

MINUTES OF THE NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON
August 16, 2021

A regular meeting of the Newport City Council was held on August 16, 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
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:

Clerk/Treasurer North stated that the minutes from the previous meeting were amended changing the attorney that was present from City Attorney McAloon to Assistant City Attorney Froese. Councilmember Campbell moved to approve the agenda and the minutes from the August 02, 2021, Council Meeting as amended; Councilmember Sears seconded. Motion carried.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilmember Smith suggested that Council should review the bills and payroll prior to bringing them to Council. Councilmember Sears suggested Thursday morning as a good time to review them. It was agreed that a Councilmember would review them each month on Thursday morning beginning with Council Position #1. Staff is to remind them the day before.

Councilmember Campbell asked if the City had received any City Administrator applicants. Mayor Sands stated that she had received one full time and three interim applicants. The first review will be August 18th.

Councilmember Campbell asked if the City had an ordinance banning skateboards and scooters on the sidewalk. He was informed yes we do however after Assistant City Attorney Froese reviewed it online it is only for scooters that are powered by a foot and have not motor. It was discussed that the ordinance should be updated to include the Lime Scooters. Councilmember Zorica asked who is liable if someone gets hurt on the Lime Scooters while riding them on City sidewalks? He asked multiple times why the City didn't have the City Attorney review the contract with Lime Scooters. He asked that the contract be presented to the City Attorney for review and to ensure

that the City is protected. Mayor Sands stated that she would get everything to the City Attorney for review. She did state that the City was named as an additional insured on the insurance for the Lime Scooters.

Councilmember Zorica asked for a Jeff Sherman update regarding the updated SEPA for the dirt work and tree removal on his property located along State Route 20. Mayor Sands stated that she had been working with Mr. Sherman and J.A. Sewell's Engineering on this matter to get it resolved.

Councilmember Zorica asked when the Assistant City Attorney stated that there were loose ends to tie up on Russ Pelleberg's employment if that was on the City's end. Assistant City Attorney Froese stated no that it is not on the City's end.

Councilmember Sears proposed to have a discussion at the next meeting to discuss banning fireworks in the city limits. She also recommended having a community contest on how to spend the second half of the money coming from the state that is non grant COVID funds. She suggested possibly having submissions coming in between October of this year to February of next year.

STAFF COMMENTS:

Police Chief Duxbury gave a law enforcement update. There were 173 law enforcement calls in the City of Newport in July. Chief Duxbury let the Council know that the body cameras are about four weeks out. The City received funding from the state that will pay for five body cameras until the end of the year. This will allow for the Community Resource Officer to wear one as well.

Public Works Director David North gave a public works update. He spoke about moving the old log cabin from the rodeo grounds to the museum. He thanked Knight Crane Services and Rankin Excavating for donating their time to help make this happen. Mr. North also let the Council know that he used the asphalt zipper for the first time today and it was quick and easy. He used the machine on Circle Drive prepping areas for the seal coat project. He also used it on some areas where water leaks occurred to prep them for paving repair. In addition, the crew has been taking down hazard trees, reading meters and repairing water leaks. The clarifier is down at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The big mower for the City Parks is also down. Toilets will be installed at the bathrooms in the City Park tomorrow, changing them from a vault style to a regular toilet. The Splash Park is coming on at 11:30 instead of 10:00AM. He is working with a company that will be able to clean the screens in the wells and place the City on a three-year rotation for maintenance to keep the screens clear.

Fire District 4 Chief Webber stated that there were 60 calls for service in Newport in July as well as 4 medical calls, 3 fire calls, 1 water flow, and 1 citizen assist. They have started training on the new ladder truck and will be training in Newport tomorrow.

Clerk/Treasurer North gave a financial update. Cash and Investments as of July 31, 2021, was \$3.7 million. Sales tax in July was \$5,300.00 more than last year in July. Fuel tax continues to be less every month than in previous years. Councilmember Zorica asked what the status of delinquent water/sewer accounts were. Ms. North stated that she would get those numbers to him

tomorrow. She also encouraged those needing assistance with paying their bill to reach out to Family Crisis Network in Newport and they have funds to help pay for these bills.

NEW BUSINESS:

A public hearing to consider proposed amendments to the 2021 fiscal year budget was opened at 6:35 PM. Clerk/Treasurer North asked that the budget be increased by \$630,153.00 making the total budget \$9,379,078.00. Current Expense would be increased \$8,807.00 for a Law Enforcement & Criminal Justice Legislative one-time cost from the State as well as \$306,923.00 for Coronavirus – COVID-19 non-grant assistance. The Street Fund will be increased by \$7,500.00 for the final costs on the Pine Street project. The Water Fund will be increased by \$90,000.00 which includes \$60,000.00 match to be paid out of the COVID-19 funds and \$30,000.00 CDBG Planning Grant for a water plan update. The Sewer Fund will be increased by \$216,923.00 for Department of Ecology required updates and repairs to the Wastewater Treatment Plant which will also be funded by COVID-19 funds. The public hearing was closed at 6:41 PM. There was no public comment.

Councilmember Sears moved to approve Ordinance 2089 amending the fiscal year 2021 budget; Councilmember Zorica seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Campbell moved to approve Resolution 08162021 to adopt the Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program 2022-2027 for forwarding to the State Highway Commission and Urban Arterial Board for review and comments; Councilmember Thompson seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Thompson moved to approve Task Order 2021-04 Newport Land Swap Survey with JUB Engineers, Inc. not to exceed \$1,500.00; Councilmember Smith seconded. Motion carried.

BILLS & PAYROLL:

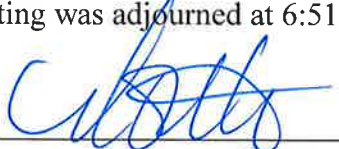
Councilmember Thompson moved to approve the bills and payroll; Councilmember Sears seconded. Motion carried.

CLAIMS CHECKS 64338-64317	\$29,819.77
CLAIMS EFT 08/11/21 RUN 1-7	\$19,508.59
CLAIMS DIRECT PAY 08/11/21 RUN 1-9	\$9,150.00
PAYROLL EFTS 1143-1149: Dir Deposit Run 08/02/21	\$73,215.10

ADJOURNMENT:


The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 PM.

Attest:



Nickole North, MMC, CPFA
Clerk/Treasurer

By:



Shirley Sands
Mayor