

**MINUTES OF THE NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON**  
**July 15, 2024**

A meeting of the Newport City Council was held on July 15, 2024, at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers, City Hall, 200 S. Washington Avenue, Newport, Washington, with the following present:

	Keith Campbell	Mayor -Absent
	Abby Gribi	City Administrator
	Tiffany Hansen	Deputy Clerk/Treasurer
Kenneth Smith		Councilmember
Elizabeth Spring		Councilmember
Jami Sears		Councilmember
Mark Zorica		Mayor Pro Tem
Nathan Longly - Absent		Councilmember

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At 6:00 PM, Mayor Pro Tem Zorica called the meeting to order followed by roll call and the pledge of allegiance.

Councilmember Sears moved to excuse Councilmember Longly. Councilmember Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES:**

Councilmember Sears moved to approve the agenda and the minutes from the July 1st, 2024 Council Meeting; Councilmember Spring seconded. Motion carried.

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

No comments.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

Rob Owen, residing at 74 N. Milwaukee Newport, WA 99156, spoke regarding no parking signs that were placed on S. Washington in front of Owens Grocery & Deli at 337 S. Washington this morning. He stated that there was a lack of communication between the City of Newport and downtown businesses. Public Works Director North and City Administrator Gribi confirmed that they were placed there by a traffic control company for a partial road closure on Tuesday July 16, 2024, but that the City was unaware they were going to put up signs the day before. Mayor Pro Tem Zorica stated that the City will try to do better and asked that we let the company know that they need to inform us ahead of time.

**STAFF COMMENTS:**

Police Chief Nelson gave a law enforcement update. Chief Nelson stated that the Department has been working hard on known problem issues and there has been a 50-call load drop per month

from last year. He is very proud of his staff for this improvement. The Rodeo event went very well this year as the Rodeo was better staffed and the Department had a very good partnership with the Association and staff. The Department vehicle decals are being redone so that all vehicles have the same logo and decals. There have been two new hires in the Department. One is going to the academy next month and will hopefully be on the road late January. The other should be able to start next month. Work on the renovations to the new building is almost complete. Chief Nelson stated that parking downtown is a problem. He is going to propose a change from 2-hour to 4-hour parking limits. Councilmember Sears asked about cost. Public Works Director North and Administrator Gribi said it would be minimal as it could be achieved with stickers on existing signs and mentioned it would be a change to the Code. City Administrator Gribi will investigate it. Mayor Pro Tem Zorica asked about the City's relationship with the County. Chief Nelson stated it is very good.

Interim Fire Chief Nokes gave a Fire Department update. Chief Nokes said the Department had 7 fires from January to June - 2 structure fires, appliance fires, vehicle fire and rubbish pile. He thanked City Administrator Gribi, Public Works Director North and City employees for their assistance during the structure fires in the City. They responded to a couple of hazmat issues and had 14 transports to the hospital. The planned structure fire near the hospital went well despite an advancing weather system. They inspected the firework stands and he had a good conversation with a concerned citizen regarding fireworks in the City. The Newport Fire Station renovations are getting done. The Department is recruiting two new EMTs and interviews for the Fire Chief will be on Saturday.

Public Works Director North gave a public works update. Public Works Director North thanked his crew and said he has a great team right now. The pickleball court is progressing and should be complete soon. There is some landscaping to do. The City Parks are a little brown as we are conserving water on irrigation so the City can keep the splash pad going to provide relief from the heat. The TIB project is mostly complete on the south side. They are working on Spokane this week and will work on Cass next week. The schedule has been posted on Facebook. The City is going to grade and oil all dirt roads in the City. The trucks are being repaired and prepared for that. After that they will do chip sealing. Councilmember Sears asked what the City is doing to notify the public about the road work. Public Works Director North and Administrator Gribi said the City is printing and delivering door hangers and posting on Facebook. Mayor Pro Tem Zorica said that they are doing a great job.

WWTP/WTP Superintendent Howard gave a plant and collection system update. The Wastewater Treatment Plant annual maintenance has been completed. The ditch will be done in October. Plant Superintendent Howard thanked his crew and said the summer intern is doing a great job. Deep cleaning has been completed with the extra help. The City had a couple of water violations last month. The TMG technician is coming out to work on the flow pace meter. Work is being done on the Plaggers lift station to install an additional pump. The water plant is currently offline, they are working on getting it fixed. Councilmember Sears asked if there was an improvement since the grease trap inspections were completed. Plant Superintendent Howard said that yes, it is noticeable, and it will help the system.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:**

The WSDOT paperwork for the sidewalk project should be completed for the State by Friday and it should be bid out within the next two weeks.

The SOA training on July 23<sup>rd</sup> still has availability and three staff members have signed up.

A circus will be at the Rodeo grounds on July 26 and 27. They will not use the entire site, just the vendor area and they will be providing their insurance documents.

The City network is migrating to the Cloud next week.

The City received a check for the 2014 Ford that was surplused. It sold for \$3500.00 less \$350.00 consignment cost.

The remodel of the Fire Department building is moving forward and should be done in the next three weeks.

Public Works Director North's truck threw a piston in the motor. The City has received some quotes for approximately \$17,000.00 to repair. It would be \$60,000.00 - \$70,000.00 to replace. The City may request TIB revenue from Council to fix the truck as it has mostly been used on the road project.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Councilmember Spring moved to approve JUB Engineers, Inc Agreement for professional services for design on elements of the wastewater collection system – JUB Project #70-24-021 – to begin Summer 2024 and continue into Spring 2026 in the amount of \$1,540,000; Councilmember Sears seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Sears moved to approve JUB Engineers, Inc Agreement for professional services for design for upgrade of the existing wastewater treatment facility – JUB Project #70-24-22 – Preliminary Design Phase 000 in the amount of \$873,610; Councilmember Smith seconded. Motion carried.

**BILLS & PAYROLL:**

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

2024 CLAIMS CHECKS 66335-66365	\$42,344.78
2024 CLAIMS EFT 07/09/2024 Run 1-12	\$29,330.90
2024 CLAIMS DIRECT PAY 07/09/2024 Run 1-8	\$8,374.19
PAYROLL E-CHECKS 1675-1683; Dir Deposit Run 07/02/2024	\$83,135.37

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 PM.

Attest: T. Hansen  
Tiffany Hansen  
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer

By: Mark Zorica  
Mark Zorica  
Mayor Pro Tem