

## Council Meeting Minutes

**DRAFT**

December 18, 2023

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City Council was held on Monday, December 18, 2023. Present were Mayor Linda Sullivan, Council President John Wilson, council members Kevin Charboneau, Chris Vachon, and Clark Curtis, City Clerk/Treasurer James Johnson, Police Chief Travis Bingham, Public Works Director Tom Bernier, Recreation Director Mike Brown, Zoning Administrator Francis Cheney, Comptroller Rebecca Therrien, Rick Ufford-Chase from NCDD, members of the Press and Public.

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

### **Additions/ Deletions to the Agenda**

Mr. Vachon moved to table Item #8, reason being the Fire Dept. would like to be more involved in the hiring process. Seconded by Mr. Curtis, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Vachon moved to add the authorization for the mayor to sign off on the MWA Storm Water Improvement Project on the Lake Road. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried unanimously. Mayor Sullivan signed off on the Storm water Improvement.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Vachon moved to approve the minutes of December 4, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Vachon, motion carried. Mr. Wilson abstained.

Mr. Vachon moved to approve the minutes of December 11, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried unanimously.

### **Comments by the Public**

Chris Roy commented on the City Manager recruitment process with VLCT.

Paul Monette commented on the City Manager recruitment process.

Anne Chiarello commented on the budget process.

Jennifer Bjurling commented on advertising for the City Manager and the authority of the mayor.

Jennifer Hopkins commented on the contract with the Ambulance Service and Fire Dept. contract with Coventry.

### **Newport City downtown Development Presentation**

Rick Ufford-Chase presented the NCDD Annual report.

### **Set the Regular Meeting Dates**

Mr. Wilson moved to set the regular council meeting dates for the first and third Mondays of the month for 2024. Seconded by Mr. Vachon, the motion carried unanimously.

### **Budget Discussion**

Mr. Vachon moved to discuss the proposed 2024-25 budget. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, the motion carried unanimously.

### **Interview of Potential Candidate(s) for City Manager**

Mr. Charboneau moved to open a discussion on interviewing a candidate(s) for the position of City Manager. Seconded by Mr. Vachon.

Discussion on the interview process, the posting, bonding, and vetting of the position by VLCT and Leonna. Transparency of the process was also a concern.

Mr. Vachon withdrew the second, Mr. Charboneau withdrew the motion.

### **New Business**

Mr. Wilson asked about the water pond on the Spates property on the lake Road.

Mr. Wilson received a complaint about the sidewalk plowing on Seymour Lane.

Mr. Charboneau received a letter about the handicap accessibility of the Municipal building.

Mr. Curtis apologized to the Police chief for being late to the Law enforcement event this summer.

Mr. Curtis acknowledged Phil white on his inducted into the Open Water Swimmers Hall of Fame.

Mr. Curtis also mentioned the letter Mr. Charboneau referred to. The letter also mentioned the snow barricade in front of the clinic.

Mr. Curtis wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

**DRAFT**

**Next Meeting Date**

January 8, 2024

**Adjournment**

Mr. Charboneau moved to adjourn at 7:55 PM. Seconded by Mr. Curtis, motion carried unanimously.

Attested \_\_\_\_\_ This \_\_\_\_\_ Day of January 2024

\_\_\_\_\_ Mayor