

MINUTES OF THE NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON
August 19, 2024

A meeting of the Newport City Council was held on August 19, 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
	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 Longly moved to approve the agenda and the minutes from the August 5th, 2024 Council Meeting; Councilmember Sears seconded. Motion carried.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mayor Campbell stated that we are well into the road work and it is looking very good. This process is money well spent and will help with continued maintenance over the years. Councilmember Zorica stated that he is very thankful for the road work that was done by his house a few years ago. He encouraged citizens to be patient, that they will reap the benefit at the end. Councilmember Longly mentioned a short road closure which is all part of dealing with the roads being taken care of. He thanked all of the volunteers and everyone involved in National Night Out. He attended the event with his children. Mayor Campbell stated that it is a worthwhile endeavor.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

The Oil Distributer Truck was available for the Council to view. Public Works Director North was also in attendance to answer any questions regarding the truck and the recent repairs needed on it. Councilmember Sears asked if it could be added to the interlocal agreement with the Pend Oreille County to be rented out for their projects. It will be added to the list of equipment that is available to rent out.

The Public Works Crew will be removing tree grates, cleaning out around the trees and filling the grates in with gravel or bark. The grates are becoming very brittle. Administrator Gribi has a list

of appropriate street trees for our area and will look at incorporating them during a future downtown revitalization project.

Administrator Gribi is looking at getting a Hydrologist to do a study for the City of Newport. She has met with Department of Health regarding this and is speaking with them about possible grant funding. This will likely be part of the 900,000 funding packet. She will keep the Council updated on this.

A part-time rural resource worker has been hired to assist with parks and public works. He started today. This is free to the City.

Kajin started the law enforcement academy so will not be back working in the City until December or January. Eli qualified and is starting his field training officer program.

National Night Out went well and had around 250 people attend.

The Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) Engineer has asked Administrator Gribi to come and speak to their Board in Spokane about what the City is doing with the application on the roads. What the City is doing is costing around \$150,000 because we are unique in the equipment that the City owns. Normally the street project that the City is doing costs around \$3.5 million. TIB would like to talk about funding the equipment with other entities coming together to use the equipment together.

Chip sealing will be taking place in areas throughout the City the week of the 26th and some of the roads will be closed temporarily while this is being done.

Councilmember Longly asked if Wells M & N are still dry and was told yes.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ray Hanson, Newport Rodeo President spoke of the 75th Annual Newport Rodeo and the Rough Stock event as well as the circus that took place in the city over the past few months. Around 14,000 people attend the rodeo and rough stock events and around 1400 people attended the circus. The attendees of the rodeo complimented the RV Park. The Kalispel Tribe did a fentanyl awareness speech at the Rodeo which was very appreciated given that it was the same night as the Pow Wow on the Kalispel Indian Reservation. President Hanson stated that the rodeo parade went well and there was a bit of a parking issue that will need to be addressed next year. They also added 20 more handicapped parking spots. The circus didn't put out much advertising but they loved it and want to come back in future years. It is the Rodeo Association's goal to use the rodeo grounds for community enjoyment. Councilmember Smith moved to approve \$1,000 hotel/motel tax funds to be used for advertising of the Newport Rough Stock event once paperwork is submitted; Councilmember Longly seconded. After further discussion, the Council wants to see the paperwork before approving the funds. Councilmember Longly moved to table the motion until paperwork is submitted.

The Pend Oreille Valley Relay for Life event recap will be postponed to the next meeting.

Administrator Gribi has been working on getting a sound overlay of the City so that sirens can be placed throughout the City and could be activated by 911 or key personnel in case of an emergency. It is looking like around 4 sirens would be needed at \$6,500 each. She will keep the Council posted.

Councilmember Longly moved to approve the City of Newport Water Emergency Response and Public Notification Plan; Councilmember Zorica seconded. Motion Carried.

Councilmember Sears moved to approve moving \$24,000 from the garbage utility tax street maintenance line item in the Street Fund to \$14,000 to Repair & Maintenance to upgrade the distributor truck and \$10,000 to the street summer help position to assist with street maintenance; Councilmember Spring seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Longly moved to approve Ordinance 2122 amending NMC 10.20.040, parking zones designated and providing for other matters properly related thereto; Councilmember Smith seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Zorica moved to approve Ordinance 2123 adopting new Chapters 12.05 and 12.06 of the Newport Municipal Code to regulate city street and road cuts and excavations, the permitting therefor, and providing for other matters properly related thereto; Councilmember Longly seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Sears moved to approve Ordinance 2124 repealing and replacing Chapters 13.04, 13.08, 13.12 and 13.16 of the Newport Municipal Code relating to the City's water and wastewater systems and providing for other matters properly related thereto and asked for a workshop to be scheduled on October 7th to further discuss fees; Councilmember Smith seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Spring moved to approve Resolution 20240820 declaring City of Newport Tag #s 1298-1301 oxygen tanks for the Cascade System as well as Serial #8485 fire siren to be excess and surplus property and authorizing the means of disposal to include donating the fire siren to the Pend Oreille County Historical Society; Councilmember Longly seconded. Motion carried.

BILLS & PAYROLL:

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

2024 CLAIMS CHECKS 66395-66431 (Check 66400 Void)	\$58,107.70
2024 CLAIMS EFT 08/19/2024 Run 1-14	\$35,196.62
2024 CLAIMS DIRECT PAY 08/19/2024 Run 1-8	\$9,842.91
PAYROLL E-CHECKS 1698-1706; Dir Deposit Run 08/05/2024	\$86,006.54

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 PM.

Attest:



Nickole North
Clerk/Treasurer

By:



Keith Campbell
Mayor