

MINUTES OF THE NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON
July 19, 2021

A regular meeting of the Newport City Council was held on July 19, 2021, at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers, City Hall, 200 S. Washington Avenue, Newport, Washington, with the following present:

	Shirley Sands	Mayor
	Nickole North	Clerk/Treasurer
	Mark Duxbury	Police Chief
	David North	Public Works Director
	Kendel Froese	Assistant City Attorney
Kenneth Smith		Councilmember
Nancy Hawks-Thompson		Councilmember (Absent)
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. Councilmember Zorica moved to excuse Councilmember Thompson's absence; Councilmember Campbell seconded. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES:

Councilmember Campbell moved to approve the agenda and the minutes from the July 06, 2021, Council Meeting as written; Councilmember Smith seconded. After discussion it was asked if Audience Participation could be moved below Mayor and Council Comments. Councilmember Campbell amended his motion to approve the agenda as amended and the minutes from the July 06, 2021, Council Meeting; Councilmember Sears seconded. Motion carried.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mayor Sands answered multiple questions that a citizen had listed on Facebook. She also announced that the City Administrator position has been advertised in multiple locations and the first review of applications will take place on August 18th.

Councilmember Smith moved to have a new standard of placing Audience Participation on the Council Agenda under Mayor and Council Comments; Councilmember Zorica seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Smith stated that Thursday through Sunday there were lots of people in the City. The stand down went very well at the Vietnam Wall. The Rough Stock event also brought many citizens to town. He stated that it just proves that if things are happening then people will come.

Councilmember Sears asked if there was any training that could be given to citizens riding the Lime Scooters. She stated that they just leave them blocking the sidewalks. It was suggested that

she contact the Chamber of Commerce with questions regarding the scooters since their agreement is with them.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Greg Vaughn residing at 471 Greggs Rd., Newport, WA was present and asked multiple questions. The Mayor and Clerk/Treasurer responded to his inquiries.

Jeff Sherman residing at 1512 Ashenfelter Bay Road, Newport, WA was present and spoke about a code violation that he received a letter on. Assistant City Attorney Froese will phone Mr. Sherman along with the City's Planning Consultant Alicia Ayars regarding this matter.

STAFF COMMENTS:

Police Chief Duxbury gave a law enforcement update. There were 201 law enforcement calls in the City of Newport in June. Chief Duxbury also let the Council know about the results of a sealed bid that was advertised to purchase body worn cameras and evidence management software. There was one bid received from Motorola Solutions, Inc. Councilmember Zorica moved to allow the Police Chief to move forward with accepting the bid and purchasing the equipment; Councilmember Sears seconded. Motion carried.

Public Works Director David North gave a public works update. There is still a water shortage in the City. He has been working with West Bonner Water District in case the City needs to purchase water from them. If that should happen, the meter will be read monthly. The SCADA system is working awesome. They are working on sprinkler repairs in the Parks as well as multiple water leaks, grading and dust control. He has installed air releases on the wells to help with bubbles in citizens water when the wells draw down. He spoke with Washington State Department of Ecology regarding getting on a list for funding available to drill a commercial well. Two of the City's best producing wells are not performing like they should due to plugged screens which will cost around \$14,000 to pull and clean. Mr. North also spoke with Community Development Block Grant regarding possible funding to clean and paint the water tank.

Fire District 4 Chief Webber thanked the City's Public Works Department for their help the other day on a local fire. There was one fire on the 4th of July due to fireworks. He stressed that if they would like the Fire Chief to have the ability to ban the discharge of fireworks due to dangerous conditions, the City must create an ordinance giving the Chief the authority to do so. He further spoke about a structure fire on W. Circle Drive that resulted in substantial damage. He stated that the water department, Police Department, Sheriff's Office and PUD were of great assistance during the fire. Pend Oreille Fire District 4 purchased a used ladder truck and is hoping to have it in service in a month. It will be assigned to Station 42, which is just north of the city. There are 8 new fire recruits in different phases of processing. Chief Webber has conducted multiple inspections and assisted a citizen with replacing batteries in a smoke detector. The District staff sprayed down the rodeo stands to clean them and make the vegetation less susceptible to burning when the seats are occupied. Chief Webber is still working on changing the current response model for EMS calls in the city to include District 4.

Clerk/Treasurer North gave a financial update. Cash and Investments as of June 30th, 2021, was \$3.7 million. Sales tax in June was \$84,200.00 which was around \$26,300.00 more than last year in June. Ms. North also let the Council know that the RV Park to date has cost the City around \$122,000.00. She also stated that PUD has approached Public Works Director North and are willing to help with landscaping and possible other finishing touches on the RV Park. Quotes are being obtained currently on landscaping and paving. Clerk/Treasurer North gave an update on several projects and grants that her office has been working on and got feedback from the Council.

OLD BUSINESS:

Councilmember Smith moved to approve 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 with an updated, clearer organizational chart; Councilmember Campbell seconded. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jamie Aquino of Aquino & Son, LLC gave a recap of the Newport Festival during the Newport Rodeo. She stated that there were around 9,000 in attendance. All hotels, bed and breakfasts, campgrounds in Newport, Priest River and Oldtown were sold out. She estimates that around 25% of the vendors stayed one night and 90% of the vendors expressed their desire to come back in future years.

Councilmember Sears moved to approve Agreement NP2021-09 for maintenance and improvement of the Newport Centennial Plaza; Councilmember Zorica seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Zorica moved to approve Agreement NP2021-10 for engineering and land surveying services with James A. Sewell & Associates, LLC; Councilmember Sears seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Campbell moved to approve Agreement NP2021-02A substituting Derek Reid as a City Public Defender; Councilmember Sears seconded. Motion carried.

BILLS & PAYROLL:

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

CLAIMS CHECKS 64278-64316	\$51,120.21
CLAIMS EFT 07/15/21 RUN 1-7	\$20,341.23
CLAIMS DIRECT PAY 07/15/21 RUN 1-9	\$9,150.00
PAYROLL EFTS 1131-1137: Dir Deposit Run 07/08/21	\$77,636.95

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Attest: 
Nickole North, MMC, CPFA
Clerk/Treasurer

By: 
Shirley Sands
Mayor