric Power Company
Slouiselle@velco.com

Re: Petition of Vermont Transco LLC, and Vermont Electric Power Company, Inc. (collectively, "VELCO"), for a Certificate of Public Good pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248(j) authorizing upgrades to VELCO's existing Newport Substation, located in Newport, Vermont

Dear VELCO:

On July 19, 2023, the City of Newport received notice from you of the Vermont Electric Power Company's (VELCO) intent to make upgrades to VELCO's existing substation at 917 Clyde Street in Newport, Vermont, all within the existing substation fence.

The primary upgrade consists of replacing an existing 30 MVA transformer with a 56 MVA transformer (the "Project"). VELCO needs to perform this work because the existing transformer is approaching the end of its usable life expectancy given its age and condition. If the transformer is kept in service, it would be risking a potential future outage due to equipment failure.

We, the Newport City Council, have reviewed the Project description as provided by VELCO and we waive the 45-day advance notice requirement, as permitted by 30 V.S.A. § 248(f).

Sincerely,

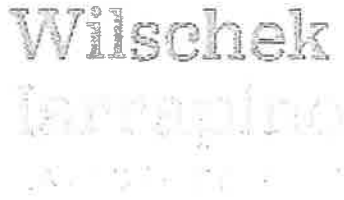
Newport City Council

John Wilson, President

Kevin Charboneau

Chris Vachon

Clark Curtis



From: Joslyn Wilschek <joslyn@wv.com>

Tue Jul 18 2:42 PM '13 3 days ago

Post Office Manager@NewportVermont.org, Shana

Good afternoon,

I am following up on the discussion that you had with Shana Louiselle and thanks in advance for your time. My name is Joslyn Wilschek and I am an attorney that represents VELCO regarding its need to obtain Section 248(j) approval from the Vermont Public Utility Commission for its plans to replace an existing transformer at its Newport Substation at 917 Clyde Street with a larger transformer. VELCO needs to perform this work because the existing transformer is approaching the end of its usable life expectancy given its age and condition. If the transformer is kept in service, it would be risking a potential future outage due to equipment failure. VELCO will perform all work within the existing substation fence.

Under Vermont law, VELCO needs to provide the Newport selectboard and planning commission, and the regional planning commission with detailed notice of the project 45 days before it files its Section 248(j) petition, unless these entities waive the need for such notice. Because this project has very limited impacts given that all work will be done within the existing substation fence, VELCO was hoping that the Newport selectboard and planning commission could please issue a waiver of the need to receive the 45-day advance notice.



I have attached draft waivers for the selectboard and planning commission to consider as both entities would need to sign these waivers. Please let me or Shana know if you need more information. If the selectboard and planning commission agree to issue the waivers, please have a representative from those entities sign their respective waivers and email it to me and Shana (copied here).

Even if the selectboard and planning commission issue the waivers, VELCO will still provide them with a copy of the complete Section 248(j) filing. VELCO would prefer to send the filing via email so please let me know if they consent to receiving the filing via email. Thanks again for your help.

Joslyn Wilschek, Esq.

Wilschek Larrapino Law Office PLLC

35 Elm Street, Suite 200

Montpelier, VT 05602

802-249-7663

Joslyn@ilovt.net (e-mail)

<https://wilovt.com> (website)

"In response to the questions posed by Mr. Jay Walsh under Public Comment at the Council Meeting held on June, 26, 2023:

The City Attorney has advised us not to respond to your questions because they pertain to the same subject matter as a potential lawsuit from former Mayor Beth Barnes."