

MINUTES OF THE NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON
December 18, 2023

A regular meeting of the Newport City Council was held on December 18, 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 Weathers moved to approve the agenda and the minutes from the December 04, 2023 Council Meeting; Councilmember Longly seconded. Motion carried.

MAYOR & COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mayor Campbell announced that the first meeting in January has been cancelled and the second meeting in January will be held on Tuesday, January 16th due to the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday and will be continued to January 19th at 8:30 AM to finalize the 2023 bills.

Councilmember Zorica moved to authorize Mayor Campbell to reappoint Jared Horton to the Civil Service Board Position #1 to expire 01/02/2030; Councilmember Longly seconded. Motion carried. Mayor Campbell then reappointed Mr. Horton.

Mayor Campbell welcomed the Boy Scouts to the meeting tonight. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and thanked the snowplow crew.

Councilmember Weathers asked if a NIXEL could be sent out to the citizens of the city the night before a snowplow to allow them time to move their vehicles. Councilmember Zorica asked that a notice be on the website to let the citizens know how to join NIXEL.

Councilmember Sears stated that the Newport School District is looking for donations for concert clothing for the band if anyone has anything that might work.

Councilmember Zorica stated that diagonal parking in the residential areas is great in the Summer but not good in the Winter. He asked if we could educate the citizens not to park that way in the winter months to avoid an accident with the plow equipment. He also asked if the police could assist with notifying citizens not to park this way in the winter months.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

City Administrator Gribi got authorization from WSDOT to put a sign regarding truck brakes coming down Highway 20 into the city limits. The sign will need to meet their criteria and placement requirements.

Councilmember Weathers moved to allow funds saved from the garbage utility tax truck pull tarp purchase and sweeper rebuild and reallocate \$6,000 to update/repair the water truck for street repairs and dust control; Councilmember Zorica seconded. Motion carried.

An agreement has been reached with the Washington State Department of Ecology and they have agreed to sign off on the Sewer Plan with the proposed changes. An extension will still be needed to allow for time to get everything signed off.

Administrator Gribi gave an update on utilizing Rural Resources for a utility assistance program. She looked at Chewelah as an example. They are charged a 10% admin fee and grants are made available to the users. Chewelah's program is a city funded program. Administrator Gribi is looking into a citizen funded program.

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilmember Zorica moved to approve Resolution 20231218 setting a health insurance cap for city employees in 2024; Councilmember Longly seconded the motion. Motion carried. Councilmember Weathers abstained from voting because he has heard employees wanting a choice between getting this insurance cap or taking the amount that would be paid for insurance as a pay increase. He didn't feel that he had enough information to make a decision.

Councilmember Longly moved to approve Agreement NP2024-02 between South Pend Oreille Fire & Rescue and City of Newport for fire protection and emergency medical services; Councilmember Sears seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Weathers moved to approve Agreement NP2024-03 for public defender services; Councilmember Zorica seconded. Motion carried.

Clerk/Treasurer North swore in the newly elected Councilmember Spring and re-elected Councilmembers Smith, Zorica, Longly. Mayor Campbell thanked Councilmember Weathers for being a member of the Council and asked him to please stay involved. Councilmember Weathers stated that he looks forward to joining the Council again in the future.

BILLS & PAYROLL:

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

CLAIMS CHECKS 66012-66038	\$54,773.22
CLAIMS EFT 12/08/2023 Run 1-14	\$157,784.34
CLAIMS DIRECT PAY 12/08/2023 Run 1-7	\$6,850.00
PAYROLL E-CHECKS 1549-1557; Dir Deposit Run 12/04/2023	\$78,096.05

ADJOURNMENT:


The meeting was adjourned at 6:31 PM.

Attest:



Nickole North, MMC, CPFA
Clerk/Treasurer

By:



Keith Campbell
Mayor