

MINUTES OF THE NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON
August 05, 2024

A meeting of the Newport City Council was held on August 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

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES:

The swearing in of Police Officer Sander was moved up on the agenda prior to Audience Participation. Councilmember Zorica moved to approve the agenda as amended and the minutes from the July 15, 2024 Council Meeting; Councilmember Sears seconded. Motion carried.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mayor Campbell spoke about the road project going on currently. He stated that it was exciting to have good roads and asked that citizens be patient with the process. He was happy that the splash pad was able to be open during the hot weather despite the water issues that the City is having. National Night Out will be tomorrow night between 5:00-8:00 PM.

Councilmember Smith asked Administrator Gribi to address the downtown trees growing too big for the grates that they are in which is killing them. Many have been cut down or removed and he would like to see her look at options to save the trees that are left. Administrator Gribi stated that the downtown trees are not ornamental street trees and should not have been used in the downtown area. She will look into this matter and report back to the Council at the next meeting.

Councilmember Zorica asked if there would be an update on the Pickle Ball Courts. He was advised that there would be.

Police Officer Sander was sworn in by City Clerk North

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Paul Hillestad, residing at 912 West 2nd Street, spoke in favor of reinstating the fire whistle at noon to bring back a tradition of the past and to honor past and present fire fighters. The siren could also be used in case of an emergency to notify the citizens. Councilmember Zorica and Longly thought this would be a good idea. Mayor Campbell asked that this topic be placed on the next agenda. He asked that some research be done in the mean time on new equipment for this purpose. It was also asked if the old siren could be donated to the museum. The Council was in agreement that they were open to donating the old siren to the museum.

Shannon Chasteen, residing at 615 S. Washington Avenue, thanked the Council for allowing him to have a tent meeting on the city owned property on the corner of Highway 2 and Calispel Avenue. He felt that it was a great success.

Nancy Thompson, residing at 725 W. 4th Street, notified the Council of vandalism of the CREATE sign. She was asked to call this into the Sheriff's Dispatch Center. Ms. Thompson also spoke of her concern regarding the trees downtown. She agreed with Councilmember Smith that hopefully something can be done to save the remaining trees downtown.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

The Pickle Ball Courts are able to be played on now. There has been positive feedback on them. They are still working on completing the project and will have sod or seeds and will have a construction fence up to keep everyone out of the dirt while those grow. The Council allowed Administrator Gribi to put up a sign that will prohibit bikes, skateboards, scooters, rollerblades, etc. from being on the Pickle Ball Court.

Administrator Gribi will be applying for 44 blocks of street chipseal with a match of up to \$10,000. This will be Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) funding. The project will include the core of 2nd, 3rd, 4th Calispel to Spokane, 5th Calispel to Scott, Scott to Highway 2 to 1st Street, all of Warren and 7th Street to the buses next year. The total project will be \$184,000 with a 5% match. Councilmember Zorica moved to allow Administrator Gribi to spend up to \$10,000 towards match for this project; Councilmember Sears seconded. Motion carried.

The current street project is well underway. Pep-C will be applied to the streets Thursday and will need to sit for 1-2 weeks. At that time the oil and gravel will be applied and then rolled and swept.

The Council authorized Administrator Gribi to prepare a letter in support of the Kalispel Tribe planning and engineering their own water system/source.

Administrator Gribi would like to use the MRSC Roster program which would handle the small works roster for the City. It is an easier process. A construction project \$350,000 or less can use the roster. Switching to MRSC Rosters would require the City to update their procurement policy, moving it out of code and making it an actual policy. The annual fee for the program is around \$200.00 per year and is based off of per capita. They take care of all of the required advertising, etc. The Council is ok with Administrator Gribi making this change.

The Council gave their approval to allow Administrator Gribi to give notice of termination to the CIAW risk pool. She has not been very happy with their service and would like to entertain another company handling the City's claims. Councilmember Zorica asked her to come back with three options. She has to give notice prior to December 1st and then the services will be terminated the following December 1st.

There was an electrical storm that caused some issues with the D & E wells as well as the main computer at the Water Treatment Plant. There has been a decline in the M & N wells. Cleaning them made a slight improvement, but now both are dry. There was no hydrologist report done before drilling those wells. Because of the loss of the wells, the Idaho water intertie has had to be utilized. To date around 49,000 gallons of water have been used. This has allowed the City Splash Pad to remain open during this hot weather. It has also allowed the 1.2 and 900,000 gallons water tanks to be full and holding. The Department of Commerce as well as other State agencies have been notified. Administrator Gribi is working on the best way to address the issue. She would like to have a citywide hydrology report done. She would also like to consolidate the city's wells into one commercial well and drill an additional commercial well. There would be less parts, staff time needed, operations and maintenance on two commercial wells. Ideally one would supply the low side and one would supply the high side but both would be capable of supplying both if needed. Grant funding is available. The City's water rights are good even for future development. However, instantaneous demand is the issue. The City needs one more reservoir to be able to supply the water at the level needed. All three tanks would need to be working with the addition of one more. The Council asked Administrator Gribi to come back to the Council with a plan to fix the water issue and discuss the plan of action.

NEW BUSINESS:

A public hearing to discuss the six year transportation plan was opened at 7:00 PM. Administrator Gribi spoke about several upcoming street projects that are on the plan. Her goal is to get rid of all of the potholes in the City instead of large projects that include curbs and sidewalks. Her first step is to get all of the streets chip sealed. She is also working on a safe streets to schools project for sidewalks to the school. Having these projects on the plan helps with obtaining grant funding for these projects. There was no public comment. The public hearing was closed at 7:07 PM. Councilmember Longly moved to approve Resolution 20240819 adopting the six year transportation program which will be forwarded to the State Highway Commission and Urban Arterial Board for review and comments; Councilmember Smith seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Zorica moved to approve Agreement NP2024-07 Interlocal Agreement between the City of Newport and Pend Oreille County for District Court Services; Councilmember Spring seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Smith moved to approve Resolution 20240805 adopting a right of way dedication deed for 8th Street; Councilmember Spring seconded. Motion carried.

A monthly financial report was given to the Mayor and Council for their review.

BILLS & PAYROLL:

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


CLAIMS CHECKS 66366-66394	\$53,813.18
CLAIMS EFT 08/05/2024 Run 1-7	\$5,462.77
CLAIMS DIRECT PAY 07/26/2024 Run 1	\$1,781.00
PAYROLL E-CHECKS 1684-1688; Dir Deposit Run 07/12/2024	\$3,516.84
PAYROLL E-CHECKS 1689-1697; Dir Deposit Run 07/22/2024	\$93,163.30

EXECUTIVE SESSION:


The Council went into executive session to discuss potential litigation with legal counsel pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)(ii) at 7:15 PM for 15 minutes. City Attorney Clark was present for the session. There were additional time requests totaling 15 minutes. The Council came out of executive session at 7:45 PM. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Attest: 

Nickole North, MMC, CPFA
Clerk/Treasurer

By: 

Keith Campbell
Mayor