

**MINUTES OF THE NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON**  
**MARCH 02, 2020**

A meeting of the Newport City Council was held on March 02, 2020 at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers, City Hall, 200 S. Washington Avenue, Newport, Washington, with the following present:

	Shirley Sands	Mayor
	Russ Pelleberg	City Administrator
	Nickole North	Clerk/Treasurer
	Laura McAloon	City Attorney
Kenneth Smith		Councilmember
Nancy Hawks-Thompson		Councilmember
Christian Meador		Councilmember
Mark Zorica		Councilmember
Keith Campbell		Mayor Pro Tem (Absent)

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At 6:00 PM, Mayor Sands called the meeting to order followed by roll call and the pledge of allegiance. Councilmember Thompson moved to excuse Councilmember Campbell's absence; Councilmember Zorica seconded. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES:**

Councilmember Zorica moved to approve the agenda and minutes from the February 18, 2020 Council Meeting; Councilmember Meador seconded. Motion carried.

**MAYOR & COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Mayor Sands reminded the Council to complete their PDC reporting. She also announced that the new water/sewer rates are in effect now. The rate increased from \$82.00 to \$90.00 per month. Lastly, Mayor Sands spoke of the upcoming Easter egg hunt. She has 3,000 plastic eggs and 8 golden egg baskets. Fire District 4 has volunteers that will be helping to put them out. This event will be at the Newport City Park on April 11<sup>th</sup>.

There was discussion regarding Council communications. City Attorney McAloon stated to stay in compliance with public disclosure laws it would be a good idea to issue each councilmember their own City email address. This will be researched further to see which is the best route to take with email providers to ensure the City is in compliance. It was also agreed that each councilmember should have business cards. Cards will be printed once email addresses are established.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

Troy Falardeau of 150 Raylen Lane, Newport, WA spoke regarding the Greater Newport Area Chamber of Commerce Gala coming up on March 14<sup>th</sup>. He invited all to come and join in the fun. There are many great packages to bid on during the auction or to win as a door prize. You don't

have to be a Chamber member to attend. The Gala will take place at the Kalispel Casino in Cusick, WA and starts at 6:00 PM. Tickets to attend are available to purchase at the Newport Visitor Center on 4<sup>th</sup> Street.

Kathie Schutte of 482 Sandborn Rd, Newport, WA spoke on behalf of The Friends of the Pend Oreille County Library District. She explained that they help raise money that the Library can't. She spoke of the two programs that they are hoping to get funding to purchase. They are hoping to raise \$5,000.00 to purchase 2400 books thanks to the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. They are also hoping to purchase one AWE Learning Early Literacy Station (ELS) for \$3,500.00 designed specifically for young patrons between 2-8 years old and features over 4,000 localized learning activities to improve school readiness.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

A public hearing regarding a street vacation at 212 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street was reopened at 6:24 PM. City Administrator Pelleberg inspected the area and is recommending that the City vacate 11 feet on the west side of Newport Avenue at \$1.60 sq. ft. He has determined that there is no impact in reducing the existing right-of-way width on Newport Avenue as a typical residential street section will still fit the right-of-way. This footage is acceptable to the applicant, William T. Sands. There was no public comment. The public hearing was closed at 6:28 PM.

Councilmember Thompson moved to approve the street vacation at 212 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street 11 feet on the west side of Newport Avenue at a cost of \$1.60 sq. ft equating to \$1,092.80; Councilmember Meador Seconded. Motion carried.

City Administrator Pelleberg gave a fire department update. He stated that the City had received proposals from South Pend Oreille Fire and Fired District 4. He has met with the Newport Volunteer Fire Chief and a fireman and they agree that entering an agreement with one of the other fire departments would be best for the City. Updated proposals have been received and are being reviewed by the City Attorney. A recommendation will be brought to the April 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Councilmember Smith moved to authorize the City Administration to file a Type 1 Application for a short Plat on city-owned property – GEO ID 453124600004; Councilmember Meador seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Smith moved to approve the inclusion of additional territory within the Pend Oreille Conservation District; Councilmember Zorica seconded. Motion carried.

A financial report was given to the Mayor and Council for their review.

### **STAFF COMMENTS:**

Public Works Director David North gave a public works update. The sweeper has been repaired and they will be cleaning roads soon. They have been grading some roads and working on projects at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Stumps have been removed from the big park and the parks

are being cleaned up with thatching beginning soon. Christmas tree lights will be removed from downtown trees tomorrow. Road restrictions will be on for a while. He is working on the RV Park. A lot of snow was hauled this year.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:**

City Administrator Pelleberg gave an update on the RV Park. Public Utility District has offered to pay for a portion of the project. Mr. Pelleberg has met with surveyors onsite. It is critical to install the sewer first for the RV Park before the rest of the project can be completed.

The South Bench Water Project is getting ready to be completed and put online.

He has been working with the Pend Oreille County Commissioners, Pend Oreille Economic Development and Department of Commerce with a land swap that the county is working on to get land for the business park.

Planning Consultant Gregg Dohrn will be attending a meeting regarding the Comprehensive Plan draft in April.

Mr. Pelleberg gave an update on the Rodeo Ground Master Plan and will be meeting with ball field users and making improvements to the ball fields. He has met with BMX track users and will be meeting with the Rotary Wednesday morning to discuss what support can be obtained from them to make the BMX Park usable. They are discussing putting ramps and jumps that you can fly over made from dirt instead of competition level or possibly doing both. Councilmember Meador asked if internet for the rodeo vendors is being addressed. Mr. Pelleberg stated that he is working on getting good internet and WIFI for the RV Park and it should be usable by the vendors during the rodeo as well.

The hotel feasibility study is still in the works and he is working with the consultant to get a developer onboard.

**BILLS & PAYROLL:**

Councilmember Zorica moved to approve the bills and payroll; Councilmember Meador seconded. Motion carried.

CLAIMS CHECKS 63348-63367	\$14,669.48
CLAIMS EFT 02/26/2020 Run 1-6	\$1,466.13
CLAIMS DIRECT PAY (None at this time)	\$0.00
PAYROLL EFTS 934-938; DIRECT DEPOSIT 02/19/2020	\$52,198.45

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nickole North, MMC, CPFA  
Clerk/Treasurer

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Shirley Sands  
Mayor