

MINUTES OF THE NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON
October 07, 2024

A meeting of the Newport City Council was held on October 07, 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 September 16, 2024 Council Meeting; Councilmember Sears seconded. Motion carried.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mayor Campbell and Administrator Gribi attended a Chamber event that was really nice. They got to know Chamber members. He encouraged becoming a member of the Chamber if businesses are not. A strong Chamber is good for a City.

They also met with US Representative candidate Michael Baumgartner and spoke about problems at the federal level and how it trickles down to the City. They discussed the challenges of receiving federal funding and grants and all of the requirements associated with them.

The roads are currently being swept. Mayor Campbell asked the citizens to be patient because the finished product will be better than potholes when the crews are done.

Councilmember Zorica agreed with Mayor Campbell that the Chamber has a new energetic board. He also applauded the Selkirk Sun sponsored Veterans event. He stated that the room was filled with great stories and it was really cool to see them get pinned. Further the third political debate at the Camas Wellness Center was informative and is available on You Tube.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

City Administrator Gribi gave the Council the final approved copy of the 5th amendment to the Department of Ecology Sewer Plan funding Agreement.

The AWC Legislative agenda was provided to the Council as well and she asked that they review it and let her know their thoughts on the topics that she can pass along on their behalf.

More new codes have been written that Administrator Gribi will be bringing to the next meeting for approval. One is regarding the flood plain. The Wastewater Treatment Plant is the only property within the City that would be affected by this flood plain code. The required public hearing was held before the Planning Commission. Other codes that will be brought before the Council are regarding the leash law, livestock and nuisances.

Administrator Gribi met with the Washington State Transportation Improvement Board and thanked them for their funding. She also gave a presentation to show how important it is to provide funding for smaller cities and towns that could band together and purchase equipment to improve their streets.

A long term employee, Ed Rocek, will be retiring after 22 years of service with the City on October 31, 2024.

NEW BUSINESS:

Lelsie Maki as well as Elly Styskel from the Newport Creative District gave a presentation on the grant funded mural that was done at Pend Oreille Playhouse. There is more grant funding available to do more murals around the City if anyone has any ideas where to paint them. There is also a grant available to build a visitor kiosk and they would like to build them in either Veteran’s Park or TJ Kelly Park. The Kiosk project has to be completed by June 30th 2025. Councilmember Zorica questioned who was responsible for the maintenance of the mural after it was painted. He was told that the property owner is responsible but it is like a big paint by number so easily maintainable.

Councilmember Sears moved to approve Agreement NP2024-08 with Association of Washington Cities for Drug and Alcohol Consortium Services; Councilmember Longly seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Longly moved to approve Agreement NP2024-09 with Association of Washington Cities to update the Employer Master Participation Agreement; Councilmember Spring seconded. Councilmember Zorica asked the administration to look into what it would take to provide medical, dental, vision benefits to the Council. Motion carried.

BILLS & PAYROLL:

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


CLAIMS CHECKS 66497-66525	\$57,610.30
CLAIMS EFT 10/07/2024 Run 1-4	\$4,046.98
CLAIMS DIRECT PAY 10/01/2024 Run 1	\$6,223.40
PAYROLL E-CHECKS 1725-1733; Dir Deposit Run 09/25/2024	\$86,517.21

ADJOURNMENT:


The meeting was adjourned at 6:36 PM.

WORKSHOP:

A workshop to discuss main extension code was opened at 6:36 PM. Councilmember Sears was concerned about the cost to citizens that have a large lot with street frontage. She suggested possibly splitting up the cost between citizens that would be benefiting from the main extension. After much discussion, it was agreed by the majority of the Council that the code should stay as written. It has been many years since the City has extended mains. Most likely a main will be extended during a construction project for which the contractor would be responsible for the cost of extending the main. The workshop was closed at 7:06 PM.

Attest: 

Nickole North, MMC, CPFA
Clerk/Treasurer

By: 

Keith Campbell
Mayor