

Council Minutes

February 26, 2024

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City Council was held on Monday, February 26, 2024, 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, City Clerk/treasurer James D. Johnson, Asst. Clerk/Treasurer Stacey Therrien, Public works Director Tom Bernier, Police Chief Travis Bingham, Zoning/Assessor Francis Cheney III, Recreation Director Mike Brown, Comptroller Rebecca Therrien, Attorney Marilyn Mahusky, Jonathan DelaBruere, Dave Laforce, Dave Converse, members of the Press and Public.

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

Additions/deletions to the Agenda

None

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Vachon moved to approve the minutes of February 5, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Curtis, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Curtis moved to approve the minutes of February 6, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Vachon moved to approve the minutes of February 9, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Curtis, motion carried unanimously.

Conflict of Interest Policy

Mr. Wilson moved to table the Conflict-of-Interest Policy until the March 4, 2024, meeting. Seconded by Mr. Vachon, motion carried unanimously.

Personnel Policy Review

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

Mr. Vachon moved to enter executive session to discuss the personnel policy. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried unanimously,

No action.

Asst. Clerk/Treasurer Stacey Therrien and Public Works Director Tom Bernier mentioned several discrepancies in the proposed policy.

Mr. Vachon moved to approve the Personnel policy as presented. Seconded by Mr. Curtis, motion carried. Mr. Curtis and Mr. Wilson in favor, Mr. Vachon and Mr. Charboneau against. Mayor Sullivan voted in favor.

Landing Street Road Closure for Northern Star Boat Inspection

Dave Converse requested the road closure of Landing St. the 1st week in May for the boat inspection. Chief Bingham noted there may be a problem with low hanging wires over the road. Mr. Converse will check it out. Mr. Vachon moved to authorize the closure of Landing St. in May as the first option. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried unanimously.

NCDD Downtown Master Plan MOU

Dave LaForce gave a power point presentation on the NCDD Master Plan.

Mr. Vachon moved to authorize the mayor to sign the MOU as presented and for the funds to be appropriated in accordance with the grant. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried unanimously.

2021 Homeland Security Grant

Mr. Charboneau moved to authorize the mayor to sign the 2021 Homeland Security Grant. Seconded by Mr. Curtis, motion carried unanimously.

CRRP Grant

Mr. Vachon moved to authorize the Mayor to sign off on the CRRP Grant that includes the Certificate of Good Standing. Seconded by Mr. Curtis, motion carried unanimously.

Certificate of Highway Mileage

Mr. Charboneau moved to sign the Certificate of Highway Mileage. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to bid for Reappraisal

Mr. Vachon moved to authorize the Zoning/Assessor to go out to bid for the reappraisal. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried unanimously.

Tax Map Maintenance Contract

Mr. Vachon moved to sign the Tax Map maintenance contract. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried unanimously.

Final Certification for the 2023 as Billed Grand List

Mr. Wilson moved to certify the 2023 as billed Grand List. Seconded by Mr. Curtis, motion carried unanimously.

Water/Sewer Rate Discussion

The council discussed the water/sewer rates. Mr. Johnson will come up with a rate increase for both water and sewer.

Comments by the Public

Pam Ladds commented on deleted e-mails.

Beth Barnes commented on trusting former council members.

Jennifer Bjurling commented on discussing the Personnel Policy in the executive session.

Laurie thanked NCDD for the Winter Saturdays and Mr. Wilson for his years of service.

Jay Walsh commented on past problems of the council.

New Business

Mr. Vachon moved to approve liquor licenses for Family Dollar, Cumberland Farms, and Green Mountain Foods. Seconded by Mr. Curtis, motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Sullivan announced the award of a Northern Borders Grant for the Airport.

Mayor Sullivan introduced the new City Manager Jonathan DelaBruere.

Old Business

Mr. Wilson read a statement on his 22 years of service to the city. His last meeting will be March 4, 2024.

Next Meeting Date

Mr. Vachon moved that the next meeting date be March 4, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn

Mr. Charboneau moved to adjourn at 9:30 pm. Seconded by Mr. Vachon, motion carried unanimously.

Attested James J. Wilson this 4th Day of March 2024.

[Signature] Mayor