

July 2008 Monthly Report

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

There were no budget deficiencies or anomalies. Financial expenditures/receipts are on target.

Budget balance:

- Planning Division 94%
- Zoning Division 93%
- Community Development Division 96%
- Inspection Division 94%

Permit Revenue: Building \$37,314; Plumbing \$2,744; Mechanical \$7,901; Electrical \$9,281; Late filing/re-inspection \$1,500.

PROJECTS:

- National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS): Future meetings scheduled with state and federal officials. Once program implementation has occurred, flood insurance rate discounts will apply to all flood insurance policies within the City of Newport.
- Sign Ordinance Amendment: The revisions to the sign ordinance were finalized and provided to the City Council. They were, in turn, forwarded to the Planning Board for review and recommendation.
- Arts and Entertainment District: Staff is finalizing the design for the brochure to promote the district.
- Parking Ordinance: Staff attended a “Smart Growth” parking conference on July 25th. Staff will be developing revisions to the parking ordinance using some of these ideas and other ideas developed over the past year.
- Sheffield School: The Comprehensive Land Use Plan amendment package is undergoing Statewide Planning review. Staff received correspondence indicating that state response will be provided in September. Staff is now preparing the RFP and zoning amendment language.
- RIPTA Grant: The City will receive a limited number of bike racks and benches this summer through RIPTA and AIPC partnership. The bike racks and benches should arrive by September.
- U.S. Navy Hospital: Planners from the three island communities coordinated to develop the draft regional LRA by-laws for review by the Office of Economic Adjustment. Staff attended a U.S. Navy meeting on July 30th at which the Navy Master Plan was presented.
- SAMP Plan: A meeting was held with CRMC on July 10, 2008 to discuss ongoing changes to the draft plan. The Special Area Management Plan (SAMP) was initiated for the West Side. The plan provides a regulatory framework from which developers will work in redeveloping the West Side of Aquidneck Island.
- Pell Bridge Meeting (RIDOT): A “Council Workshop” was held on July 30th with RIDOT to discuss the overall project and two final alternatives. The primary difference between the two alternatives was whether or not to remove “the road to no-where” and impacts to future traffic level of service.

- John H. Chafee Boulevard/BankNewport: Staff and CCRI have continued coordinating to modify Girard Avenue extension. Modification of Girard Avenue extension is a RIDOT condition for the approval of a traffic signal at Chafee and J. T. Connell Highway.
- J.T. Connell Development Parcel: Staff continues to finalize a lease for the front 1.5 acre lot for a prime tenant. The future tenant has hired an engineering firm and preliminary site investigations have begun. An RFP was developed, advertised and distributed for the back three acres. The deadline for submittals has been extended to August 22, 2008.
- Waterfront Planning: Grant proposals have been developed by URI to conduct a market analysis for the waterfront. Also, staff is coordinating with URI staff to accurately map waterfront parcel zones, current land uses and likely activity along the water.
- Newport Energy and Environment Committee: Staff met with this group to discuss their recommendations and potential implementation. Staff will be addressing a “wind turbine” ordinance in the future.
- Hazard Mitigation Plan: Staff has received qualifications statements from seven firms providing Hazard Mitigation Plan services. Grant funds have been secured for said services.
- Harbor Shuttle: The RIDOT Structural Division continues its review of plan revisions of construction drawings and specifications for Perrotti Park and Ann Street Pier improvements.
- Broadway: Project scope is nearly complete for the streetscape improvement project including pedestrian crossing, curb, sidewalk, parking, and roadway parking improvements. Staff anticipates releasing an RFQ this August for preliminary engineering work.
- Perrotti Park Dredging: Bourne Engineering has created engineering plans for dredging permits. The Planning, Harbormaster, and Grant Coordinator Departments are seeking a meeting with CRMC administrators to discuss this and other public waterfront projects.
- Community Development Block Grant: The City received notification of the approved CDBG grant for 2008-09. This year Newport was granted a total of \$493,350 for projects as follows: Newport Heights Phase 5 (\$100,000); Hillside Avenue Paving (\$118,750); Girard Avenue Paving (\$84,000); Housing Hotline (\$18,100); Housing Rehabilitation operating (\$40,000); Head Start Building Improvements (\$13,250); Community Housing Land Trust (\$2,500); Looking Upwards Residential Rehab (\$6,750); Women’s Resource Center Safe Home (\$15,000); McKinney Shelter Drop-In Center (\$15,000); TAM Homeless Day Center (\$5,000); Child & Family Supportive Services (\$15,000); and Administration (\$60,000).

Work is complete on the Pond Avenue and Hillside Avenue sidewalks. Both projects came in well within their anticipated budgets.

Two residential rehabilitation loans were approved for improvements at 30 Weatherly Avenue and 29 ½ Newport Avenue.

The Girard Avenue Sidewalk project was advertised. The contract will be awarded in August, with construction scheduled to take place this fall.

Work on the Sullivan School basketball courts is underway and expected to be complete in August.

- EDA Revolving Loan Fund: No new activity this month.
- Deputy Zoning Officers: Fifteen calls were investigated for noise issues and ten citations were issued. Two were out of compliance with short-term rental registration requirements; one was cited for weekly a rental. A citation was issued for a sign infringing on the public right of way for the Pier Restaurant. Illegal signs and banners were confiscated. Pizza Hollywood was warned by DZOs to close and lock doors at 2:00 am. Pizza was served to a few patrons at 2:50 am.
- Building a Healthy Newport Environment Committee: No activity from staff this month.
- Plat Maps: The Zoning Officer is nearing completion of the parcel base map with geo-referencing to State-wide Planning GIS data coverage.
- Digital Scanning and Website: Staff from PZD&I and MIS coordinated to develop a means for scanning new board and commission application submittals to be linked to our website for public viewing, including Zoning Board of Review and Historic District applications. New application packages can be viewed through our Departmental website. This has resulted in a decrease in copy usage. Staff is also now experimenting on scanning of large, map sized documents for the same purpose.
- Building/Inspection Division Number of Inspections:

❖ Building	86
❖ Electrical	44
❖ Plumbing/Mechanical	62
❖ Municipal/Minimum Housing	95

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

Historic Preservation and Historic District Commission: The Historic District Commission held one regular and one subcommittee meeting in July. The HDC agenda included eighteen new and nine continued applications. Thirteen applications were summary approved; four were approved after full hearings. The Historic Preservation Planner held nine pre-application meetings with applicants preparing for the August HDC meeting and revised the HDC application packet for use beginning in September.

Critical Area Review Board: No applications were received for board review.

Zoning Board of Review: One regular meeting and one special meeting were held. Fourteen new petitions were received. Rebecca McSweeney was elected the new chair replacing Peter O’Connell who retired.

Planning Board: One Planning Board meeting was held at which several petitions were reviewed for consistency with the Comprehensive Plan plus one minor subdivisions and two demolition permit applications.

GENERAL STATUS:

The PZD&I Department was primarily focused on building and enforcement efforts for July. Permit revenue is projected to increase over the next few months as a result of upcoming major projects.

Respectfully submitted: Paige R. Bronk, Director