

MINUTES OF THE NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON
April 15, 2024

A meeting of the Newport City Council was held on April 15, 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 April 1st, 2024 Council Meeting; Councilmember Spring seconded. Motion carried.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilmember Zorica moved to authorize Mayor Campbell to appoint Allison Zimmerman to the Planning Commission Position #4 to expire 01/02/2027; Councilmember Longly seconded. Motion carried. Mayor Campbell appointed Allison Zimmerman to the Planning Commission Position #4 to expire 01/02/2027.

Councilmember Zorica asked for an update on the Lime Scooters. City Administrator Gribi let him know that she has a call set up with them and will report back to him.

Councilmember Zorica let everyone know that the Kalispel Tribe will be having a 3 on 3 basketball tournament June 22nd and 23rd. The event is free and is for 6 year olds up to adults. It will take place in the Kalispel Casino parking lot.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Randy Pymm residing at 421 S. Newport Avenue, Newport asked the Council if they could assist with a wire fence that is between his fence and the Little People's Park. He feels that it is a liability for anyone using the park. Councilmember Zorica moved to assist with the removal of the hazardous barbed wire fence from the Little People's Park; Councilmember Longly seconded. Motion carried.

STAFF COMMENTS:

Police Chief Nelson gave a law enforcement update. The Department has been assisting the County with calls to back them up. The Police Department is down one officer. They will be moving to the Public Safety Building in another two weeks. When everything is in order, he invited the Council to come and see the new Department. Chief Nelson believes that 99% of the users of the Lime Scooters are juveniles. No adults are using them. The Lime Scooters create calls for service for the Department. He would mitigate for them to go away. The School Resource Officer has been handling between 30-40 calls per month that the Department would have to handle if he was not in that position. SRO Officer Aannerud has been teaching awareness classes and is heading up a safety plan for the school.

Public Works Director North gave a public works update. The first spring read for the new Meter Reader is taking place currently. The parks are open and the bathrooms operational. The water truck is done and works great for future street projects. Director North took the sweeper and swept the Usk Bridge for the County. He is getting everything ready for the chip seal project later this year. Tomorrow he will be starting the Pickle Ball Courts. Asphalt will be coming in May and he hopes to have the courts completed in June. He is working with the Wastewater Treatment Plant crew on fixing the gear box from the Plant.

WWTP/WTP Superintendent Howard gave a plant and collection system update. A new booster skid was installed last week. This will save money due to less domestic water being used. Clarifier #2 has been taken down and he invited everyone to come down and see why an upgrade is needed. Outfall meters needs maintenance and the Water Treatment Plant had an issue that was reprogrammed and is running normal. Public Works Director North will be working on the Wastewater Treatment Plant shoreline this Fall and next year to keep it from eroding into the river.

Clerk/Treasurer North gave a financial update. Cash and Investments as of the end of March 2024 was \$4,552,504. Sales tax for the first quarter of the year has increased by \$21,261 from last year and the property tax for the first quarter of the year has increased by \$13,356 from last year. There are 11 delinquent accounts in the amount of \$7,620. Four of these are off with liens filed. Six have since paid their past due balance. A pre-lien letter has been sent on one account. There are no current payment plans.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

City Administrator Gribi stated that she has met with RCAC to do a water rate study at no cost to the city.

May 9th is the AWC Small City Connector in Medical Lake from 5:30-7:00PM. Mayor Campbell and Councilmember Zorica would like to attend the meeting with her.

The phones are operational and working well. There is a phone tree installed to allow citizens to select which department they would like to speak with.

She has met with the citizen interested in leasing the RV Park. They will be scoping something and getting back to her. In the meantime, a park host has been hired. The RV Park will be opened May 1st.

Administrator Gribi attended the SPOFR breakfast and it was well attended. They have three new hires on board and have one opening for a full-time EMT.

Councilmember Longly moved to have the City Administrator, Mayor Pro Tem and the Deputy Clerk/Treasurer review the annual report prior to bringing it to Council for approval; Councilmember Smith seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Longly moved to allow the City Administrator and Police Chief to set the academy starting pay for an entry level police officer at \$5,000 monthly until completion of the academy and then they will be moved to Step 1 of the current Police Officer Wage Scale; Councilmember Spring seconded. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilmember Spring moved to approve the hotel/motel tax request in the amount of \$1,000.00 for the 17th Annual Newport Autumn Bloom 5K/10K; Councilmember Zorica seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Longly moved to approve Interagency Data Sharing Agreement “Agency DSA 22-01” with the Office of the Washington State Auditor; Councilmember Smith seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Zorica moved to approve Resolution 20240415 declaring 2014 Ford Explorer Serial Number 1FM5K8ATIEGB80224 owned by the City of Newport to be excess and surplus property and authorizing to dispose of the equipment by direct sale to the public via public auction; Councilmember Longly seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Smith moved to approve Resolution 20240416 declaring the Mitel Phone System surplus to the current and future needs of the City of Newport and authorizing to dispose of the equipment at the nearest sanitary landfill; Councilmember Longly seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Longly moved to approve Ordinance 2119 amending Chapter 15.04 of the Newport Municipal Code for the City of Newport; Councilmember Zorica seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Zorica moved to approve Resolution 20240417 adopting a construction permit fee schedule based upon square foot construction costs and updating the fee schedule to reflect the amounts outlined in the new resolution; Councilmember Spring seconded. Councilmember Sears wants to see examples of the old rates vs the new rates so she was opposed. Motion carried.

Councilmember Longly moved to approve the RCAC Environmental Department Community Work Plan to complete a water rate study for the City of Newport; Councilmember Zorica seconded. Motion carried.

BILLS & PAYROLL:

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


2024 CLAIMS CHECKS 66190-66221	\$38,679.77
2024 CLAIMS EFT 04/08/2024 2:14PM Run 1-13	\$37,571.15
2024 CLAIMS EFT 04/08/2024 2:16PM Run 1	\$1,551.22
2024 CLAIMS DIRECT PAY 04/08/2024 Run 1-6	\$5,712.00
PAYROLL E-CHECKS 1621-1629; Dir Deposit Run 04/04/2024	\$76,012.50

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 PM.

WORKSHOP:

A workshop was opened at 7:20 PM to discuss code updates. City Administrator Gribi reviewed code updates that she has been working on for the sewer system policy and city road excavations. The Council was asked to review the updates and let her know if they have any questions or changes. The workshop was closed at 7:37 PM.

Attest: 

Nickole North, MMC, CPFA
Clerk/Treasurer

By: 

Keith Campbell
Mayor