



**CITY OF NEWPORT
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
NEWPORT CITY HALL
February 4, 2021**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Elliott called the City Council Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. on February 4, 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.

Not Present (0): None.

4. ADOPT AGENDA

Member Chapdelaine motioned to adopt the Agenda. Seconded by Member Ingemann. Approved 5-0.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

6. ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA

- A. **Minutes-** January 14, 2021 Council Workshop
- B. **Minutes-** January 21, 2021 Regular Council
- C. **Kennel License-** Buetow
- D. **Resolution No. 2021-11-** State of Emergency Extension
- E. **List of Bills-** \$132,175.39

Member Ingemann motioned to adopt the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Member Chapdelaine. Approved 5-0.

7. PRESENTATIONS

A. Utility Rate Study- Elher's

Jason Aarsvold from Elhers presented the Utility Rate Study for Newport. Elhers takes a 10-year look at our utility funds and creates a financial plan. The study looked at our water fund, sanitary sewer fund, storm sewer fund, and our street light fund. Mr. Aarsvold explained that when you create and follow a 10-year plan you can avoid sudden rate increases. The study looked at the growth of Zumbro House and the Bailey Meadows development, as well as the increased charges of the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES). The MCES charges make up 39% of our sewer budget. Elher's laid out the recommendations for the next several years. For 2021, there would be an increase of 5.32% or approximately \$9.39 per quarter for the average household. The next step would be to adopt the rates for 2021.

Mayor Elliott inquired if we continue to make improvements in our I&I issues can we expect to see a decrease in what Met Council is charging out to our residents. Mr. Aarsvold stated the improvements are projected to help. City Administrator Deb Hill stated Met Council collects funds based on your usage.

Administrator Hill stated staff will put together a resolution to set the percentage rates for the next few years and bring it back to Council for approval.

8. WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORT

Washington County Sheriff's Deputy Sergeant Bill Harrell stated the St. Paul Park Refinery went on strike a couple weeks ago. Due to the strike there have been two additional deputies stationed at 2nd Street & 5th Avenue and at 2nd Street & 7th Avenue. Those deputies are supplemented and are not taking away from the responsibilities of the Newport deputies.

Sergeant Harrell stated a resident inquired where snowmobiles can operate in Newport and he read the City ordinance. The speed limit is 15 miles per hour.

9. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

None.

10. ENGINEER'S REPORT

A. 3M Settlement

City Engineer Jon Herdegen stated there is a new round of work group meetings for the 3M PFAS settlement planned for February 16th and 17th that he and Member Chapdelaine will be attending. Engineer Herdegen stated the City should put together a formal resolution or letter of support stating our position for the health index levels and our strong desire to have the interconnects with our neighboring communities.

Mayor Elliott stated this project is one of the most important things we will be doing in 2021 for our residents. Mayor Elliott stated she would like the second interconnect and to aim for the zero PFAS so our residents have the same quality of water as our neighbors. Engineer Herdegen explained that our water right now is at a no detect stage and all the work we are doing is to ensure it stays that way for years to come. There is no health concern for our water right now.

11. SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

A. Parks Presentation

Superintendent of Public Works Bruce Hanson gave a parks presentation to Council. Superintendent Hanson explained the age of our current play equipment and the plans for updating the parks. He explained the funding and the planned capital expenditures through 2026.

Mayor Elliott stated the updates to the parks are just one part of our capital improvement plan. Mayor Elliott would like Superintendent Hanson to come to a future workshop meeting and have a deeper discussion with Council to ensure we are looking at the big picture and exactly what age groups and amenities we want included in our park. Assistant to the City Administrator Travis Brierley stated he can send Council a copy of the Master Park Plan.

B. Environmental Study- Police Gun Range

Superintendent Hanson stated there was a former Newport Police shooting range at the compost site in the Public Works area. Superintendent Hanson requested MSA prepare a phase one environmental study on that area. The phase one study would look at identifying the types of containments that are present. Phase two would get into the details on mitigation and removal efforts, and phase three is the actual removal of the contaminates. Superintendent Hanson stated the cost for the phase one study is \$2,000.

Member Chapdelaine motioned to move forward with the phase one environmental study for \$2,000. Seconded by Member Taylor. Approved 5-0.

12. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A. Resolution No. 2021-10- Liquor License 5CX Corporation

Assistant Brierley stated the Newport Liquor store is up for sale and there is a buyer that is moving forward with the purchase. Part of that process is the buyer needs to obtain an off-sale liquor license to operate the liquor store as the license is non-transferable. The applicant applied, paid the fee, and successfully passed the background check.

Member Ingemann motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2021-10 - Issuing a liquor license to 5CX Corporation. Seconded by Member Johnson. Approved 5-0.

B. Washington County Historical Society Request

Administrator Hill stated there was a donation request from the Washington County Historical Society. A couple years ago they approached Council that they would be building a new facility and were looking for donations from the neighboring communities. They had asked for \$5,000 to be spread over five years. The Council at the time decided against it as we were saving money for our new City Hall. Most of the committed donations to the Washington County Historical Society are coming from communities on the northern end of Washington County. Council discussed and chose to deny this request at this time.

C. Appointment to the Capital Investment Committee

Assistant Brierley stated at the January 14th Council meeting there was discussion about appointments and Member Taylor was planning to step down from the Capital Investment Committee. The Council inquired if a Park Board Member would be interested and Jenna Johnson volunteered to serve on the Committee.

Member Taylor motioned to approve the appointment of Jenna Johnson to the Capital Investment Committee. Seconded by Member Chapdelaine. Approved 5-0.

13. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Elliott stated the Washington County Environment Center is going to be hosting paper shredding events on April 11th and June 16th from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. They have a six-box limit and the boxes cannot weigh more than 30 pounds each.

Mayor Elliott stated there is a group called Minnesota Responds that is looking for volunteers to help with the vaccination work. You can go to MNresponds.org to find out more information.

Member Ingemann stated he attended a meeting with the Recycling and Energy Board. They made appointments, set their budget, and welcomed new members. Member Ingemann and Member Johnson scheduled a tour for February 12th to visit the site.

Member Ingemann stated the cable commission met at the end of January. They went over their upcoming projects and the new City Hall / Fire Hall is on their list for late 2021-2022.

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 7:11 p.m. on February 4, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted:
Jill Thiesfeld,
Administrative Assistant II

Signed: _____
Laurie Elliott, Mayor