

MINUTES OF THE NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON
September 21, 2020

A regular meeting of the Newport City Council was held on September 21, 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 (Absent)
	Laura McAloon	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:

Ordinance 2076 regarding procurement and public bidding was tabled until a future meeting. Councilmember Zorica moved approve the agenda as amended and the minutes from the September 08, 2020 Council Meeting as written; Councilmember Campbell seconded. Motion carried.

MAYOR & COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mayor Sands is hopeful that the firefighters stay safe while they are fighting the surrounding fires. She is grateful that the smoke is gone.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Robert Rosencrautz residing at 615 W. Pine Street, Newport, WA 99156 was present and spoke in favor of utilizing the Newport Rodeo Grounds for the Republican Party Republican Riders Protest for the Support of the Freedom of Assembly. Bill Deilke, Pend Oreille County Republican Chair residing at 2443 Flowery Trail, Newport, WA 99156 also spoke in favor of using the Newport Rodeo Grounds for the assembly. The gathering is scheduled for the 3rd or 4th week of October. They have contacted Ray Hanson, Newport Rodeo President, regarding subleasing the Newport Rodeo Grounds for this event and he suggested contacting the City to see if with the Governor issued rules, a sublease of the facility would be allowed. The Rodeo Board is in support of the event but wanted Council input. Matt Schanz, Administrator for the NE Tri County Health District stated that this would go against the Governor mandate of gatherings having no more than

10 people. He advised against the event. After a great deal of discussion, City Attorney McAloon informed the Council that if they choose to allow this sublease against the Governor's mandate, that would be against the law. She is advising them to deny the request due to this. If they choose to approve it against her advice, then each Councilmember would be personally liable if anything were to happen to a citizen while the assembly took place. Mr. Deilke was asked to submit a formal request to the City Administrator within a couple of days and Attorney McAloon would research it further and bring back a decision at the next Council Meeting on October 5th.

NEW BUSINESS:

A COVID-19 update was given by Matt Schanz, Administrator for the NE Tri County Health District. Generally, there is a downward trend through the state. However, there is an upward trend since Labor Day. Mr. Schanz stated that he believes there will be a modification in 30 days in the State of Washington to be able to live on with this virus. Councilmember Campbell stated that he has a 16-year-old at home that is severely depressed not being able to attend school. He asked when kids would be allowed back in school. Mr. Schanz stated that getting children back into the schools is a goal that they are all working towards. Mr. Schanz noticed that there was a topic of discussion on the agenda regarding the downtown trick or treat event. He stated that he is hopeful that since the event will take place outdoors that they hopefully can come up with a way to have event guidelines in the state out soon. He is to check with the Governor and look into outdoor guidance and get back with the Mayor on what he finds out.

Councilmember Campbell moved to approve Resolution 09212020 adopting the Six-Year Transportation Program for forwarding to the State Highway Commission and Urban Arterial Board for review and comments; Councilmember Smith seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Zorica moved to approve Agreement NP2020-06 – Collaborative Services Agreement between Pend Oreille County Fire Protection District No. 4 and the City of Newport; Councilmember Meador seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Smith moved to approve Agreement NP2020-07 – Station Use Interlocal Agreement between Pend Oreille County Fire Protection District No. 4 and the City of Newport regarding ambulance services; Councilmember Thompson seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Zorica moved to approve Ordinance 2075 vacating a portion of unopened right-of-way located at West 4th Street and State Avenue within the City of Newport, Washington; Councilmember Smith seconded. Motion carried.

STAFF COMMENTS:

Police Chief Duxbury was unable to attend the meeting but did provide a law enforcement update for the Council's review. There were 190 calls for service in August.

Clerk/Treasurer North gave a financial update. The financial and accountability audit was just completed for 2018 and 2019 as well as a single audit for 2019 on the South Bench Water Reservoir Project. The audit results were included in the Council Packet for the Council's review. Overall, the audit went well and there should not need to be another one until 2021. Cash and Investments

at the end of August were \$3,395,874.26. This is around \$20,000 more than last month. Sales tax for August was \$2400 less than a year ago. Fuel tax has been less every month. More people are fueling their vehicle in Idaho which will not help build revenue for maintaining streets in Washington. There are three water payment plans in place at this time. Two people entered a plan in August and one in September. There are 23 delinquent accounts currently. A bar graph showing water and sewer revenue this year was provided as well as a water and sewer cash trend which includes revenue and expenditures year to date. Water cash appears to be doing ok with a slight cash increase. Sewer cash has declined since the beginning of the year due to the continuing repairs needed at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

City Administrator Pelleberg stated that several businesses will be coming to town and we should see activity soon. New Health is hoping to begin construction of their facility next year. Real Estate brokers from the southwest have contacted him regarding a possible development. A CERB grant has been received to preform preliminary planning for the business park on the south bench. He has been approached regarding a residential development on the bench as well. The City has received a Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$30,000 to update the City's Water Plan. Mr. Pelleberg is working on buying equipment that will help reclaim the City streets in the upcoming budget.


BILLS & PAYROLL:

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

CLAIMS CHECKS 63702-63726	\$32,675.16
CLAIMS EFT 09/16/20 RUN 1-5	\$12,632.18
CLAIMS DIRECT PAY 09/16/20 RUN 1-6	\$8,700.00
PAYROLL EFTS 1011-1017: Dir Deposit Run 09/08/2020	\$70,199.74

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 PM.

Attest: 

Nickole North, MMC, CPFA
Clerk/Treasurer

By: 

Shirley Sands
Mayor