

MINUTES OF THE NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON
August 17, 2020

A regular meeting of the Newport City Council was held on August 17, 2020 at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers, City Hall, 200 S. Washington Avenue, Newport, Washington, with the following present via ZOOM due to the Coronavirus pandemic:

	Shirley Sands	Mayor
	Russ Pelleberg	City Administrator
	Nickole North	Clerk/Treasurer
	Mark Duxbury	Police Chief
	Kendel Froese	Assistant City Attorney
Kenneth Smith		Councilmember
Nancy Hawks-Thompson		Councilmember
Christian Meador		Councilmember
Mark Zorica		Councilmember
Keith Campbell		Mayor Pro Tem

Mayor Sands called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM followed by roll call and the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES:

Councilmember Smith moved to approve the agenda and the minutes from the August 03, 2020 Council Meeting as written; Councilmember Thompson seconded. Motion carried.

MAYOR & COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mayor Sands announced that the next City Council Meeting will be Tuesday, September 8th due to the Labor Day holiday. She asked the press to publish this notice.

Mayor Sands proclaimed the month of September as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

Councilmember Zorica discussed social media with the rest of the Council. All Council agreed that they would like for the City to have a Facebook page. The page would be information only to start. Councilmember Zorica felt that monitoring and preparation of this page should fall under the duties of the City Administrator. The rest of the Council did not object. Assistant City Attorney Froese stated that she should have a policy before the Council at the next Council Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

A presentation of life saving medals was given to City of Newport Police Officer Aannerud by Newport Police Chief Duxbury as well as to City of Newport Police Officer Nuvill and Pend Oreille County Sergeant Youk presented by Sheriff Blakeslee for their efforts to save lives.

City Administrator Pelleberg gave a COVID-19 update and encouraged everyone to stay safe. He stated that school will be starting, and we will need to watch and see what happens. Councilmember Meador stated that the number of COVID cases has been trending down.

Councilmember Meador moved to approve Ordinance 2074 vacating a portion of unopened right-of-way adjacent to 212 West Fifth Street within the City of Newport, Washington; Councilmember Zorica seconded. Motion carried.

STAFF COMMENTS:

Police Chief Duxbury gave a law enforcement update. There were 221 calls for service in July. Calls were running around 70% due to COVID; however, the calls are now back up where they typically are. Councilmember Meador asked how COVID is affecting the school and funding for the School Resource Officer. Mr. Pelleberg stated that we have been notified by Newport School District that they will not be needing the School Resource Officer position for the first trimester so the City will need to pick up the salary for that officer.

Clerk/Treasurer North gave a financial update. Sales tax overall is down around \$4,700 from this time last year. Hotel/Motel tax is down \$250 and fuel tax is around \$1,000 less. Delinquent accounts are staying consistent with no real change. There are \$21,000 in delinquent accounts at this time. July 2020 ended with \$3.3 million in cash and investments. This is \$42,000 more than this time last year. A bar chart was provided that showed a trend of cash and investments from November 2019 to July 2020 and while the amount is not going down it is not increasing either.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

City Administrator Pelleberg stated hats off and congrats to the Police Department who were on an accident scene that he was involved in. One of our Officers showed up and it is great to see such a great partnership with the County Sheriff's Office.

New bench and trash receptacles were installed downtown. They add color and are a great start to the downtown revitalization.

Public works is doing a great job making the City look good. They have been painting crosswalks. There will be no water restrictions this year due to the new water treatment plant and reservoir on the South Bench.

Mr. Pelleberg has been involved with a hotel franchise that is promising. He has also engaged the property owner on the South bench land swap and that is moving forward.

The Fire Department contract is in the review process.

Mr. Pelleberg gave a shout out to Cindy, Melody and Nickole for being the face that people see at the City on a day to day basis. They have all been staying very busy.

Paperwork has been provided to the City Attorney regarding the RV Park and they will be working with Public Utility District on this. Hopefully, the park will be done and operational by next Spring.

Benches and picnic tables in the park will be replaced. Mr. Pelleberg will be working with the Kalispel Tribe on this project as well. The timeline for this will take several years. Most cities are going to metal furniture that is vandal resistant. Ten benches and eight garbage receptacles were approved to purchase out of this year's budget.

BILLS & PAYROLL:

Councilmember Campbell moved to approve the bills and payroll; Councilmember Thompson seconded. Motion carried.

CLAIMS CHECKS 63632-63672	\$168,331.25
CLAIMS EFT 08/13/20 RUN 1-7	\$17,556.71
CLAIMS DIRECT PAY 08/13/20 RUN 1-6	\$8,700.00
PAYROLL EFTS 999-1005: Dir Deposit Run 08/05/2020	\$74,858.67

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Attest: 

Nickole North, MMC, CPFA
Clerk/Treasurer

By: 

Shirley Sands
Mayor