

MINUTES OF THE NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON

October 16, 2023

A regular meeting of the Newport City Council was held on October 16, 2023, at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers, City Hall, 200 S. Washington Avenue, Newport, Washington, with the following present:

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| | 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 (Absent) |

Mayor Campbell called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. This was followed by roll call and the pledge of allegiance. Councilmember Zorica moved to excuse Councilmember Longly's absence; Councilmember Smith seconded. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES:

Councilmember Zorica moved to approve the agenda and the minutes from the October 02, 2023 Council Meeting; Councilmember Weathers seconded. Motion carried.

MAYOR & COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mayor Campbell reminded everyone to attend the Downtown Trick or Treat Event on Halloween from 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

Administrator Gribi has been attending meetings regarding EMS and Fire Services. She will be attending an Association of Washington Cities District 1 meeting in Ritzville as well. The Mayor, Plant Superintendent Howard and Administrator Gribi will be attending the IIAC Conference in Wenatchee and will be taking part in a Tech Team Meeting to look into funding possibilities for the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Interviews took place today for the two open positions, Accounting Clerk and Meter Reader. These positions should be filled next week.

BILLS & PAYROLL:

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

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| CLAIMS CHECKS 65915-65948 | \$122,683.29 |
| CLAIMS EFT 10/12/2023 Run 1-9 | \$25,047.01 |
| CLAIMS DIRECT PAY 10/12/2023 Run 1-6 | \$8,250.00 |
| PAYROLL E-CHECKS 1513-1521; Dir Deposit Run 10/04/2023 | \$72,375.82 |

WORKSHOP:

The Council entered a workshop to discuss Department Head quarterly reports and 2024 budget requests at 6:07 PM.

Wastewater/Water Plant Superintendent Howard stated that the belt press has been fixed. The water collection maintenance is behind due to shortage of staff, but now they are fully staffed and will be getting this caught up. Clarifier 2 will be down for maintenance and the effluent meter will be sent out to be fixed. Superintendent Howard then made his 2024 budget request to the Council.


Police Chief Nelson reviewed calls for service with the Council stating that thefts have increased and there have been some deaths related to drug overdoses. He is requesting that the Lime Scooters be removed. The Department is getting a lot of complaints related to them and kids not following the rules. The other issue that is occurring is people not stopping for citizens in the crosswalks. He is looking for a grant that would allow the Police Department to purchase a reader board to help. The Newport School Drafting Class is working on 3 designs to choose from for the logos on the Police Vehicles which engages community involvement. Chief Nelson then made his 2024 budget request to the Council.

Public Works Director North spoke of a leak in the 900,000 gallon tank. An excavator was rented to see if the leak was coming from the pipes coming from the tank but all of the pipes looked good. The water is chlorinated so that can only mean that the leak is coming from the tank itself. He also has been working on cleaning the ditches along Laurelhurst. Director North is working on finishing the building at Wells D&E, the chipseal projects have been swept, drywells cleaned, the RV Park is closed for the season and water lines blown out at the parks. Director North then made his 2024 budget request to the Council.


Clerk/Treasurer North gave a financial report to the Council. The third quarter cash and investment ending balance is \$4,722,138.00. Sales tax increased by \$18,987.00 compared to the 3rd quarter last year and property tax for the third quarter increased by \$3,585.00. There are currently 12 delinquent water and sewer accounts with \$9,467.00 past due. Clerk/Treasurer North pointed out to the Council that the Current Expense, Water and Sewer funds are around one million but the Street fund remains around \$600,000.00. This has been a concern of hers since last year and she stressed again that there needs to be a plan to build this fund back up. She then made her 2024 budget request to the Council for the administrative office.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Attest: 

Nickole North, MMC, CPFA
Clerk/Treasurer

By: 

Keith Campbell
Mayor