



**CITY OF NEWPORT
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
NEWPORT CITY HALL
January 21, 2021**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Elliott called the City Council Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. on January 21, 2021.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

Present (5): Mayor Laurie Elliott, Council Member Kevin Chapdelaine, Council Member Tom Ingemann, Council Member Marvin Taylor, and Council Member Rozlyn Johnson (appointed by Resolution No. 2021-09).

Not Present (0): None.

4. ADOPT AGENDA

Member Chapdelaine motioned to adopt the agenda. Seconded by Member Ingemann. Approved 4-0.

5. APPOINTING CITY COUNCIL VACANCY

A. Resolution No. 2021-09- Appointing City Council Vacancy

Mayor Elliott stated there was a vacancy created when she was elected Mayor. Interviews were conducted last Thursday for this position.

Member Ingemann motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2021-09 – Appointing the City Council vacancy to Rozlyn Johnson. Seconded by Member Chapdelaine. Approved 3-1 (Taylor).

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

7. ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes-** January 7, 2021 Regular Council
- B. Minutes-** January 7, 2021 Council Workshop
- C. 10th Avenue Stormwater Improvements Update**
- D. Change Order No. 1-** Decrease \$500
- E. Ordinance No. 2021-01-** Boards, Commissions, and Committees
- F. Boards, Commissions, and Committees Appointments**
- G. List of Bills-** \$190,621.21
- H. Financial Statement-** December 2020

Member Taylor requested to have Ordinance No. 2021-01 pulled from the Consent Agenda.

Member Ingemann motioned to adopt the Consent Agenda with the removal of item E. Seconded by Member Chapdelaine. Approved 5-0.

Member Taylor inquired if Ordinance No. 2021-01 includes all Commissions ending on January 31. Mayor Elliott stated yes as other committees follow the Planning Commission ordinance.

Member Taylor motioned to approve Ordinance No. 2021-01. Seconded by Member Johnson. Approved 5-0.

8. WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORT

None.

9. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Steve Wiley stated he has nothing to report but congratulated Member Johnson on her appointment.

10. ENGINEER'S REPORT

A. Inflow and Infiltration (I-I)

City Engineer Jon Herdegen stated last summer the City of Newport requested bonding funds to implement I-I improvement projects from the state legislature. The City was awarded a \$2M bonding bill appropriation in late October to implement I-I mitigation improvements within its sanitary sewer collection system. Engineer Herdegen described the proposal to include work within the sewer that was lined back in 2011 as well as mainline lining and lateral lining in the area down 18th Street and crossing the Highway 61 corridor.

Engineer Herdegen explained the challenge given that they do not have a lot of information, so requested Council authorize staff to solicit bids to complete the televising work associated with the I-I improvement project. The overall project will include assessments to benefiting property owners.

Member Chapdelaine inquired if Engineer Herdegen has a rough idea of what this assessment could cost the property owners. Engineer Herdegen stated it will depend on the scope of the project, but a rough estimate would be \$3,000-\$5,000. Member Ingemann inquired if the City completes this televising work, would that satisfy the required televising needed when you sell your home. Engineer Herdegen stated all work will be documented, so we can look further into this. Member Elliott inquired how much sewer we are looking to repair and the televising costs. Engineer Herdegen stated about 250-300 connections. Engineer Herdegen stated the televising will cost about \$30,000-\$50,000, but this work is eligible for reimbursement through the bonding bill.

Member Ingemann motioned to approve the RFP for televising work for the I-I improvement project. Seconded by Member Chapdelaine. Approved 5-0.

11. SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Superintendent of Public Works Bruce Hanson stated he has nothing to report but will stand for questions. Member Chapdelaine inquired if the gas piping project had any impact and caused the watermain break near him. Superintendent does not believe there was any correlation

12. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A. Ordinance No. 2021-02- MRCCA

City Planner Sherri Buss stated the Planning Commission has been working on the MRCCA overlay ordinance. The ordinance has provisional approval from the DNR. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on the draft at their January meeting. The Planning Commission made a few final changes to the ordinance based on the comments they received at the hearing.

Planner Buss stated the State of MN adopted new rules for the riverway in 2017. The State requires all local governments in the MRCCA to adopt a new ordinance for this district and the DNR provided a model ordinance to use as a base. When the City gives variances or conditional use permits in this district there are new setback requirements from the river and the bluff. There are permit requirements if people want to make changes to existing and native vegetation. If someone wants to change the grade or stormwater management on their property, MSA will need to review and ensure it meets the new standards.

Planner Buss stated there were a few comments made during the Public Hearing and summarized these comments for Council. Mary Kinney who resides at 1349 2nd Avenue spoke about the ordinary high-water level and inquired why her private wetland was included. Planner Buss stated she left messages with the DNR but has not heard back. Colleen Toberman, who is with Friends of the Mississippi River, had several suggestions about the ordinance. Ms. Toberman wanted us to look at bird safe standards for building and building heights near the transit station. The Planning Commission will investigate these items when looking at design standards for that area. Ms. Toberman wanted us to look at open space, but that is already addressed within our park dedication. There was an email from Penny Duff who wanted us to look at native plantings in the overlook areas. The City will get new plans for the overlook areas in the next month or so.

Member Ingemann inquired about the Cold Storage sign. Planner Buss stated that sign was approved under the old ordinance, so it would not be affected by this new ordinance.

Anthony Mahmood, who resides at 822 High Street, clarified that Ms. Kinney's question is to understand why a privately owned wetland would be under the DNR regulation. Planner Buss stated she posed this question to the DNR but has not received an answer yet.

Member Taylor stated there is also a provision, using setback averaging, that may help people conform to neighbors around them in lieu of the strict setbacks. Planner Buss stated there are several exceptions for existing structures or for people who want to build in the same general area as their neighbors.

Member Chapdelaine motioned to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-02 for the MRCCA. Seconded by Member Johnson. Approved 5-0.

B. Chamber of Commerce Request

City Administrator Deb Hill stated the local area Chamber of Commerce puts out a yearly community resource guide called Connect. In the past, the Bulletin paid for this mailing. The Chamber of Commerce inquired if local communities would pay the cost of mailing to their own community. The cost for Newport would be \$328.48. Newport would also be provided an advertising space in 2021 to advertise one of our community events.

Member Ingemann motioned to approve the Chamber of Commerce request. Seconded by Member Chapdelaine. Approved 5-0.

13. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Elliott stated she participated in a zoom meeting with Senator Bigham and Representative Frankie. They discussed priorities for Newport at the legislative level. They spoke about LGA funding, clean drinking water for Newport, and I-I funding with the impact on our water rates. Mayor Elliott stated her other zoom meeting was with Representative McCollum and the Mayors of Washington County. Ms. McCollum spoke about the \$600 stimulus money from the federal government, rental assistance, loan forgiveness, and money to help places stay COVID safe. They also discussed the scrutiny government entities are under for spending money from the CARES Act. Finally, they discussed the COVID vaccine.

Member Taylor stated he attended the Planning Commission meeting where Anthony Mahmood was appointed Chair and Brandon Leyde was appointed Vice-Chair. Member Taylor stated he is beginning the League of Minnesota Cities - Elected Leaders Institute program.

Member Johnson stated she looks forward to working with everyone.

Member Chapdelaine stated he attended a zoom meeting with Administrator Hill for a Mississippi River plastic pollution initiative project. They are looking for individuals or small groups to clean up plastic in the river.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Member Chapdelaine motioned to adjourn the City Council Meeting. Seconded by Member Ingemann. Approved 5-0.

The City Council Meeting was adjourned at 6:28 p.m. on January 21, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted:
Jill Thiesfeld,
Administrative Assistant II

Signed: _____
Laurie Elliott, Mayor