

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

A regular meeting of the Newport City Council was held on December 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
	Kendel Froese	Asst. 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 6:01 PM followed by roll call and the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES:

Councilmember Campbell moved to approve the agenda and the minutes from the December 07, 2020 Council Meeting as written; Councilmember Meador seconded. Motion carried.

MAYOR & COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mayor Sands gave a shout out to Public Works Director David North and the other entities that had a part in the Christmas lighted cruise Saturday night. It was small but mighty! She is hoping next year it will be bigger and better. She was really excited to see the comradery. She commended the crew, Officer Lopez, Officer Aannerud and several members of the community for helping to make the cruise happen. Councilmember Thompson stated that the cruise went by her house and it was so great! Santa was even there!

OLD BUSINESS:

Councilmember Meador moved to declare the utility trailer license plate 34736D surplus; Councilmember Smith seconded. Motion carried. City Administrator Pelleberg stated that the night vision equipment discussed at the previous meeting has been found and the Police Chief is working with the Pend Oreille County Sheriff's Office on getting this equipment back. The Police Chief should be picking up the equipment soon and putting it into use.

NEW BUSINESS:

A COVID-19 update was given by Matt Schanz, Administrator for the NE Tri County Health District. Nine hundred seventy-five doses of the COVID-19 vaccine arrived in Colville and Newport Hospital and Health Services was very rapid in picking it up and giving it to qualified personnel. If anyone sees a NHHS employee, he asked us to thank them for a job well done. Mr. Schanz stated as a City, the next phase of vaccines will be for essential workers. He will be getting more guidance in the next few days on who this will be. He recommends giving notice to the staff and finding out from essential workers if they would like to be vaccinated or not. A list will need to be compiled and sent to Jenny Smith at the Newport Hospital and Health Services so that they are ready when the vaccines come in. Medical staff is currently still giving vaccines to medical staff.

Councilmember Campbell moved to approve Agreement NP2021-03 a delegated state rental agreement for office space for the Washington State Department of Corrections; Councilmember Zorica seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Meador moved to approve Ordinance 2079 adopting the fiscal year 2021 budget; Councilmember Thompson seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Smith moved to approve Ordinance 2080 repealing ordinance 2005 and Newport Municipal Code Chapter 5.13 in their entirety and providing for other matters properly related thereto; Councilmember Campbell seconded. Motion carried.

STAFF COMMENTS:

Police Chief Duxbury gave a law enforcement update. There were 141 calls for service in October and 149 calls for service in November. This is down from normal and usually is this low during dark, cold winter months. The self-initiated calls have not been as active since they were so busy working on the Fox case. He stated job well done regarding the Christmas cruise. He has heard good comments around town.

Clerk/Treasurer North gave a financial update. There is currently 3.5 million in cash and investments which has increased by \$31,000 from last month. Sales tax in November was around \$2,000 less than 2019. There are currently four payment arrangements entered into for delinquent accounts. There is a total of 23 delinquent accounts currently and the amount past due has increased by around \$6,000. There was discussion regarding landlords and tenants being past due on the water/sewer accounts. Landlords are responsible for the past due accounts of tenants. Both receive a bill so it will be no surprise to the landowner if the tenant moves out and leaves them with a large bill. If the rental property sells, the past due amount will be paid in full to the City during the closing process.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

City Administrator Pelleberg stated that he has been speaking with several developers. He thanked Public Works Director David North, and all involved in the cruise. Mr. Pelleberg stated that he is gearing up for 2021 with improvements to streets, parks, developments around town, major

updates to the codes and regulations. The local Economic Development Council has a marketing plan out there that highlights recreational activities and high-speed internet which is bringing business here.


BILLS & PAYROLL:

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

CLAIMS CHECKS 63871-63896	\$44,222.86
CLAIMS EFT 12/21/20 RUN 1-7	\$120,461.59
CLAIMS DIRECT PAY 12/21/20 RUN 1-6	\$8,782.50
PAYROLL EFTS 1047-1053: Dir Deposit Run 12/04/2020	\$71,600.45

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 PM.

Attest: 

Nickole North, MMC, CPFA
Clerk/Treasurer

By: 

Shirley Sands
Mayor