

MINUTES OF THE NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON
August 07, 2023

A meeting of the Newport City Council was held on August 07, 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

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 July 17, 2023 Council Meeting; Councilmember Weathers seconded. Motion carried.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mayor Campbell read a proclamation declaring August 11th Power of Purple Day in recognition of American Cancer Society's Pend Oreille Valley Relay for Life Committee.

Councilmember Weathers stated that he attended National Night Out and that it was fantastic! He thanked all that participated in the event for what they do and for volunteering their time on a very hot night.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Shannin Chasteen, residing at 615 S. Washington Avenue, Newport, thanked the Council for allowing him to rent the city property located at the corner of 5th and Calispel for a Tent Revival. He stated that it went well and the response was positive.

Michele Masuen, residing at 642 Yates Rd., Newport, spoke regarding the Farmer's Market and that they will be relocating to the Washington Federal Bank's parking lot for the remainder of the year. She asked if they could close 3rd street between Washington Avenue and Union Avenue during their event. Councilmember Zorica moved to close 3rd Street between Washington Avenue and Union Avenue during the Farmer's Market event through November of this year; Councilmember Weathers seconded. Motion carried.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

City Administrator Gribi stated that there were about 125 people who attended the National Night Out event. There has been nothing but positive feedback on the event and it will be the first of many to come. She appreciated the community support.

Administrator Gribi is working on the Comprehensive Plan amendment. One piece of property that is currently within the City's Urban Growth Area has several access issues. Any development that was to occur on that property would require two access points. The railroad owns the access road to the property and they would prefer to limit the amount of traffic on that road. There is property on the south side of the city owned by Ryn Homes that is wanting to put in a housing development. She recommends doing a zero net swap of these two properties removing one property from the UGA and including the other. This will be coming back to the Council for approval at a later date.

The Council agreed to allow Administrator Gribi to submit a grant from the Transportation Improvement Board to chipseal all of the inner couplets. The grant will pay for all materials and staff time with a \$3,866 match.

A hiring offer was made to hire a police officer that has a history of being a solid officer and is in the background process currently.

A Wastewater Maintenance Worker has been hired and will start on the 21st of this month.

Administrator Gribi has been talking a lot with the Washington State Department of Health regarding issues with the 900,000 reservoir.

A FAQ that was put together to inform voters of the facts regarding the proposed levy increase was given to the Council for their review and feedback. She will be asking for action at the first meeting in September with distribution in October.

Two Transportation Improvement Board grants are being applied for. Administrator Gribi realized that the 1st Street and 5th Street projects would conflict with each other so she will be focusing on WSDOT funding for the 1st Street project. This would require a 13.5% match and would be a \$1.1 million dollar project. TIB would cover all but around \$10-15,000 match during the construction phase. She is looking at multiple funding opportunities for street improvements over the next several years.

NEW BUSINESS:

Pend Oreille County Library District Director Mandy Walters along with her Board Chair Jeff Pittman, informed the Council that they had received grant funding to secure land to build a new library. The building that they are currently in is undersized compared to modern libraries. They would like to build a 10,000 sq foot library which would include a meeting room for up to 200 people. Their prime location would be the lot that the City owns by the elementary school. They are interested in a possible purchase of 1.5 acres or a long term lease. The lease is more desirable

because the City could assist with funding opportunities through Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) if the City owns the land. The Council agreed that they would like public feedback on if this would be a good use of that land.

Linda Cassella, Board President of the Newport Creative District gave a presentation on what their goals are and asked Council for a letter of support or a resolution to be adopted in support of the District in Newport so that they can apply to become a Creative District in Newport. Their board consists of 8 members. The application is due September 17th so they will need a support document from the Council by the end of August. The Council was invited to an Ice Cream Social to meet the board and learn more about the District on August 12th at Create.

Councilmember Longly moved to accept Washington State Transportation Improvement Board Project No. 2-E-892(006)-1 Newport – 2023 Seal Coat – Multiple locations in the amount of \$63,094 which includes a 5% match; Councilmember Sears seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Zorica moved to approve Resolution 20230807 declaring an emergency pursuant to RCW 39.04.280 due to a water leak; Councilmember Smith seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Sears moved to approve Amendment #1 Usage Lease for the Wain Field by Newport Youth Athletic Association; Councilmember Weathers seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Longly moved to approve Agreement NP2023-11 Consignment to Auction Agreement with J. Stout Auctions; Councilmember Sears seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Weathers moved to approve Amended Resolution No. 20230717 authorizing submission to the voters at the general election of a proposition which would allow the City of Newport to implement an additional property tax for the fire protection services; Councilmember Smith seconded. Motion carried.


BILLS & PAYROLL:

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

CLAIMS CHECKS 65769-65795	\$37,172.27
CLAIMS EFT 07/31/2023 Run 1-5	\$6,153.49
PAYROLL EFTS 1468-1476 & DIRECT DEPOSIT 07/20/2023	\$72,092.04

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 PM.

Attest: 

Nickole North, MMC, CPFA
Clerk/Treasurer

By: 

Keith Campbell
Mayor