

MINUTES OF THE NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON
September 19, 2022

A regular meeting of the Newport City Council was held on September 19, 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
Kenneth Smith		Councilmember
Jordan Bowman		Councilmember (Absent)
Jami Sears		Councilmember
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 Bowman's absence; Councilmember Sears seconded. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES:

Councilmember Zorica moved to approve the agenda and the minutes from the September 06, 2022, Council Meeting; Councilmember Longly seconded. Motion carried.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Pend Oreille County Commissioner Robert Rosencrantz residing at 615 W. Pine Street #14, Newport, WA informed the Council that the County is currently being audited and will have to make some modifications on how they are handling the ARPA funds. He doesn't believe this will affect working with the City on the wells but wanted the Council to know that the request for funding may not be heard until mid-October due to this.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

City Administrator Gribi stated that the Conditional Use Permit hearing on New Health was held last week and they are waiting on a decision.

A public hearing on an annexation on 8th Street will take place September 26th and 5:30 PM at City Hall.

A representative from Cities Insurance Association of Washington met with Ms. Gribi and they went over the City's property to make sure everything insured was correct.

An overview of the permit module software with Vision Municipal Solutions was presented to Ms. Gribi, Clerk/Treasurer North and Accounting Clerk Halcro.

The Council was asked if monthly in person attendance was necessary for Department Heads. It was agreed that monthly written reports and quarterly in person attendance was adequate unless a major project was occurring.

The City has found three businesses that had the wrong code for paying state tax on work completed in the City. Around \$10,000 has been reallocated to the City from Pend Oreille County. This is one of the reasons why business licenses are important. Ms. Gribi is estimating that around \$40-\$50,000 is being misallocated because of the 99156 zip code defaulting to Pend Oreille County instead of City of Newport. Talking points will be emailed out to the Council for them to contact businesses and speak to the issue. Sales tax revenue is a 60/40 split with funds going to pay for street maintenance and public safety.

STAFF COMMENTS:

Police Sergeant Nuvill stated that there were 170 law enforcement calls in the City of Newport in August. Decals should be placed on the new vehicle the department purchased from Washington State Patrol within the next two weeks. Sergeant Nuvill will be attending active shooter training.

Public Works Director David North gave a public works update. His department is working on patching, fixing the flowerbed at TJ Kelly Park and cleaning dry wells and drains.

Fire District 4 Chief Webber stated that they had been dispatched to 36 calls within the city limits. They have completed 196 hours of training in August.

Clerk/Treasurer North gave a financial update. Cash and Investments as of August 31, 2022, was \$3,913,275 million. Sales tax in August was \$64,991 which is around \$1,400 more than last year at this time. Property tax in August was \$1,452 which is around \$29,485 less than last year at this time. There are currently 7 delinquent water/sewer accounts equating to \$5,532 many of these accounts are off and payment arrangements are made on the others.

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilmember Smith moved to approve Resolution 09192022 declaring certain property owned by the City of Newport to be excess and surplus property and authorizing the means of disposal; Councilmember Longly seconded. Motion carried.

BILLS & PAYROLL:

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

CLAIMS CHECKS 65170-65211	\$70,619.83
CLAIMS EFT 09/14/2022 RUN 1-7	\$23,932.34


CLAIMS DIRECT PAY 09/14/2022 RUN 1-7
PAYROLL EFTS 1302-1308: Dir Deposit Run 09/06/2022

\$10,750.00
\$84,718.68

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Attest:



Nickole North, MMC, CPFA
Clerk/Treasurer

By:



Keith Campbell
Mayor