

MINUTES OF THE NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON

August 21, 2023

A regular meeting of the Newport City Council was held on August 21, 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

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:

Councilmember Longly moved to approve the agenda and the minutes from the August 07, 2023 Council Meeting; Councilmember Weathers seconded. Motion carried.

MAYOR & COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mayor Campbell thanked the firefighters for all that they are doing with the fires going on in the area. He stated that their work is much appreciated and he is praying we get the fires out. The RV Park is open as needed as well as the rodeo grounds.

Councilmember Weathers stated that he witnessed the City crews and the mobilizing of the fire departments that responded to the fire at the Old American Campground RV Park fire. He thanked everyone involved and said it was amazing to watch.

Councilmember Smith touched base on the Newport Creative District which would give the City access to a pool of money from the State with zero match. It would add one more dimension to offer the citizens. He would recommend that the City write a letter of support and resolution.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Linda Casella, residing at 31 Deer Road, Newport, was present and asked for support of the Newport Creative District. Councilmember Smith moved to authorize a letter of support be written from the City as well as an official document in support of the Newport Creative District; Councilmember Sears seconded. Motion carried.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

City Administrator Gribi stated that there had been an assessment of the 900,000 gallon water tank and repairs are needed. The repairs will most likely happen in the Spring because the tank will need to be dried out completely and the current weather would fight against that. The tank is running water through it but it is not working at full capacity.

Due to poor air quality and scheduled vacations of the crew, the Transportation Improvement Board street projects will be delayed for two weeks.

An Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council (IACC) Tech Team has been secured to discuss the WWTP project. All funders will be in the room for grant/loan opportunities.

The Newport Founders RV Park welcomes all fire evacuees as space allows.

When there was a fire at the Old American Campground, the staff pitched in to help.

Transportation Improvement Board applications have been submitted for more street projects and have been accepted. Award announcements should be made in early September.

Tim Kemp is a new hire at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and today was his first day.

New Health is well under construction and they would like to invite the Council to come and do a hard hat tour. Administrator Gribi asked the Council to let her know if they are interested and she can set up the tours.

NEW BUSINESS:

Newport Rodeo President Hanson gave an overview of the Newport Rodeo and Rough Stock events this year. He stated that there were record turnouts for the rodeo with sold out shows both Friday and Saturday night. They are looking at possibly adding another night. The Rough Stock event was not sold out but had around 2500 people attend. Mr. Hanson stated that due to the fires the rodeo grounds currently have 42 animals housed there with more room available for anyone needing it. The donations have been incredible. Someone is manning the grounds 24 hours a day. He is thinking there may be an influx of animals coming from Clayton since their rodeo will be happening soon and the animals they have there will need to be sent somewhere else. Councilmember Zorica asked if the vendors at the rodeo events were paying sales tax. President Hanson stated that he would look into this but was unsure how he could monitor this and make them compliant. He felt this would be something done at the state level.

Councilmember Zorica moved to approve Ordinance 2110A amending Ordinance 2110, adding a new section 10; legal description of annexed area; and amending the map depiction included as Exhibit A within Ordinance 2110; Councilmember Sears seconded. Motion carried.

BILLS & PAYROLL:

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

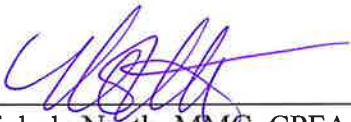
CLAIMS CHECKS 65796-65828	\$61,564.47
CLAIMS EFT 08/16/2023 Run 1-12	\$27,126.50
*voided EFT 7, PUD bills needed to be printed separately	
CLAIMS DIRECT PAY 08/16/2023 Run 1-6	\$4,400.00
PAYROLL E-CHECKS 1477-1485; Dir Deposit Run 08/03/2023	\$70,932.91

WORKSHOP:

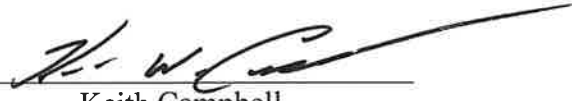
The Council entered a workshop at 6:26 PM to discuss emergency medical services. City Administrator Gribi spoke about two possible solutions to ensure EMS is available within the City and County. One was to purchase POEMS and take them on as a city department which would allow for grant money to assist with costs. The second option would be to contract with Fire District 2. Chief Haynes of Fire District 2 is willing to provide this service to the City and is ready to step in if POEMS abruptly has to close. He stated that EMS is not profit making but it is super sustainable with several revenue streams needed. He is hopeful that in the future there will be an EMS District in the County. City Attorney Clark recommended an executive session at the next meeting to discuss options and liability. Fire District 2 will be providing the City with an initial budget before the next Council Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Attest: 

Nickole North, MMC, CPFA
Clerk/Treasurer

By: 

Keith Campbell
Mayor