

## **Council Minutes**

**October 7, 2024**

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City

Council was held on Monday, October 7, 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 Jonathan DeLabruere, City Clerk/Treasure James D. Johnson, Andrew Carbine, James LeClair Jr., Beriah Smith, Police Chief Travis Bingham, members of the Press and Public.

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

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

Mr. Charboneau would like the Personnel Policy added to the agenda. Mr. Charboneau move to add the Personnel Policy to the agenda. Seconded by Mr. Vachon, motion carried.

Mayor Sullivan moved item number 10 to before item number 8 and add the Personnel Policy before number 11.

### **Consent Agenda**

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

### **City Financial Position**

Mr. DeLaBruere presented the council with the first quarter financial report. The council discussed the report with Mr. DeLaBruere and Mr. Johnson.

### **PRA City Rate**

City Attorney Beriah Smith discussed setting a rate schedule for public record requests with the council.

### **PD Cruiser Vest Purchase**

Mr. Vachon moved to approve the purchase of fourteen vest plates at a cost of \$7,500. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried.

### **DPW Salt Bids**

Mr. Bernier recommended purchasing salt from Cargill at \$96.25/ton. Mr. Vachon moved to accept the recommendation from Mr. Bernier and purchase salt from Cargill at \$96.25/ ton. Seconded by Mr. Ufford-chase, motion carried.

### **Employee Labor Relations 1 V.S.A. 313(a) (1) (B)**

Mr. Vachon moved to enter into executive session and invite the employee into executive session. Seconded by Mr. Curtis, motion carried.

No action.

Mr. Vachon moved to remove the employee from the City Retirement Plan. Seconded by Mr. Ufford-Chase, motion carried.

### **Fire Chief Personnel Matters 1 V.S.A. 313(a)(1)**

Mr. Vachon moved to enter executive session for Fire Chief Personnel matters and invite the Police Chief and Fire Dept. representatives into the session. Seconded by Mr. Ufford-Chase, motion carried.

No action.

Mr. Ufford-Chase moved to appoint Kevin LaCoss interim fire Chief effective October 8, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried.

### **Employee Evaluation 1 V.S.A. 313(a)(3)**

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

Mr. Curtis moved to enter executive session to discuss confidential attorney-client communications for the purpose of providing professional services related to negotiating a labor relations agreement, and for the discussion of pending civil litigation pursuant to 1 V.S.A. 313(a)(b)(E)(F. Seconded by Mr./ Curtis, motion carried.

No action.

### **Personnel Policy Discussion**

Mr. Charboneau would like the Grievance Policy updated and put back in the Personnel Policy. Mr. Charboneau and the Mayor will meet with the City Attorney to update the policy.

### **Comments by the Public**

Jennifer Hopkins commented on the Personnel policy and the quarterly financial report.

### **New Business**

Mr. Vachon commented on the Liaison assignments.

Mayor Sullivan – zoning

Charboneau – Fire Dept.

Ufford-chase- Public Works

Vachon – Police Dept.

Curtis – Recreation.

Mayor Sullivan commented on FEMA using the senior Center and a press conference at the State house regarding the Hospital on October 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM.

### **Old Business**

The council signed Construction Line of Credit loan documents.

Mayor Sullivan reminded everyone to get Extra Mile nominations to the city council.

### **Next Meeting Date**

Mr. Vachon moved to set the next meeting for October 21, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Ufford-chase, motion carried.

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Charboneau moved to adjourn at 10:10 PM. Seconded by Mr. Ufford-Chase, motion carried.