

DRAFT

Special Council Meeting Minutes

October 23, 2023

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City Council was held on Monday, October 23, 2023, in the council room in the Newport Municipal Building. Present were Mayor Linda Sullivan, Council President John Wilson, Council Members Kevin Charboneau, Chris Vachon and Clark Curtis, Interim City Manager Karen Geraghty, Zoning Administrator Francis Cheney, City Clerk/Treasurer James D. Johnson, City Attorney David Rugh, PW Director Tom Bernier, Police Chief Travis Bingham, Recreation Director Mike Brown, Programs Director Rebecca Therrien, members of the Press and Public.

Mayor Sullivan called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Additions, Deletions or Changes to the Agenda

Mr. Wilson moved to add consider employment status of the Interim City Manager. Seconded by Mr. Curtis, motion carried. Wilson, Curtis in favor, Charboneau, Vachon against, Mayor Sullivan in favor.

Public Comment

There were public comments on the employment of the City Manager.

Authorization to Advertise for the Position of City Manager.

Mr. Wilson moved to authorize the advertisement for City Manager. Seconded by Mr. Curtis,

After discussion the motion and second were withdrawn. Mr. Wilson then moved to authorize the Programs Director to advertise for the position of City Manager to solicit candidates for the position and expend up to \$10,000. The first choice being VLCT and to move to other headhunters thereafter, the advertisement shall advise that the council reserves the right to reject any and all applications and to offer to appoint any qualified individual. Seconded by Mr. Curtis, motion carried.

Causeway Streetscape and Traffic Signal Removal and Replacement Project, Consider Approval of Construction Contract

Mr. Bernier gave the history of the project.

Mr. Vachon moved to approve the contract with Electric Light Company for the Causeway Streetscape Project covered by the USDA grant and authorize the M

Mayor to sign the contract upon final review and approval by the City Attorney Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried.

Bylaw Modernization Amended Contract for Consulting Services.

Mr. Cheney explained that this request is to extend the contract to April 30, 2024. Mr. Vachon moved to amend the contract. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried.

Vermont Electric Cooperative Town road Occupancy Request

Mr. Vachon moved to approve the Vermont Electric Cooperative Town Road Occupancy request. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried.

New Business

Mr. Vachon mentioned the Halloween Events taking place in the city.

Mr. Charboneau moved to approve a Niles Fund request presented by Mr. Johnson. Seconded by Mr. Vachon, motion carried.

Mayor Sullivan noted an Mayor's update will be on NEKTV every other Tuesday at 10:00 AM and her office hours on Mondays and Wednesdays are still 9 to 11 AM.

Old Business

None

Consider Employment Status of Interim City Manager

Mr. Curtis moved to enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. 313(a)(4) to consider the dismissal of the Interim City Manager and invite the Interim City Manager and the City Attorney into executive session. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried. Wilson and Curtis in favor, Charboneau and Vachon against, Mayor Sullivan in favor.

In open session, Mr. Curtis moved to dismiss the Interim City Manager and terminate her contract with the city in accordance with the applicable terms of her contract effective October 27, 2023, at 5:00 PM. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried.

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Adjournment

Mr. Charboneau moved to adjourn at 9:30 PM. Seconded by Mr. Curtis, motion carried.

Attested _____ this _____ day of _____ 2023.

_____ Mayor