

MINUTES OF THE NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON
December 02, 2024

A meeting of the Newport City Council was held on December 02, 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 November 18, 2024 Council Meeting; Councilmember Sears seconded. Motion carried.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mayor Campbell hoped that everyone had a nice Thanksgiving and wished them a safe Christmas holiday.

Councilmember Sears stated that the tree ceremony went well that the Chamber put on. Councilmember Zorica agreed and spoke of the first cookie contest that was held.

Councilmember Zorica attended the ribbon cutting for the grand opening of the SPOFR manned fire hall and stated that it was well attended. Councilmember Longly spoke of how the latest fire was only a 4 minute response time. He thanked the citizens for voting to make this happen with the fire levy.

Councilmember Longly attended the exit interview with the Washington State Auditor and commended Clerk North for her work as Treasurer for the City.

Councilmember Smith announced that the Newport Hospital Tree Gala will be taking place Saturday, with events happening from 9AM through 9PM.

Councilmember Zorica let the citizens know that the Washington State Department of Ecology issued a clean air burn ban.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

City Administrator Gribi also attended the exit interview for the state audit that occurred this year. She gave praise to Clerk/Treasurer North and her team. There were only a few exit items, no management letter and no findings. Again, she stated that the State Auditor that was performing the audit called out Clerk/Treasurer North specifically and thanked her for how easy and helpful she was to work with.

Grant funding has been submitted to repair the 900,000 leak as well as perform a hydrology study. The engineering grant request has not yet been submitted, but it will be. Administrator Gribi has been working with RCAC to get these funding requests submitted. They have been amazing to work with and their services are free to the City of Newport.

The current renewal for CIAW liability insurance for the City will be \$331,000. Per Council approval Administrator Gribi has given them notice to terminate insurance services with them effective 2026. She did get a couple other quotes for liability insurance services. WCIA is more apples to apples to CIAW but has a higher deductible and came in at \$334,000. RMSA works under the umbrella for Association of Washington Cities. She is most familiar with this company and they are her recommendation. As long as their standards are met, there is no deductible and their annual rate for next year is \$301,000. Administrator Gribi asked them to attend a meeting in April to give a presentation to the Council and answer any questions. She feels that they will provide a higher level of service.

OLD BUSINESS:

Councilmember Longly moved to approve Resolution 20241120 revoking all prior fee resolutions and adopting a new fee schedule; Councilmember Smith seconded. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilmember Sears moved to approve Ordinance 2129 repealing Ordinance 768 and providing for other matters properly related thereto; Councilmember Spring seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Zorica moved to approve the Washington State Transportation Improvement Board Project 2-E-892(008)-1 in the amount of \$174,684 with a City match requirement of \$9,194; Councilmember Sears seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Longly moved to approve Resolution 20241202 revoking all prior electronic fund transfer and drug and alcohol testing procedure manual resolutions; Councilmember Spring seconded. Motion carried.

Clerk/Treasurer North reviewed the 2025 preliminary budget with the Council. The public hearing will take place at the next Council Meeting.

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

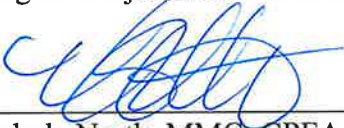
BILLS & PAYROLL:

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

CLAIMS CHECKS 66613-66638	\$465,488.03
CLAIMS EFT 11/25/2024 Run 1-7	\$109,323.69
CLAIMS DIRECT PAY 11/25/2024 Run 1	\$6,992.77
PAYROLL E-CHECKS 1761-1769; Dir Deposit Run 11/18/2024	\$78,980.73

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:49 PM.

Attest: 

Nickole North, MMC, CPFA
Clerk/Treasurer

By: 

Keith Campbell
Mayor