

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

A regular meeting of the Newport City Council was held on November 02, 2020 at 6:00 PM via ZOOM at City Hall, 200 S. Washington Avenue, Newport, Washington, with the following present:

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

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES:**

Agreement NP2020-07 for professional services with J-U-B Engineers, Inc. to prepare the Wastewater Facility Plan and General Sewer Plan document for the City's treatment facility and collection system was added to New Business. Councilmember Thompson moved to approve the agenda as amended and the minutes from the October 19, 2020 Council Meeting; Councilmember Smith seconded. Motion carried.

**MAYOR & COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Mayor Sands congratulated Brian Eggleston for passing his Water Distribution Specialist Exam.

Councilmember Meador gave a shout out to the public works crews working on the trees and lights downtown. He sees them out working in the early morning hours and he appreciates what they are doing.

Councilmember Thompson asked who removed the trees on Scott Street. She was informed that Public Utility District worked with the City of Newport to remove these trees. They were unhealthy and needed to be removed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Councilmember Campbell moved to approve the City's execution of all documents necessary to exchange ownership of a parcel of property owned by the City and a parcel of property owned by Skyliners MHP, LLC, and to authorize the City of Newport Mayor and Clerk/Treasurer to take all

actions that are necessary to finalize the transfers of title for said parcels; Councilmember Smith seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Smith moved to approve Agreement NP2020-07 for professional services with J-U-B Engineers, Inc. to prepare the Wastewater Facility Plan and General Sewer Plan document for the City's treatment facility and collection system; Councilmember Thompson seconded. Motion carried.

### **STAFF COMMENTS:**

Public Works Director David North gave a public works update. The crew has been working on trimming downtown trees and putting up Christmas lights. They will be paving tomorrow. A water line was fixed, and they worked with the homeowner on this repair. A test grinding was done on Fea Street with the Asphalt Zipper. The jet rodder is broken and he hopes to get it fixed tomorrow. Councilmember Meador asked what the status of the citizen who attended the last Council Meeting regarding snow plowing was. Mr. North stated that he and City Administrator Pelleberg has discussed this and have come up with a plan to plow less snow in her yard however eliminating all snow from going into her yard would be impossible.

Fire District 4 Chief Knaack gave a fire department update. There have been 22 calls for service in the City since they took over. All previous volunteer firemen of the City are remaining part of the department. They have opted out of medical calls and will be responding to fire calls only. In-person training had to be canceled due to COVID, so he is working on online training. They have been doing EMS training. They have also been busy with maintenance. Engine #3 has been winterized and moved to the shop. Medic #43 is in service in the City. Engine #1 had the air system repaired. He is working on getting internet at the Fire Hall, working with West Bonner Fire District on a mutual aid agreement, working on the City's insurance rating. He is also working on getting a grant for a brush truck to have here in the City and a FEMA grant for air packs. The meeting with the City's firemen went well and he is working on a recruitment campaign. Chief Knaack gave a huge thanks to Public Works Director Dave North. He stated that the Council does not always get to see everything he does out in the field. He stated that every time there is a fire Dave is the first one to send him a text asking if he can help in any way or if there is adequate water available to put out the fire. He is often on scene and helps any way he can. Councilmember Zorica asked about the status of the existing firemen. Chief Knaack stated that PJ Hillestad is planning on retiring in December, but all members are planning on staying on at this time. Councilmember Thompson asked about the Club Rio fire and if an Idaho Fire Marshal was investigating that fire. Chief Knaack confirmed that the Club Rio fire is currently under investigation by the Idaho Fire Marshal.

### **CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:**

City Administrator Pelleberg thanked Chief Knaack for now having an ambulance in the City which is very important to the citizens.

Mr. Pelleberg has the City's Facebook page up. It has been live for a couple of weeks now. He is starting slow with meeting announcements and welcoming new businesses. Councilmember

Thompson asked if he could put something on the Facebook page regarding plowing and parking, etc. Mr. Pelleberg stated that he would.

He is starting to look at the budget. The City was pretty lucky to buy some new equipment in the last couple of years.

Mr. Pelleberg will have a street revitalization plan to present at one of the next few meetings.

J-U-B Engineers will be attending the next Council Meeting to introduce themselves to the Council.

Mr. Pelleberg has been heavily involved with Pend Oreille County on the South Bench. He is working on improvements downtown. There are is a new business starting in the old floral shop. The Martin building had two spaces available for rent and the owner did not advertise them for rent. He only posted for rent signs in the windows. He was approached by ten different individuals wanting to do business in Newport. Two individuals are opening businesses there. Mr. Pelleberg is going to reach out to those other eight individuals to encourage them to open their business downtown as well.


**BILLS & PAYROLL:**

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

CLAIMS CHECKS 63789-63810	\$64,122.05
CLAIMS EFT 10/28/2020 Run 1-6	\$1,367.88
PAYROLL EFTS 1030-1034; DIRECT DEPOSIT 10/21/2020	\$54,607.00

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:44 PM.

Attest:   
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Nickole North, MMC, CPFA  
Clerk/Treasurer

By:   
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Shirley Sands  
Mayor