

**MINUTES OF THE NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON**  
**December 05, 2022**

A meeting of the Newport City Council was held on December 05, 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
Jami Sears		Councilmember
Mark Zorica		Mayor Pro Tem
Nathan Longly		Councilmember

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At 6:00 PM, Mayor Campbell called the meeting to order followed by roll call and the pledge of allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES:**

Councilmember Zorica moved to approve the agenda and the minutes from the November 21, 2022 Council Meeting; Councilmember Sears seconded. Motion carried.

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Mayor Campbell thanked the Chamber and Centennial Plaza for their help with the Tree Lighting Ceremony. Councilmember Zorica stated that the tree looked nice and he thanked Sue Mauro who continues to make the event better every year.

Mayor Campbell also stated that the New Health groundbreaking was today and it was very well attended.

Mayor Campbell thanked Public Works Director North and his crew for the long hours they have been putting in with snow removal and moving berms. He expressed what a great job they are doing. Councilmember Zorica also stated that with a business perspective the snow removal has been great. Councilmember Bowman stated that with the large amount of snow that we received and being understaffed and 7 hours of steadily falling snow, the crew did well. He also read a section of an RCW pertaining to driving on ice which can be a penalty of \$139 for driving too fast for conditions and reminded everyone to drive slowly.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

Robert Rosencrantz, Pend Oreille County Commissioner, residing at 615 W. Pine #14, Newport, WA stated that Pend Oreille County has agreed to award the City of Newport ARPA funds to assist with rehabbing two city wells. The total amount awarded for the wells is \$46,606.

## **CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:**

City Administrator Gribi introduced Paul VanEtten to the Council as the newly hired Street Maintenance Worker for the City.

Attorney interviews have been started and will be completed tomorrow.

Police Chief interviews will take place on Thursday with two applicants.

The Planning Commission public hearing regarding the Quail annexation will take place at 5:30 PM on Monday December 12<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Gribi is meeting with West Bonner Sewer District tomorrow regarding a funding strategy to pay for their portion of a new Wastewater Treatment Plant. She is also meeting with Andrew who works with Cathy McMorris Rogers regarding possibly getting federal funds to assist with the sewer plant as well. An Eastern Washington outreach coordinator will also be meeting with Ms. Gribi regarding possible Wastewater Treatment Plant assistance.

A meeting is scheduled for December 15<sup>th</sup> with an engineer to look over the fire hall and convert it to a public safety building.

There will be a staff holiday party on December 16<sup>th</sup> which will be a potluck. For any of the Council wishing to attend, please contact Abby.

The exit conference with the Washington State Auditor will be at 1:00 PM on December 8<sup>th</sup>. There were no findings. She asked the Council to let her know if they would like to attend the exit conference.

The current job description for the Code Enforcement Officer has been changed to more of an emergency management, police clerk, evidence type position. An updated job description will be coming before Council at the next Council Meeting.

Department of Commerce and Ecology will be meeting with Ms. Gribi on December 16<sup>th</sup> regarding shoreline restoration by the fallout at the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant. Ms. Gribi is working through the permitting process to take care of the erosion.

Washington State Transportation Improvement Board has notified Ms. Gribi today that the City has been awarded a grant to assist with overlaying multiple street locations within the City of Newport. This project is \$370,017 and will be focusing on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, North Washington and Fea. Much of the work will be done inhouse and working with Pend Oreille County.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

The water overage waive request for Kathy Bennet was brought up again but again she did not attend so the matter was dropped. The Council is open to hearing her concerns if she would like to attend.

A public hearing on budget amendments was continued from the 11/21/22 Council Meeting. The hearing was reopened at 6:22 PM. Because Clerk/Treasurer North is still waiting on a decision from the County Commissioners ARPA fund request, she asked that the hearing be continued once again to the next meeting. She stated that the only two amendments at this time will be to move the budgeted ARPA funds between funds as needed and increasing the planning professional services line item to cover planning costs that were not invoiced until this year for last year's services. The hearing was continued at 6:23 PM.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A public hearing to review the 2023 annual budget was opened at 6:24 PM. Clerk/Treasurer North reviewed the 2023 proposed budget with the Council. Auditor recommendation for ending cash is in compliance. Liability insurance continues to increase around 35% annually. A 3% COLA was approved by Council previously to be included in this budget. The monthly benefit cap of \$1800 will be the same for 2023. There was around a 4.5% medical insurance increase but the amount to insure an employee and their spouse for medical insurance is still under the \$1800 cap. The tax allocation will remain 60% Current Expense and 40% Streets. \$109,250 was allocated to reserves in 2023 with \$70,000 taken out of Current Expense reserves to purchase a new patrol vehicle for the Police Department. The overall budget has decreased due to projects being completed. Ms. North asked the Council to consider increasing taxes to increase street department revenues. For the past two years, the expenditures have been \$200,000 more than the revenues coming in. This budget has cut the street budget back to what it was in the year 2019 to be able to balance the budget and be in compliance with Auditor recommendation for ending cash. This makes this department budget very tight. Additional revenue is needed. The hearing was continued to the next meeting at 6:29 PM.

**BILLS & PAYROLL:**

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

CLAIMS CHECKS 65348-65356 & 65358	\$54,569.46
VOID CHECKS 65342-65347 & 65357	
CLAIMS EFT 11/17/2022 Run 1-5	\$108,294.23
PAYROLL EFTS 1339-1346 & DIRECT DEPOSIT 11/19/2022	\$71,213.84

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:29 PM.

Attest:   
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Nickole North, MMC, CPFA  
Clerk/Treasurer

By:   
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Keith Campbell  
Mayor