

**MINUTES OF THE NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON**  
**February 05, 2024**

A meeting of the Newport City Council was held on February 05, 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

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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 January 16<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Council Meetings; Councilmember Longly seconded. Motion carried.

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Mayor Campbell thanked the road crew for working through the challenging weather and commended them for a job well done.

The next Council Meeting will be Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> due to the President's Day holiday.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

Erik Gallanger, Fire District 2 Deputy EMS Chief, gave an EMS update. He stated that there were 187 calls within Pend Oreille County with 31 in the City of Newport. They have hired 6 full time staff. SPOFR has stepped up. The Tribe is full time and Fire District 4 has been a great ally.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:**

City Administrator Gribi spoke about creating a county wide EMS District. The Pend Oreille County Commissioners would need to create it. The Council needs more information on this before they can make a decision on it.

There was discussion regarding water consumption of parks. Based on last year's water use, the City would have to pay from the general fund to the water fund around \$78,688.72. It was agreed by the Council to have a resolution brought back to them at the next meeting that would waive the

City paying for the water use from the general fund to the water fund based on the water being used for the benefit of the public.

Councilmember Longly moved to transfer the brush truck that was purchased with grant funds and has complied with the grant requirements to the street department for \$400; Councilmember Spring seconded. Motion carried.

Administrator Gribi will be working on law enforcement lists for lateral and entry level in case there is a need for a new hire. Advertising will be taking place to get the lists in place.

There is a phone issue moving the Police Department to the Public Safety Building. It looks like changing phone systems will be between \$1,000 - \$2,000 and will be a significant reduction in the monthly cost of our current phone service. The Council gave Administrator Gribi the authority to move forward finding a new phone system and to keep them informed.

Councilmember Sears asked if the self-defense course could be posted on Facebook with the location and when it will be. She has been getting a lot of positive feedback regarding this course.

The City was not successful with the grant project that was submitted to (TIB) Transportation Improvement Board this year but like last year they are willing to give the City funding of around \$125,000 to complete some street projects throughout the City and this will require around a \$6,600 match from the City.

Water and sewer codes have been drafted and are with the City Attorney to review and then will be coming to Council for review and direction. There will be a workshop in May to discuss these updates.

The SEPA is out for the 2023 Wastewater Treatment Facility Plan and General Sewer Plan.

An emergency water application has been prepared to assist with repairing the leak at the 900,000 water reservoir tank. The low interest rate loan will be for \$700,000 with around a 1.5% loan fee of \$10,500 and city match of around \$51,625 which would need to come from sewer reserves. It should take around 60 days to get everything done. Councilmember Longly moved to allow the City Administrator to spend up to \$51,625 to fix the 900,000 tank and allow her to apply for the funds and accept the loan from Washington State Department of Health ; Councilmember Smith seconded. Motion carried.

Administrator Gribi stated that she will be going to the City Action Days tomorrow and has a meeting to meet with Senator Short and she will try to meet with the other Senators.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Mandy Walters with the Pend Oreille County Library District spoke with the Council regarding the possibility of leasing the property the City owns at the corner of Highway 2 and Calispel. The Council agreed to have City Administrator Gribi work with Ms. Walters on a long term lease of the property for a future library. The project will be around 6-8 million to build a new library. Councilmember Zorica was concerned about traffic. Ms. Walters stated that most of their

customers are foot traffic. Councilmember Zorica recommended that they contact DOT. The Newport School Board has been engaged and they are in favor of the location. Councilmember Longly was excited about the facility being essentially a community center in the end and feels that this is a great location. The Library was awarded funding of \$200,000 with a \$200,000 match to acquire land and architecture.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Councilmember Zorica moved to approve Ordinance 2118 adopting new chapters 17.02, 17.03 and 17.04 to Title 17 of the Newport Municipal Code and providing for other matters properly related thereto; Councilmember Longly seconded. Motion carried.

**BILLS & PAYROLL:**

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

2024 CLAIMS CHECKS 66087-66099	\$12,222.20
2024 CLAIMS EFT 01/30/2024 Run 1-4	\$4,888.76
2024 CLAIMS DIRECT PAY 01/30/2024 Run 1	\$1,093.36
PAYROLL E-CHECKS 1576-1584; Dir Deposit Run 01/19/2024	\$81,466.46

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 PM.

Attest:   
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Nickole North, MMC, CPFA  
Clerk/Treasurer

By:   
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Keith Campbell  
Mayor