

MINUTES OF THE NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON
March 18, 2024

A meeting of the Newport City Council was held on March 18, 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 March 4th, 2024 Council Meeting; Councilmember Sears seconded. Motion carried.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mayor Campbell let the citizens know that street sweeping will be starting and to be aware of keeping their vehicles off the road. He also stated that the Chamber Gala was well attended and they were able to raise some funds. The Newport Rodeo Banquet is coming up next Saturday.

Councilmember Longly reminded everyone that the annual Easter Egg Hunt will be next weekend and begins at 10:00 AM.

Councilmember Smith stated that he was driving around on Sunday and the Newport City Park was full of citizens enjoying the park and the sunshine.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Curt Holmes, Vice Chairman and General Manager Public & Governmental Affairs of the Kalispel Tribe presented Mayor Campbell with a check for \$10,000 to assist with building pickle ball courts at Little People's Park.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

City Administrator Gribi attended a National Risk & Health Pool conference in Nashville where she learned about mitigating risk and insurance.

Administrator Gribi met with SPOFR and gathered a list of improvements to be made. She is working on getting quotes. Construction should begin in May. The Fire Hall will be manned 24/7 beginning in early April. During construction SPOFR may need to reside in an RV in the RV Park and Administrator Gribi is hopeful that the Council would entertain waiving the rental fees during that time. She will bring this back before Council should the need arise.

Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) will be announcing if the City will be awarded funds for the Out of Call project for street improvements this Friday.

An RCO grant to design and construct a BMX Park was submitted last week. This is a 100% grant with no match requirement. \$450,000 is being requested.

Administrator Gribi met with the new Manger of PUD and feels it was very positive.

Building code updates will be brought before the Council at the next meeting.

Three applications were received for the Lateral Police Officer position to establish a list. Oral boards will be on the 26th.

An on call Background Services Agreement will be coming before the Council at the next meeting for approval. Mark Duxbury has agreed to provide this service to the City.

A draft agreement with the Library has been received and is currently being reviewed by the City Attorney. The Library is requesting a 10 year term.

A phone conversion will be taking place on April 2nd.

A safety assessment for Safe Streets to Schools is being worked on. RTPO & TEDD have funding available. Administrator Gribi has met with Public Director North and Police Chief Nelson to see what areas need improved safety measures.

The Mayor and Administrator Gribi met with Catholic Charities regarding a housing project today and possible available property in the City.

The Creative District has chosen to work with Ione and Chewelah. They agreed to work together and support each other. Their next meeting will be at noon at the Hospitality House.

A new server will be purchased this year and is within budget. Because the City moved their Microsoft licenses to Vision, it reduced the monthly charge for the server to be hosted by the Cloud. The cost will be \$3,100 per year and will be a long term solution.

Councilmember Zorica moved to allow Administrator Gribi to purchase a piece of equipment for the Wastewater Treatment Plant in an amount up to \$10,000 to move the bio solids trailer; Councilmember Longly seconded. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilmember Sears moved to allow Administrator Gribi to sign a letter committing the City of Newport to partner in the update to the Pend Oreille County Hazard Mitigation Plan and apply her time working on the plan as part of the in-kind local match to the grant that is funding the project; Councilmember Spring seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Sears moved to approve Task Order 2024-01 with J-U-B Engineers, Inc., for professional services to finalize the RV Park Binding Site Plan on a lump basis of \$6,000.00; Councilmember Longly seconded. Motion carried.

A law enforcement report was given to the Council for their review.

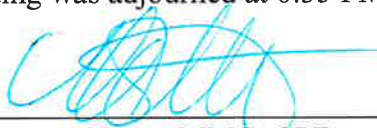
BILLS & PAYROLL:

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

2024 CLAIMS CHECKS 66145-66173	\$69,823.65
2024 CLAIMS EFT 03/11/2024 Run 1-10	\$32,348.39
2024 CLAIMS DIRECT PAY 03/11/2024 Run 1-7	\$5,807.40
PAYROLL E-CHECKS 1603-1611; Dir Deposit Run 03/04/2024	\$78,927.43

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 PM.

Attest: 

Nickole North, MMC, CPFA
Clerk/Treasurer

By: 

Keith Campbell
Mayor