

MINUTES OF THE NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON
June 21, 2021

A regular meeting of the Newport City Council was held on June 21, 2021, at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers, City Hall, 200 S. Washington Avenue, Newport, Washington, with the following present via ZOOM and in person due to the Coronavirus pandemic:

	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:

Councilmember Campbell moved to approve the agenda and the minutes from the June 06, 2021, Council Meeting as written; Councilmember Zorica seconded. Motion carried.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mayor Sands stated that the next Council Meeting will be July 6th at 6:00 PM due to the 4th of July holiday.

Mayor Sands also asked citizens of Newport to voluntarily conserve water during this drought. Notices will be going out in the water/sewer bills this month.

A letter of resignation from Russ Pelleberg was received by the Mayor at 4:01 PM this date.

STAFF COMMENTS:

Police Chief Duxbury gave a law enforcement update. There were 171 law enforcement calls in the City of Newport in May. Chief Duxbury also advised the Council that he will be changing over the Police Department portable computers and cell phones to FIRSTNET with AT&T. There will be a dedicated broadband for law enforcement which will make the service much faster.

Public Works Director David North gave a public works update. He thanked the City of Oldtown, Public Utility District, Pend Oreille County, Newport School District for their assistance during the construction of the Newport RV Park. Mr. North stated that he had ordered and received the parts to convert the restroom at the Newport City Park to a regular bathroom instead of a vault bathroom but has been unable to secure a plumber until later this Summer.

Fire District 4 Chief Webber stated that he was familiar with FIRSTNET with AT&T and that service is amazing. He highly recommends it. He will be inspecting the Newport RV Park tomorrow. There have been 8 medical calls within the City of Newport in the last two months as well as 1 fire call. Fire District 4 is working on relations with Pend Oreille Paramedics to help the crews work better together as a team. They plan on having a booth at the Newport Rodeo this year and being in the Rodeo Parade. Members of the Fire District assisted the Rodeo Association by washing off the bleachers. Fire District 4 has completed 146 hours of training within the last 2 months.

Clerk/Treasurer North gave a financial update. Cash and Investments as of May 31st, 2021 was \$3.4 million. Sales tax in May was \$49,565.00 which was around \$9,000.00 more than last year in May. Ms. North also advised the Council that the City has received its first installment of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. The City will receive a total of \$613,846.00 to be paid half in 2021 and half in 2022. She is hoping to use these funds as match money for a grant that was received to update the City's Water Plan as well as needed maintenance at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

NEW BUSINESS:

A public hearing to discuss proposed amendments to the 2021 fiscal year budget was opened at 6:24 PM. Clerk/Treasurer North stated that the 2021 fiscal year budget has increased by \$591,900.00 due to the City Council authorizing LTGO bonds to purchase an asphalt zipper, Wastewater Treatment Plant service truck and a police vehicle. The sewer fund was increased by \$52,000.00; street fund increased by \$217,700.00; current expense fund increased by \$322,200.00. There was not public comment. The public hearing was closed at 6:32 PM.

Councilmember Smith moved to approve Ordinance 2088 amending the fiscal year 2021 budget; Councilmember Thompson seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Zorica moved to approve up to \$1,000.00 be paid to reimburse for advertising the Pend Oreille Valley Relay for Life on August 13th; Councilmember Campbell seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Zorica moved to approve up to \$1,000.00 to be paid to reimburse for advertising the 14th annual Newport Autumn Bloom 5K/10K Fun Run; Councilmember Campbell seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Campbell moved to approve Agreement NP2021-07 Information Technology Services Agreement between the City of Newport and Pend Oreille County; Councilmember Smith seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Sears moved to approve Agreement NP2021-06 with JUB Engineers, Inc. for on call professional services for the fiscal year 2021; Councilmember Smith seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Zorica moved to renew the US Department of Agriculture Forest Service Special Use Permit; Councilmember Campbell seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Campbell moved to approve Contract 2021-58 as well as Contract 2021-58CO (change order) with Conifer Electric Inc to furnish labor and material for the Newport RV Park; Councilmember Zorica seconded. Motion carried.

Clerk/Treasurer North initiated a discussion on the RV Park. Using ResNexus as the company that will have a map of the Newport RV Park online will offer the ability for citizens to click on and reserve which site they would like. There will be a link from the City's website that will direct citizens to the ResNexus site to reserve their site. From there they will be directed to Invoice Cloud where they will pay online for their reservation. Ms. North informed the Council that this will take around two months to get in place. Further discussion was had regarding what to charge per night for an RV site. It was agreed that \$40.00 per night would be agreeable as well as a \$10.00 sewer dump fee for anyone wanting to dump their sewer tank at the sewer dump site. A two-week maximum stay was also discussed and agreed upon.

Councilmember Zorica moved to table Resolution 06212021 repealing all prior council actions concerning its personnel policy manual and adopting an updated personnel policy manual and other matters properly related thereto to the July 19th Council Meeting to allow time to review the changes that have been made to the policy; Councilmember Smith seconded. Motion carried.


BILLS & PAYROLL:

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

CLAIMS CHECKS 64220-64250	\$82,940.11
CLAIMS EFT 06/17/21 RUN 1-5	\$7,123.67
CLAIMS DIRECT PAY 06/17/21 RUN 1-9	\$9,150.00
PAYROLL EFTS 1119-1125: Dir Deposit Run 06/07/21	\$78,973.28

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 PM.

Attest: 

Nickole North, MMC, CPFA
Clerk/Treasurer

By: 

Shirley Sands
Mayor