

**MINUTES OF THE NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON**  
**September 05, 2023**

A meeting of the Newport City Council was held on September 05, 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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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 August 21, 2023 Council Meeting; Councilmember Weathers seconded. Motion carried.

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Mayor Campbell spoke about the repairs being made to the roads.

Councilmember Zorica asked if the Council and Administration had RSVP'd to the Better Together Celebration being hosted by the Kalispel Tribe. Councilmember Zorica also asked citizens to watch out for the school kids walking to and from school right now. Mayor Campbell stated that Officer Aannerud is now the School Resource Officer.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:**

City Administrator Gribi stated that the chip seal is scheduled for Thursday and patching of the potholes.

Recently Administrator Gribi was named the Vice Chair of Economic Development Council (EDC) which leaves two voting delegates. She is recommending that Councilmember Zorica remain the voting delegate for the City and she be named the alternate. Councilmember Longly moved to submit the drafted letter as written; Councilmember Weathers seconded. Motion carried.

Administrator Gribi was contacted by the property owner directly south of the wetlands property that the City owns. They would prefer to sell this property to the City and it is the head of the

Little Spokane Watershed. The Council gave their blessing for her to explore the purchase further and look into grants to help purchase the property.

Councilmember Zorica moved to allow the City Administrator to apply for and sign electronically an RCO grant that would be 100% grant and pay between \$50,000-\$100,000 for maintenance and replacement of park vehicles and equipment; Councilmember Weathers seconded. Motion carried.

The Wastewater Treatment Plant violated due to the belt press being down and weights up last week. Washington State Department of Ecology has been notified and the situation has been rectified.

On a good note, the Wastewater Treatment Plant has been reaccredited, passing required tests.

Administrator Gribi met with PUD to open up communication.

Councilmember Zorica asked for an update on the Founders RV Park at the next meeting. He would like for the RV Park to be completed.

The Planning Commission is working on the Development Regulations and what is allowed in the zoning districts. There is a new business wanting to come into town so Administrator Gribi will be providing documentation to the Planning Commission in September that will be heard before a public hearing in October and then to the Council for approval in November to allow a change to the conditional use process to allow laundromats in a C-1 zone.

Councilmember Weathers asked what the status is of the fire victims staying at the Founders RV Park. Administrator Gribi is thinking they should be leaving by October 1<sup>st</sup> but a grace period may need to be given if due to weather they are able to stay longer. Councilmember Sears asked if any animals were still being boarded at the rodeo grounds and was told there was one horse when checked last.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Councilmember Sears moved to approve Resolution 20230905 supporting the Newport Creative District; Councilmember Zorica seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Longly moved to approve Agreement NP2023-12 with Vision Municipal Solutions for IT Services; Councilmember Smith seconded. Motion carried.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSIONS:**

The Council entered an executive session at 6:24 PM for 6 minutes to discuss the performance of a public employee per RCW 42.30.110(1)(g). The Council came out of executive session at 6:30 PM. Councilmember Zorica moved to approve Mayor Campbell to renegotiate the contract with the City Administrator; Councilmember Longly seconded. Motion carried.

The Council entered a second executive session at 6:32 PM for 20 minutes to discuss with legal counsel litigation, potential litigation and/or legal risks, per RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). The Council

asked for 30 minutes of extensions and came out of executive session at 7:22 PM. No action was taken.

**BILLS & PAYROLL:**

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

CLAIMS CHECKS 65829-65851	\$13,498.64
CLAIMS CHECK 65849 VOID – misprint	
CLAIMS EFT 08/29/2023 Run 1-2	\$832.28
PAYROLL EFTS 1486-1494 & DIRECT DEPOSIT 08/18/2023	\$71,236.91


**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 PM.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Nickole North, MMC, CPFA  
Clerk/Treasurer

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Keith Campbell  
Mayor