

**MINUTES OF THE NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON**  
**March 20, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Newport City Council was held on March 20, 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
Nathan Weathers		Councilmember
Jami Sears		Councilmember
Mark Zorica		Mayor Pro Tem
Nathan Longly		Councilmember

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES:**

The accounts payable was amended to include some additional checks that needed to be paid by the due date making the total accounts payable claims payments \$84,383.61. Councilmember Zorica moved to approve the agenda as amended and the minutes from the March 06, 2023 Council Meeting; Councilmember Longly seconded. Motion carried.

**MAYOR & COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Mayor Campbell thanked the street crews and stated that he appreciates their hard work.

Councilmember Longly reminded everyone that the Easter Egg hunt will be April 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM at the Newport City Park.

Councilmember Zorica invited everyone to participate in a 3 on 3 basketball tournament at the Kalispel Parking Lot. This will be a free event and children to adult players are welcome. This is going to be funded by the Kalispel Tribe. This event will be June 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>.

Interviews were held for the vacant Councilmember Position No. 2. There was one applicant, Nathan Weathers.

The Council went into executive session under RCW 42.30.110(1)(h) – To evaluate the qualifications of a candidate for appointment to elective office at 6:17 PM for 10 minutes. The Council came out of executive session at 6:27 PM.

Councilmember Zorica moved to appoint Nathan Weathers to the vacant Councilmember Position No. 2; Councilmember Longly seconded. Motion carried.

Nathan Weathers was sworn in by Clerk/Treasurer North and took his seat at Position No. 2 for the remainder of the meeting.

### **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

Zeke Stutzman residing at 700 N. Lilac Lane, Newport, WA asked the Council to support a Community Earth Day Trash Pickup Day on Saturday April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM with everyone interested in participating meeting at Stratton Elementary East Parking Lot. Zeke is an 8 year old boy who is organizing this event to help clean up our community. Councilmember Longly moved to support Zeke in the CED Trash Pickup Day and the rest of the Council were in concurrence to support him in his efforts.

Erik Gallanger residing at 48 S. Alder, Colville, WA gave a POEMS update stating that they had responded to 292 calls to date this year with 159 being within the City of Newport. He stated that 1/3 of their calls are generated by the Newport Hospital.

Robert Rosencrantz, 615 W. Pine Street #14, Newport, WA spoke about being the liaison for the EMR District and how this is a work in progress and he encouraged the Council to follow up with him as a necessary component for seamless coverage in the county.

### **CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:**

City Administrator Gribi stated that there have been several requests to rent TJ Kelly Park and the Park Rules state that this park is not one that the City rents out. After some discussion Councilmember Smith moved to modify the rules to allow TJ Kelly Park to be rented out with the stipulation that nothing can be driven into the ground; Councilmember Longly seconded. Motion carried.

City Administrator Gribi spoke of the clean energy presentation at the last meeting and stated that she will be working on an application for a solar and storage grant with zero match. Vehicle charging stations were discussed with possible locations in or near the downtown corridor to encourage shopping in Newport. Ms. Gribi will bring three possible locations back to Council for approval before any are installed.

A meeting will be held this Thursday with Farmers Market to discuss them moving to the vendor area of the Newport Rodeo Grounds for their event this year.

A new Police Officer will be sworn in at the next Council Meeting. This will bring the department up to full staff.

Ms. Gribi will be attending a Labor Relations Institute where she has been asked to be a speaker on small cities and how to handle human resources.

Working with Washington State Department of Ecology is ongoing and currently it is looking like rehab of the current Wastewater Treatment Plant would be more costly than building a new plant.

There was discussion as to whether or not citizens outside of the City's Urban Growth Area would qualify for utilities. The Council was in agreement that there should be a policy stating that there will be no services outside of the UGA.

Councilmember Zorica asked when the business licenses would be in effect. City Administrator Gribi stated that the go live date with the Department of Revenue will be in May and notices will be sent out at that time with 14 months to comply.

Discussion was held regarding Councilmember salary and the average compensation for Councilmembers in cities the size of Newport in Eastern Washington is \$200 per month. City Administrator Gribi will bring this back before the Council for action at the next Council Meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Councilmember Sears moved to waive the park rental fees for the Hospitality House Veteran Outreach events taking place this year in Newport City Parks; Councilmember Smith seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Longly moved to approve Resolution 03152023 setting the salary to be used for City Reserve Officers; Councilmember Zorica seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Sears moved to allow the purchase of a 1990 WHSM Chip Spreader, VIN#44451171 from Pend Oreille County in the amount of \$6,700.00 with COVID 19 Revenue Loss funds; Councilmember Weathers seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Zorica moved to approve Agreement NP2023-07 ARPA Subrecipient Agreement between Pend Oreille County and City of Newport; Councilmember Sears seconded. Motion carried.

A financial report, law enforcement report and fire department report were given to the Council for their review.

**BILLS & PAYROLL:**

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

CLAIMS CHECKS 65536-65561	\$42,079.19
CLAIMS CHECK 65527 VOID & REPLACED WITH CHECK 65562	\$0.00
CLAIMS CHECKS 65563-65568	\$5,706.32
CLAIMS EFT 03/13/2023 Run 1-8	\$26,282.82
CLAIMS EFT 03/20/2023 Run 1-4	\$1,715.28


CLAIMS DIRECT PAY 03/13/2023 Run 1-5 \$8,600.00  
PAYROLL E-CHECKS 1395-1402; Dir Deposit Run 03/06/2023 \$65,916.35


**WORKSHOP:**

The Council went into a workshop at 7:41 PM to further discuss revenue solutions for the Street Fund. Another workshop will be scheduled for the second meeting in April to discuss this further. Ms. Gribi recommended an advisory vote be placed on the next ballot to see if citizens are willing to pay for fire service. It was discussed if a public safety, fire or street levy should be placed on the ballot. The School Resource Officer position was discussed. The City needs to come up with around \$30,000 more to fund this position year around. General funds pay for police, fire and streets. City Administrator Gribi is to look further into a police/fire public safety sales tax and criminal justice sales tax and report back to the Council at the next workshop. The thought is if more revenue is coming in from taxes it will generate more funds to support police and fire as well as streets. She also spoke about the piece of equipment that the City is purchasing from the County and how employees will be able to repair many of the streets in the city with the help of Transportation Improvement District funds. These funds will reimburse salaries, so this will help with the street budget as well. The Council came out of the workshop at 8:16 PM.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 PM.

Attest:   
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Nickole North, MMC, CPFA  
Clerk/Treasurer

By:   
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Keith Campbell  
Mayor