

Council Minutes

September 9, 2024

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City Council was held on Monday, September 9, 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, Clark Curtis, City Manager Jon DeLaBuere, City clerk/treasurer James Johnson, Police Chief Travis Bingham, Zoning Administrator Frank Cheney, Andrew , members of the Press and Public

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

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

Mr. Curtis moved to add discussion of a vendor permit for Fred LeClair to the agenda. Seconded by Mr. Vachon, motion.

Mr. Vachon moved to add setting the new tax rates to the agenda. Seconded by Mr. Curtis, motion carried.

Consent Agenda

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

Mr. Charboneau asked that on the minutes of August 19, 2024 under DPW Mower Bids that Mr. Bernier check with the Mechanic and get back to the council.

Vendor Permit

Mr. Vachon moved to approve the Vendor Permit for Fred LeClair pending any legal issues. Seconded by Mr. Curtis, motion carried.

Approval of Tax Rates

Mr. Vachon moved to approve the Tax Rates for 2024-25 based on the Grand list submitted August 12, 2024 seconded by Charboneau, motion carried.

Approve Financing for Police Department Cruiser

Mr. Vachon moved to approve financing of the new police cruiser with Community Bank in the amount of \$55,023.30 at 4.82 %. Seconded by Mr. Ufford-Chase, motion carried.

Fire Chief Interviews 1 V.S.A. 313(a)(3)

Mr. Vachon moved to enter executive session to interview candidates for Fire Chief and invite into executive session the candidates as called upon. The Fire Dept. designee and the Police Chief. Seconded by Mr. Curtis, motion carried.

No action.

Request for Proposal for Citywide Reappraisal 1 V.S.A. 313(a)(1)(A)

Mr. Vachon moved to enter executive session for a request for proposal of the Citywide reappraisal and invite into executive session the Zoning Administrator and the City Manager. Seconded by Mr. Curtis, motion carried.

No action.

Mr. Vachon moved to authorize the City Manager to issue the RFP for citywide appraisal. Seconded by Mr. Curtis, motion carried.

Personnel Evaluation 1 V.S.A. 313(a)(3)

Mr. Curtis moved to find that premature public knowledge of confidential attorney-client communications made for providing legal services to the City council, confidential pending civil litigation to which the public body is a party and regarding a labor relations greenest with employees would place the city at a substantial disadvantage by disclosing the city's negotiation strategies and priorities and would waive the City's attorney-client privilege and prematurely disclose the City's legal strategies. Seconded by Mr. Vachon, motion carried.

Mr. Curtis moved to enter executive session to discuss confidential attorney-client communications with the City Attorney. Seconded by Mr. Vachon, motion carried.

No action.

Comments by the Public

Claire McIntyre thanked the Police Dept. for their interaction with the public regarding their welfare and safety

New Business

Mr. Vachon noted that Andrea Pitts and Adam Ortiz have volunteered to be on Vermont's 250 years celebration committee.

Mr. Curtis noted he responded to Ms. Bjurling about the minutes on the website, City Manager has updated the council minutes and is working on the Planning commission, Historic Review Board and Cemetery Commission.

Mayor Sullivan noted the Extra Mile Nominations is coming up the City can pick three people.

Old Business

None

Set Next Meeting Date

Mr. Vachon moved to set the next meeting for September 16, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried.

Adjournment

Mr. Charboneau moved to adjourn at 11:09 pm. Seconded by Mr. Vachon, motion carried.

Attested _____ this _____ Day of September 2024

_____ Mayor