

MINUTES OF THE NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON
January 17, 2023

A regular meeting of the Newport City Council was held on January 17, 2023, 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
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. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES:

Agreement NP2021-03 Amendment No 2 with Department of Corrections was added to the agenda under New Business. Councilmember Zorica moved to approve the agenda as amended and the minutes from the December 19, 2022 Council Meeting; Councilmember Longly seconded. Motion carried.

MAYOR & COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mayor Campbell thanked the street crew for all of their hard work.

Councilmember Bowman asked if the issue at 916 1st Street had been dealt with. City Administrator Gribi stated that it had been addressed. Last Summer the catch basin had been rehabbed and the pipes were cleared. The homeowner is in a dip and they have purchased a sump pump to help with their basement flooding.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

City Administrator Gribi received an email from City Interim Attorney Kendel Froese. She asked that she let the Council know that she enjoyed working with the City and thanked the Mayor and Council.

Ms. Gribi met with the engineer working on the water plan and it is close to being approved. The sewer plan is close too. The rate study is being worked on now and the plan will be going to Department of Ecology for review.

She was invited along with several others next Tuesday to attend a meeting regarding an EMS district.

The permitting module with Vision Software is currently being built and she is hoping that it will be operational within 30 days.

STAFF COMMENTS:

New Police Chief Wade Nelson was sworn in by City Clerk North. He asked that outgoing Chief Duxbury give the law enforcement update. There were 96 incidents in the City of Newport in December. He also asked the Council if they would approve Red Rose Cleaners to clean the shower area of the sleep area for the Police Department which would be an additional \$100 per month. An agreement will be coming to the next meeting but he would like to get this service started. Councilmember Bowman moved to add the shower area of the sleep area to Red Rose's duties at a cost of \$100 more per month; Councilmember Smith seconded. Motion carried. Mayor Council thanked Mr. Duxbury for the years and hours that he gave the City and expressed how much he appreciated him. Mr. Duxbury thanked the community, Mayor and Council, all surrounding departments that assisted him and the Sheriff's Office. He stated that this has been the best 5 years of his career.

Public Works Director Dave North gave a public works update. He stated that they have been scraping roads. The budget shortage has reduced the work that they can perform. Berms are being moved on Calispel Avenue. He came out on Christmas day and used the new snow blade to plow and it is really nice. There are a few street lights out downtown and he is working on finding the short to repair them. He thanked the Wastewater Treatment Plant employees for helping him since he is short staffed; he really appreciates their help. Councilmember Zorica asked how the wells are doing. Mr. North stated that he is currently working on a Water Use Efficiency Report where the wells will be drawn down and he will know more after that. Two wells are still waiting on the electrician to come and finalize. But overall, it appears they are doing well.

Fire District 4 Chief Webber stated that there were 67 calls in the Newport area and they were dispatched to 45 within the City limits. Training was held in Newport and POEMS was invited so they could train together. He is currently working on getting all of the fire hydrants on GPS so that if a fire occurs the closest fire hydrant can be used. He is working on getting the fire rating down for the citizens of the City. Councilmember Zorica asked how many members Fire District 4 has. Chief Webber stated that there are 21 members with 12 being active and most of these are firefighters with only a handful of EMTs. He will also be attending the EMS district meeting that City Administrator Gribi spoke of earlier.

Clerk/Treasurer North gave an annual financial report. Cash and investments at 12/31/2022 were \$3,788,690 which is \$286,245 more than last year. Sales tax at year end was \$589,025 which is \$98,428 more than last year. Property tax at year end was \$321,645 which was \$25,888 less than last year. Council asked Ms. North to reach out to the County Treasurer and ask why this might be. Delinquent water/sewer accounts at year end were 13 @ \$24,173.

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilmember Smith moved to approve Agreement NP2023-04 to provide city attorney services between the City of Newport and Etter, McMahon, Lamberson, Van Wert & Oreskovich, P.C.; Councilmember Sears seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Zorica moved to approve Agreement NP2023-05 Professional Services Agreement to Provide Consulting Services with Ferguson Enterprises; Councilmember Bowman seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Sears moved to approve Agreement NP2023-06 with Washington State Department of Revenue Business Licensing Services; Councilmember Zorica seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Longly moved to approve Deed for Right-of-Way Easement in the Alley Way, Section 18 Township 31 Range 46 between N. Warren Avenue and N. Spokane Avenue for underground electrical to Public Utility District No. 1 of Pend Oreille County; Councilmember Bowman seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Longly moved to approve the updated Agreement NP2022-22B with Canon to lease a copier at City Hall and their Agreement MA31502 to upgrade the machine being leased; Councilmember Bowman seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Sears moved to approve Agreement NP2021-03 Amendment No. 2 with Washington State Department of Corrections extending the expiration date to 12/31/2023; Councilmember Longly seconded. Motion carried.

BILLS & PAYROLL:


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

2022 CLAIMS CHECKS 65416-65425	\$6,548.96
2022CLAIMS CHECKS 65415	VOID
2022 CLAIMS EFT 12/29/2022 Run 1-2	\$10,303.01
2022 CLAIMS DIRECT PAY 12/29/2022 Run 1	\$104.00
2022 PAYROLL E-CHECKS 1355-1362; Dir Deposit Run 12/20/2022	\$65,308.57
2023 CLAIMS CHECKS 65426-65437	\$93,545.39
2023 CLAIMS EFT 01/17/2023 Run 1-4	\$8,221.28
2023 CLAIMS DIRECT PAY 01/17/2023 Run 1-7	\$7,400.00
2023 PAYROLL E-CHECKS 1363-1370; Dir Deposit Run 01/06/2023	\$62,848.37

ADJOURNMENT:


The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 PM.

Attest:



Nickole North, MMC, CPFA
Clerk/Treasurer

By:



Keith Campbell
Mayor