

## **Council Minutes**

**May 20, 2024**

A duly warned Council Meeting was held on May 20, 2024, in the council room in the Newport Municipal Building. Present were Mayor Linda Sullivan, Council President Chris Vachon, Council Members Kevin Charboneau, Clark Curtis, Rick Ufford-Chase, City Manager Jon DeLaBruere, City Clerk/Treasurer James Johnson, Public Works Director Tom Bernier, Recreation Director Mike Brown, Interim Fire Chief Kevin LaCoss, Mike Walsh, Zoning Admin. Frank Cheney, and Attorney Beriah Smith.

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

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

Mr. Charboneau asked what union employees had to do with discussing the non-union Personnel Policy.

Mr. Curtis moved to add the renewal application from Todd Wright. Seconded by Mr. Vachon, motion carried.

### **Consent Agenda**

Mr. Ufford-Chase moved to approve the consent agenda except for the payroll warrant. Seconded by Mr. Vachon, motion carried.

Mr. Curtis moved to approve the renewal application for the Wright Bros. Salvage Yard. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried.

### **Northeast Kingdom Rainbow Coalition**

Samantha Simco invited the City Council to participate in the Pride Parade on June 23, 2024.

### **Creation of Newport's 1<sup>st</sup> Dog Park (attached)**

Mr. Vachon moved to authorize Mr. Bernier and the City Manager to investigate the rules and process of creating a Dog Park. Seconded by Mr. Ufford-chase, motion carried.

### **Newport City downtown Development**

Mr. Ufford-Chase moved to approve the fabrication of Waterfront Recreation Path signage with the understanding that Public Works will install the signs. Seconded by Mr. Curtis, motion carried.

Mr. Ufford-Chase moved to authorize the mayor to sign a permission letter for Newport Downtown Development to use a portion of the VOREC Grant to mitigate invasive species in Scott's Cove through a contract with Memphremagog Watershed Association. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried.

Mr. Curtis moved to move forward with the planned modification of the Causeway Railroad Bridge. Seconded by Mr. Vachon, motion carried.

### **Gardner Park Soil Disposal Agreement**

Mr. Ufford-Chase moved to ratify the mayor's signature on the Gardner Park Soil Disposal Agreement with New England Waste Services of Vermont. Seconded by Mr. Vachon, motion carried.

### **Loan for Gardner Park Soil Remediation Project**

The council reviewed loan options from Passumpsic Bank in the amount of \$315,000. The council requested two other quotes.

### **Respond to Award Conditions for Gardner Park Project**

Mr. Vachon moved to approve submitting a response to the grant agreement with Vermont Community Development Program #07110-IG-2018-Newport-C-23. Seconded by Mr. Ufford-chase, motion carried.

### **Newport Sailing Center Lease Agreement (attached)**

Mr. Vachon moved to authorize the mayor to sign the lease agreement with Newport Community Sailing Center. Seconded by Mr. Curtis, motion carried.

### **Letter of Engagement for Auditing Services**

Mr. Vachon moved to approve the Letter of Engagement for Auditing Services with Kittell, Branagan and Sargent and authorize the Mayor and City Manager to sign the letter. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried.

### **Audio/Visual Recording policy**

Attorney Beriah Smith reviewed the proposed policy. The City Council will study the policy and come up with questions for the City Attorney if any. This will be on the next agenda.

### **Laramie Water Resources Timeline**

Mr. Curtis moved that for the board's specific finding that premature general public knowledge of the subject of the anticipated executive session tonight would clearly place the board and /or persons involved at a substantial disadvantage. 1 V.S.A. 313(a)(1). Seconded by Mr. Vachon, motion carried.

Mr. Curtis moved to enter executive session to discuss Laramie Water Resources Timeline and invite the City Attorney and Mr. Bernier into the session. Seconded by Mr. Vachon, motion carried.

No action.

### **Appointments**

Mr. Curtis moved that for the board's specific finding that premature general public knowledge of the subjects of the anticipated executive session would clearly place the board and /or persons involved at a substantial disadvantage. 1 V.S.A. 313(a)(1).

Mr. Vachon moved to enter executive session to discuss appointments and invite the City Attorney and City Manager into executive session. 1 V.S.A. 313(a)(1)(F) and 313(a)(3) Seconded by Mr. Ufford-chase, motion carried.

No action.

In open session Mr. Curtis resigned as Constable.

### **Interview Potential Candidates for Fire Chief**

Mr. Curtis moved to enter executive session to interview potential candidates for the position of Fire Chief. Seconded by Mr. Ufford-Chase, motion carried.

In open session Mr. Vachon moved to appoint Jonathan DeLaBruere Interim Fire Chief and Kevin Lacoss 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Engineer Chief effective May 24, 2024, at 12pm. Seconded by Mr. Curtis, motion carried.

**Comments by the Public**

Pam Ladds would like to get back to items that need discussing, i.e., the Sewer/Water Funds.

**New Business**

Mr. Vachon reminded everyone of the events next Monday.

Mr. Curtis welcomed Mr. DeLaBruere as a Newport City resident.

Mr. Ufford-Chase noted that the electronic Kiosk will be delivered by next week.

**Old Business**

Mr. Curtis noted that the minutes on the Website need updating.

Mayor Sullivan noted that she and the City Manager are working on a Hiring Policy.

This week is National Police Week.

The Community Forum with the State Treasurer went very well.

**Next Meeting Date**

Mr. Curtis moved that the next meeting will be June 3, 2024, at 6:00pm. Seconded by Mr. Vachon, motion carried.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Vachon moved to adjourn at 10:49pm. Seconded by Mr. Curtis, motion carried.

Attested \_\_\_\_\_ This \_\_\_\_\_ Day of June 2024

\_\_\_\_\_ Mayor