

Council Minutes

May 6, 2024

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City Council was held on Monday, May 6, 2024, in the council room in the Newport Municipal Building. Present were Mayor Linda Sullivan, Council President Chris Vachon, council members Kevin Charboneau, Rick Ufford-Chase, and Clark Curtis, City Manager Jonathan DeLaBruere, City Clerk/Treasurer James Johnson, Public Works Director Tom Bernier, Recreation Director Mike Brown, Interim Fire Chief Kevin LaCoss, Comptroller Rebecca Therrien, members of the Press and Public.

Mayor Sullivan called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Additions, Deletions to the Agenda

None

Consent Agenda

Minutes, Warrants, Licenses, and Permits

Mr. Charboneau moved to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Mr. Vachon, motion carried.

Public Records Request Policy (attached)

Mr. Vachon moved to approve the Public Records Request Policy as presented. Seconded by Mr. Curtis, motion carried.

Annual Spending Freeze

Mayor Sullivan stated there is currently no spending freeze in effect.

Laramie Water Resources Discussion

Mayor Sullivan stated there was no original contract with Laramie Water Resources. Mayor Sullivan asked who has credentials and the number of employees are that needed at the sewer plant. Mr. Bernier explained the plant operations, how many employees are needed to operate, who has level 3 certification and why Laramie Resources is still needed and for how much longer.

City Council Budget Expenditures

There were questions on the Flags for the American Legion and Council Special Projects.

Purchasing Policy Discussion

The council reviewed the Purchasing Policy. Mr. Charboneau would like to see the rejection of bids and sole source bid acceptance reinstated in the proposed policy.

Causeway Project Street Lighting Bid (attached)

Mr. Charboneau moved to accept the low bid, Seconded by Mr. Curtis. Discussion, there was discussion about going with local bidders even if they were not the low bidder if the grant would allow. Mr. DeLaBruere stated that the grant specifies the low bid. Mr. Charboneau withdrew his motion and Mr. Curtis withdrew the second.

Mr. Charboneau moved to accept the bid in the amount of \$74,115 for street lighting poles and hardware from Northeast Electrical out of Concord, N.H. and a bid in the amount of \$13,879.28 from Green Mountain Electric in Derby, VT. for electrical conduit and supplies. Seconded by Mr. Curtis, motion carried.

2024 Local Emergency Management Plan (attached)

Mr. Vachon moved to approve the 2024 Local Emergency Management Plan and authorize the City Manager to activate the plan. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried.

Grants-in-Aid Letter of Intent (attached)

Mr. Curtis moved to approve the FY25 VTRANS Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid letter of intent and authorize the City Manager and the City Clerk to sign the letter. Seconded by Mr. Vachon, motion carried.

MERP Mini-Planning Grant (attached)

Mr. Vachon moved to authorize the City Manager to apply for the MERP Grant. Seconded by Mr. Ufford-Chase, motion carried.

Newport Community Sailing Center Lease of Dock Space (attached)

Mr. Vachon moved to approve the fees and enter into the lease agreement between Newport City and the Community Sailing Center as presented. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried. Mr. Ufford-Chase abstained.

Appointments Discussion

Interviews with the Planning Commission have not been held. They are scheduled for May 7, 2024, at 6:30 pm. This will be on the agenda for next meeting.

Interview of Potential Candidate(s) for fire Chief

This will be on the next meeting agenda.

Comments by the Public

Jennifer Bjurling – appointment of Constable.

Pam Ladds – contracts with employees, non-employees, and consultants.

New Business

Mr. Curtis – Website not up to date.

Mr. Charboneau moved to approve a Vendor Permit for Vermont Olde Tyme Kettle Corn. Seconded by Mr. Vachon, motion carried.

Mr. Vachon moved to approve a Vendor Permit for Hobo's Café. Seconded by Mr. Curtis, motion carried. Mr. Ufford-Chase abstained.

Mr. Charboneau moved to approve a Vendor Permit for The Kingdom Eatery. Seconded by Mr. Vachon, motion carried.

Mr. Vachon moved to approve a request for Niles Funds (AP). Seconded by Mr. Curtis, motion carried.

Mayor Sullivan, Community Forum on Housing and Economic Development May 13th at 5:30, the Mayor visited the MAC Center, North Song will perform at the United Church of Newport on May 17th and 19th.

Old Business

Mayor Sullivan, Thanked the Recreation Dept. for work on Green-up Day, Still reviewing expenses, reviewing Personnel policy with the City Manager, did some research on signage, noted a missing head stone found in Canada, changes in the agenda get with the mayor, changes in the mayors hours Wednesdays will be by appointment only, noted this week is Nurses Week.

Next Meeting Date

Mr. Vachon moved that the next meeting date be May 20, 2024, at 6:00 pm. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried.

Adjournment

Mr. Charboneau moved to adjourn at 7:35 pm. Seconded by Mr. Vachon, motion carried.

Attested _____ this _____ day of May 2024

Mayor