

MINUTES OF THE NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON
May 17, 2021

A regular meeting of the Newport City Council was held on May 17, 2021 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:

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| | Shirley Sands | Mayor |
| | Russ Pelleberg | City Administrator (Absent) |
| | Nickole North | Clerk/Treasurer |
| | Mark Duxbury | Police Chief |
| | David North | Public Works Director |
| | Laura McAloon | City Attorney |
| | Kendel Froese | Assistant City Attorney |
| Kenneth Smith | | Councilmember |
| Nancy Hawks-Thompson | | Councilmember |
| Jami Sears | | Councilmember |
| Mark Zorica | | Councilmember |
| Keith Campbell | | Mayor Pro Tem |

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES:

Mayor Sands added an executive session topic to the end of the agenda to review the performance of a public employee RCW 4.2.30.110 (1g). Mayor Sands stated that she would be moving things around on the agenda to move people in attendance through so that she could stay in compliance with COVID-19 guidelines on social distancing. Councilmember Zorica moved to approve the agenda as amended and the minutes from the May 03, 2021 Council Meeting as written; Councilmember Campbell seconded. Motion carried.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mayor Sands stated that new Covid-19 guidelines have been emailed to all of the Council regarding public meetings.

Mayor Sands also did some research on what guidelines would have to be followed in order to open up the City's Splash Park. At this time, the City cannot follow what is required. She will keep an eye on the restrictions and as soon as possible will open the park if possible.

Councilmember Thompson stated that there is a flag with profanity on it flying across the street from her residence. She is offended by this and asked if there was anything the City could do to require the flag be taken down. Assistant City Attorney Froese will work with Clerk/Treasurer North on this. Chief Duxbury also stated that he would get with Assistant City Attorney Froese as well regarding this.

Councilmember Thompson also stated that she asked City Planning Consultant Ayars to speak about Regional Transportation Surveys to educate the Council on what these are. Ms. Ayars spoke about the surveys and encouraged the Council to look at the Tri County Economic Development Council's website for more information on them.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

William Christman of 17 Grove Addition, Oldtown, Id was present on behalf of the American Legion and asked for authorization to place flags along the bridge in Oldtown, Idaho. Mayor Sands advised him that was out of her jurisdiction and encouraged him to contact Oldtown City Hall regarding this.

Carolyn Miyagishima of 261 Serenity Lane, Newport stated that she would like to endorse Ty Krohn and Pend Oreille Cannabis. Her husband is a disabled veteran and the product that he purchases from this facility really seems to help him.

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilmember Smith moved to allow R. Brad Hanson, Veteran Outreach Coordinator and Board Chair to utilize the Veteran's Memorial Park for a Veteran's BBQ on August 27, 2021 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM; Councilmember Thompson seconded. Motion carried.

A public hearing to review community development and housing needs, inform citizens of the availability of funds and eligible uses of the state Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), and receive comments on proposed activities, particularly from lower income persons residing in the City of Newport was opened at 6:46 PM. Matt Morkert of Century West Engineering was present and spoke of the possible funding that is 100% grant and only available once a year. \$900,000 per year is available for projects. There are two projects that he spoke of for possible funding. One was recoating the existing water tank that was put into service in the 1980s and has not been maintained due to not having another tank to be able to take this one offline to inspect and maintain. Now that there is a tank on the south bench it will allow the City to do much needed repairs on the older tank. The second project would be to replace the water line in Scott Street, which would need another funding partner to repair the street. It makes more sense to focus on the water tank project since it is a stand-alone project. This is a highly competitive grant. Handouts were available to the public as well as posted on the Newport City's website. The public hearing was closed at 6:57 PM. No action was taken.

Councilmember Zorica moved to approve Owner-Engineer Agreement No. 6 with Century West Engineering increasing it by \$5,208.43 to pay sales tax for the SCADA system; Councilmember Sears seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Zorica moved to approve Ordinance 2087 amending the regulations governing the siting of state licensed marijuana facilities and providing for severability; Councilmember Campbell seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Smith moved to approve Transportation Improvement Board Pay Request #7 in the amount of \$7,075.84; Councilmember Thompson seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Smith moved to approve Ordinance 2085 repealing Ordinance No. 635 in its entirety, thereby also repealing Newport Municipal Code Chapter 2.12, and establishing a procurements and public bidding process for the City, incorporating the same into the Newport Municipal Code as Chapter 2.12, and providing for other matters properly related thereto; Councilmember Campbell seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Zorica moved to approve Ordinance 2086 amending Ordinance No. 957 and Ordinance No. 1059, thereby also amending Newport Municipal Code Chapter 2.13, providing for a small works roster and other matters properly related thereto; Councilmember Sears seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Campbell moved to certify that the 2020 annual report has been reviewed pursuant to City Council directive that the Deputy Clerk/Treasurer, City Administrator, Mayor Pro Tem and a Councilmember review the report and authorizes Mayor Sands approve the report for submittal to the Washington State Auditor's Office; Councilmember Smith seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Campbell moved to create a new position and job description for Wastewater Lead Operator and amend Resolution 12082020 Exhibit A salary scale to add the salary scale for this new position; Councilmember Smith seconded. Motion carried.

STAFF COMMENTS:

Police Chief Duxbury introduced Kathryn Bowman as the City's newly hired Community Resource Officer. She was hired effective April 1st. Chief Duxbury gave a law enforcement update. There were 191 law enforcement calls in the City of Newport in April. He also thanked Kyle Witt with Washington State Patrol who assisted with the state striping the highway sooner than usual. The officer force simulator was in the City recently and Mayor Pro Tem Campbell was able to test out his skills. Councilmember Campbell stated that it was really an eye opener on what a Police Officer could face in the line of duty.

Public Works Director David North introduced the newly hired Water Operator for the City, Shea Courtney. Mr. North also gave a public works update. He stated that he hopes to finalize the RV Park by rodeo weekend. The bathrooms are open as well as the parks in the City. A new pump was purchased for the fountain in TJ Kelly Park. Councilmember Sears asked if there would be a limit on the number of days a person could stay at the RV Park. Mr. North stated the maximum stay allowance would be 2 weeks.

Clerk/Treasurer North gave a financial update. Cash and Investments as of April 30th, 2021 was \$3.1 million. Sales tax in April was \$42,300. There are twenty delinquent accounts equaling around \$26,100 delinquent.

BILLS & PAYROLL:

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

CLAIMS CHECKS 64161-64190

\$43,895.80

CLAIMS EFT 05/13/21 RUN 1-8
CLAIMS DIRECT PAY 05/13/21 RUN 1-9
PAYROLL EFTS 1107-1113: Dir Deposit Run 05/05/21


\$234,549.59
\$9,150.00
\$75,320.09

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

An executive session to review performance of a public employee RCW 42.30.110 (1g) was opened at 7:20 for 30 minutes. The Council asked for two additional 30-minute timeframes as well as a 5-minute timeframe. The executive session was closed at 8:55 PM. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 PM.

Attest: 

Nickole North, MMC, CPFA
Clerk/Treasurer

By: 

Shirley Sands
Mayor