

MINUTES OF THE NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON
January 16, 2024

A meeting of the Newport City Council was held on January 16, 2024, 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
Elizabeth Spring		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 December 18, 2023 Council Meeting; Councilmember Sears seconded. Motion carried.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mayor Cambell announced that the public hearing to discuss possible further budget amendments for the 2023 budget is not needed and is canceled.

Mayor Campbell also wished everyone a Happy New Year and welcomed new Councilmember Spring.

Councilmember Longly stated that snow is coming and reminded everyone to pull their vehicles over so that the plows can get through for snow removal.

STAFF COMMENTS:

Police Chief Nelson gave a law enforcement update. There were 422 calls for service in the 4th quarter of 2023. There were 1,703 calls for service for the year 2023. There has been an uptake in suspicious circumstances, however the main offender has been apprehended and is currently in prison. There has also been an uptake in agency assists with Pend Oreille County. Animal calls are going up as well with around 30 calls in the past month being dog related. Chief Nelson asked the Council if he could work with City Administrator Gribi to update the ordinance related to dogs running at large and a leash law. He would like to increase the penalty to encourage dog owners to keep a better handle on their dogs. The Council authorized them to work on updating the ordinance. Chief Nelson has been working on the building next door and hopes to move the Police

Department to that space the first week of February. He has been working with Officer Cotteen on implementing a FTO (Field Training Officer) program. Officer Cotteen is partnering with Pend Oreille County Sheriff Department on this. He has completed FTO training and will be the Newport Police Department FTO moving forward. Chief Nelson will be working on inventing a Block Watch program. March will be the first Women's Wellness event with self defense training being the topic.

Interim Fire Chief Williams gave a Fire Department update. He has been in the position for three weeks now. He is working with past South Pend Oreille Fire Chief Mike Nokes during this time. The fire department is running well. Chief Williams is currently recruiting three firefighter/EMTs to be able to have 24/7 coverage in the City and Diamond Lake.

Public Works Director North introduced the new Meter Reader for the City, Josh Salesky. He stated that they are geared up to plow. The grader is older and has been breaking every time they plow this year. They have been dealing with frozen meters and water lines. The electric tarps on the dump trucks have been installed. Director North stated that the tarps are a really good investment for employee safety. Marc and Ed have been working on stop signs in the central area. Parts have been received to complete the water truck. The water truck should be very useful for spring cleanup, washing curbs and sidewalks. Director North is also working on the distribution truck to get it set up for hauling oil to be ready for street projects later this year.

Clerk/Treasurer North gave a financial report. Sales tax has increased \$46,165 since the 4th quarter of 2022 and property tax has increased \$3,118. There are currently 13 delinquent water/sewer accounts with \$8,488 in arrears. Three of these are off with liens filed; six have since paid their past due balance; four are off for nonpayment; there are no current payment plans. Year end cash has increased \$580,561 since December of 2022. Ending cash and investments December 2023 is \$4,382,814.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Linda Casella, 31 Deer Road, Newport, WA 99156 spoke regarding the Newport Creative District. She thanked the Council for helping get the district through. There is an upcoming quarterly meeting on February 2nd at the Hospitality House for anyone wanting to attend. They are starting to plan the Art Walk – which will be on the 20th of April. They have applied for two capital art projects for \$10,000 each. These would have a 25% match and can be in kind. One of the projects is a visitor kiosk and the other is a painted mural or painted sidewalks.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

City Administrator Gribi asked the Council if they were ok with the Mayor signing a letter designating her as the primary representative for the City for the Economic Development Council (EDC). The Council was in favor of this.

City action days is next month and Administrator Gribi plans to attend. She will be speaking with Legislatures regarding emergency water, the importance of Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) and bringing police back in line so they can do their job.

The Kalispel Tribe has made an offer on the property abutting the City's where the Little Spokane Water Shed begins. The property will be put in conservation and was purchased to move toward a relationship with the City of Newport. There will be a talk with the Newport School District to see about holding an outside classroom there.

Administrator Gribi worked on code updates last week and they will be coming to Council in March for approval.

The Pend Oreille County Commissioners named the PORT as the ADO for the County.

The South Pend Oreille Fire contract has been completed.

The City received \$10,000 from Kalispel Tribe to construct pickle ball courts at the Little People's Park this summer. These funds were routed through EDC.

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilmember Longly moved to approve the updated rental fees pursuant to Agreement NP2023-10 with Pend Oreille County for sharing manpower and equipment; Councilmember Smith seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Zorica moved to approve Ordinance 2117 adopting a new chapter 10-21 of the Newport Municipal Code to regulate the load restriction limits within the City and providing for other matters properly related thereto; Councilmember Longly seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Zorica moved to approve a fee-in-lieu of construction frontage improvements cost assumption as provided by SCJ Alliance; Councilmember Longly seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Zorica moved to approve Resolution 20240116 adopting a construction permit fee schedule based on "square foot construction costs"; Councilmember Spring seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Longly moved to elect Councilmember Zorica as Mayor Pro Tem for 2024 & 2025; Councilmember Sears seconded. Motion carried.

BILLS & PAYROLL:

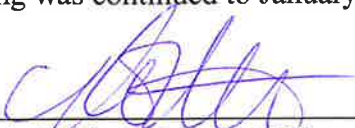
Councilmember Longly moved to approve the bills and payroll; Councilmember Smith seconded. Motion carried.

2024 CLAIMS EFT 12/22/2023 Run 1	\$775.14
2023 1 st OPEN PERIOD CLAIMS CHECKS 66039-66048	\$7,758.94
2023 1 ST OPEN PERIOD CLAIMS EFT 12/28/23 Run 1-3	\$1,873.52
2024 CLAIMS CHECKS 66049-66058 Run 2	\$27,437.74
2024 CLAIMS EFT 01/11/2024 Run 1-2	\$1,130.37
2024 CLAIMS DIRECT PAY 01/11/2024 Run 1-8	\$18,799.31
PAYROLL E-CHECKS 1558-1566; Dir Deposit Run 12/18/2023	\$77,922.62


PAYROLL E-CHECKS 1567-1575; Dir Deposit Run 01/14/2024 \$80,037.99

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was continued to January 19, 2024 at 8:30 AM to finalize 2023 bills.

Attest: 

Nickole North, MMC, CPFA
Clerk/Treasurer

By: 

Keith Campbell
Mayor