

MINUTES OF THE NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON
October 21, 2024

A meeting of the Newport City Council was held on October 21, 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 October 07, 2024, Council Meeting; Councilmember Sears seconded. Motion carried.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mayor Campbell reminded everyone that Halloween will be in a couple of weeks and the Downtown Trick or Treat will be taking place. Councilmember Sears is on top of it. Mayor Campbell further stated that the rain is washing away the dust from the roads and they are coming around. The project has been good maintenance and the surface is hard.

Councilmember Longly spoke of vehicle prowls that have been occurring throughout the City. He encouraged citizens to keep their vehicles locked, put things away and set cameras up.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Andrew Engell, residing at 303 Corbett Creed Road, introduced himself and stated that he was in Newport knocking on doors introducing himself as a candidate for the State Legislature.

John Janney, Pend Oreille County Public Utility District Manager, attended the meeting to observe and see how the City does business.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

The RV Park has been closed for the year. A long term employee, Ed Rocek will be retiring and his party is next Monday at 11:00 AM at City Hall if the Mayor and Council would like to attend.

Saturday from 9 AM-12 PM will be the Fall Yard Clean Up across from the Newport City Park. Anyone that is able to help seniors, please reach out. Administrator Gribi will be attending the IACC (Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council) in Wenatchee this week. Friday she will be attending the Association of Washington Cities District Meeting in Colville. Administrator Gribi asked the Council to email her with any Association of Washington Cities Legislative priorities. Councilmember Smith moved to allow a 1" commercial hookup/line for Duplexes and Triplexes with the same buy in as commercial 1" and add this to the current fee schedule; Councilmember Zorica seconded. Motion carried. Insurance for elected employees is available through Association of Washington Cities. 50% or more participation is required for medical, 75% for dental, 100% for life and long term disability insurance. If at any time the participation drops below this the insurance would be canceled for everyone the first of the following month. The information will be forwarded to the Council for their review. Administrator Gribi was informed that this benefit would not be counted towards elected compensation and can occur with the current Council.

STAFF COMMENTS:

South Pend Oreille Fire and Rescue Chief Stocking gave a quarterly report. Fire safety talks have been given to over 80 second graders in October. Every home Newport High School Football Game has been staffed as well as the homecoming parade and the 5K Autumn Bloom Run. Chief Stocking is hopeful that the Newport High School Fire Science Program will be restarting. Full time paramedic employment is still commencing. Once the station in the City of Newport is completed a grand opening celebration will be taking place. There was a major residential fire in Newport on October 1st. No injuries were reported and damage was contained to only the one structure. There was a total of 100 calls for service within the City of Newport. 60% were EMS calls and 40% were fire calls.

Newport Police Chief Nelson stated that crime is down across the board. There have been a number of vehicle prowls between 2-6:30 AM. Citizens are leaving guns and wallets in their vehicles that are unlocked. The School Resource Officer has been pulled from the school due to shortage of police staff. Chief Nelson is hoping that the Council will entertain better coverage for medical insurance to be able to retain officers. He asked for additional funds to maintain existing vehicles. He would also like to purchase new updated tazers that would improve officer safety. These cost around \$27,000 and could be split over a 5 year period. The current tazers are out of warranty. Chief Nelson hopes to put on a women's self defense class this Fall.

Public Works Director North stated that they have been working on the TIB street project and sweeping. Water lines at the parks are being blown out for the winter. A huge water leak was found at the 900,000 gallon water tank. He has been working on the Wastewater Treatment Plant shoreline project. The cost to complete this project will be around \$100,000 and his plan is to split it up over three years to make it more affordable. Budget requests include a V plow and sander for the F550 pickup which could work for bumping corners during snow plowing and be a backup plow that anyone can run. A new pickup for the Parks department was asked for since the current one you can see through the floor boards. A new welder is needed to be able to weld more heavy duty things. The current welder is around 15 years old. 2 weed eaters are also needed.

Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent Howard stated that they have been working with JUB Engineers and he is very excited about getting set up to be in the 20th century. They are becoming more automated at the Plant and Lead Operator Seaney has been working a lot with JUB to make this happen. Budget requests included a light bar and lights for the F-350 truck and toolboxes for the F-250 truck. A portable gas pressure washer is needed as well as more manhole lids and rings to stop surface water from going into the sewer. A lean to building to be able to store their vehicles would be ideal. The shoreline restoration project needs to be completed as well.

Clerk/Treasurer North gave a financial report. The ending cash and investments at the end of September was \$4,966,633. The Finance Department has been working with RCAC on the water rate study. There is an ongoing Washington State audit that should be completed soon. The RV Park has generated around \$25,000 in revenue this year with room to grow since it was nowhere near full capacity this year. Second notices for backflows have been sent out. Preparation of the 2025 budget has begun. The Accident Prevention Plan is being worked on. The drug policy is being updated. Ending cash has been reconfigured on the expenditure report to more adequately show the % of the budget that has been spent year to date. The Council asked to have a report on the difference in sales tax since the business licenses have been instituted. No real budget requests were made for the Finance Department. They may look into a desk reconfiguration and new flooring in the future.

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilmember Sears moved to approve the hotel/motel tax request for the Newport Rough stock Rodeo in the amount of \$1,000; Councilmember Smith seconded. Councilmember Zorica felt like if this is approved it would be setting a precedence for future funding requests. Motion carried.

Councilmember Zorica moved to approve Ordinance 2125 repealing and replacing Chapters 8.08, 8.30 and 8.36 of the Newport Municipal Code relating to nuisances, litter control and junk vehicles and providing for other matters properly related thereto; Councilmember Longly seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Longly moved to approve Ordinance 2126 repealing and replacing Chapters 6.04 and 6.08 of the Newport Municipal Code related to dogs, livestock, fowl, rabbits and providing for others matters properly related thereto; Councilmember Spring seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Sears moved to approve Ordinance 2127 adopting a new Chapter 17.12 of the Newport Municipal Code relating to special flood hazard areas, and providing for other matters properly related thereto; Councilmember Longly seconded. Motion carried.

BILLS & PAYROLL:

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

2024 CLAIMS CHECKS 66526-66559	\$100,610.07
2024 CLAIMS EFT 10/11/2024 Run 1-17	\$40,468.12

2024 CLAIMS DIRECT PAY 10/11/2024 Run 1-8
PAYROLL E-CHECKS 1734-1742; Dir Deposit Run 10/03/2024

\$6,850.28
\$84,906.45

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 PM.

Attest:



Nickole North
Clerk/Treasurer

By:



Keith Campbell
Mayor