

MINUTES OF THE NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON
August 15, 2022

A regular meeting of the Newport City Council was held on August 15, 2022, at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers, City Hall, 200 S. Washington Avenue, Newport, Washington, with the following present:

	Keith Campbell	Mayor
	Abby Gribi	City Administrator
	Nickole North	Clerk/Treasurer
	Kendel Froese	City Attorney
Kenneth Smith		Councilmember
Jordan Bowman		Councilmember
Jami Sears		Councilmember (Absent)
Mark Zorica		Mayor Pro Tem
Nathan Longly		Councilmember

Mayor Campbell called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. This was followed by roll call and the pledge of allegiance. Councilmember Smith moved to excuse Councilmember Sears' absence; Councilmember Longly seconded. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES:

Councilmember Longly moved to approve the agenda and the minutes from the August 01, 2022, Council Meeting; Councilmember Bowman seconded. Motion carried.

MAYOR & COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mayor Campbell explained the traffic revision at the corner of Walnut and Washington Avenue. He stated that the City had asked for a revision at that intersection and it was approved but that is not what the State Department of Transportation changed and implemented at the intersection. This is being worked on and hopefully will be resolved soon.

Councilmember Longly tried out the police simulator and found it to be very interesting. He stated that it was a cool experience and a great opportunity and well worth taking the time to participate. He thanked the police force for what they do and for making this available for the Council to experience.

Councilmember Zorica stated that higher powers may need to get involved to improve the traffic situation at the corner of Walnut and Washington Avenue.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Pend Oreille County Commissioner Robert Rosencrantz residing at 615 W. Pine Street #14, Newport, WA stated that he had received the ARPA grant request and he was appreciative that everything he had asked for was addressed in the application. He told City Administrator Well Done!

CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

City Administrator Gribi stated that she had submitted the application to the County for ARPA support for the rehab of the wells. She is currently working on a Transportation Improvement Board application as well and will submit that later this week. There is a contract being worked on with the County for using the zipper and sweeper. There is a draft of the South Bench Study that she will be attending a meeting with Economic Development Council to review. The curbing is done at the RV Park and they are looking at expanding the curbs throughout the RV park. It looks really nice and she encouraged the Council to go take a look at it. Ms. Gribi has been contacted by a potential buyer who is interested in the City lot at the corner of Spruce and Washington. He is interested in developing the lot with vehicle charging stations. The Council agreed to discuss this further at a future meeting and were open to exploring this option.

STAFF COMMENTS:

Police Chief Duxbury stated that there were 178 law enforcement calls in the City of Newport in July. He has submitted the order for a vehicle to be paid out of the 2023 budget which was approved by Council previously. The final paperwork has been done with Washington State Patrol on the purchase of a used Explorer and the vehicle is less money than expected. Chief Duxbury stated that the simulator was here and two councilmembers showed up.

Public Works Director David North gave a public works update. He gave an update on the wells and stated that he is working on retrofitting the sprinkler system. He and his crew have been busy hauling topsoil that was free to the RV Park and stockpiling it at the Shop. He stated that the RV Park is looking awesome. His crew is working on trees downtown and they are looking at placing chips around the play areas to be in compliance with insurance requirements.

Fire District 4 Chief Webber stated that they had been dispatched to 30 calls within the city limits. They have completed 207 hours of training in July.

Clerk/Treasurer North gave a financial update. Cash and Investments as of July 31, 2022, was \$4,005,539 million. Ms. North stated that this was due to ARPA funds received and largely earmarked for wastewater. Sales tax in July was \$66,353 which is around \$11,272 more than last year at this time. Property tax in July was \$3,505 which is around \$952 less than last year at this time. There are currently 8 delinquent water/sewer accounts equating to \$4,001 which is down from \$4,686 delinquent last month. Ms. North stated that there was someone new in the front office and welcomed Lyndsie Halcro as the new Accounting Clerk.

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilmember Longly moved to approve Agreement NP2022-19 to provide interim city attorney services with Thrive Law PLLC; Councilmember Smith seconded. Motion carried.

Ray Hanson, Newport Rodeo President gave a recap of the Newport Rodeo and Rough Stock events.

Councilmember Bowman moved to allow the City Administrator to submit a letter of commitment for a 2022 TIB Preservation Application committing to a 5% match in the 2023 budget; Councilmember Longly seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Smith moved to approve an updated job description for the Deputy Clerk/Treasurer position; Councilmember Longly seconded. Motion carried.

BILLS & PAYROLL:

Councilmember Bowman moved to approve the bills and payroll; Councilmember Longly seconded. Motion carried.

CLAIMS CHECKS 65106-65143	\$173,950.45
CLAIMS EFT 08/10/2022 RUN 1-7	\$19,420.06
CLAIMS DIRECT PAY 08/10/2022 RUN 1-7	\$7,800.00
PAYROLL EFTS 1290-1296: Dir Deposit Run 08/03/2022	\$84,141.34

WORKSHOP:

The sewer code revision was discussed and whether or not check valves should be required.

The (RFQ) Request for Qualifications for Attorney services were reviewed.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 PM.

Attest: 

Nickole North, MMC, CPFA
Clerk/Treasurer

By: 

Keith Campbell
Mayor