



**CITY OF NEWPORT  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
NEWPORT CITY HALL  
February 18, 2021**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Elliott called the City Council Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. on February 18, 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 Johnson. Approved 5-0.

**5. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**6. ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. **Minutes-** January 21, 2021 Council Workshop
- B. **Minutes-** February 4, 2021 Regular Council
- C. **Chicken Permit-** Bower
- D. **Resolution No. 2021-12-** 2021-2024 Utility Rates
- E. **Resolution No. 2021-13-** Post-Issuance Bond Debt Compliance Procedures
- F. **List of Bills-** \$161,360.86
- G. **Financial Statement-** January 2021

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

**7. WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORT**

None.

**8. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT**

Fire Chief Steve Wiley stated they were dispatched on Monday just before 4:00 a.m. for a possible ruptured pipeline. Magellan's system generated the call from their central office in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Chief Wiley stated that thankfully it was not a ruptured pipeline, but he was impressed by the quick response from Magellan. Magellan tried to locate the possible leak and ended up isolating it to a sensor on 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue which caused the false reading at their control center. Chief Wiley stated this matter was taken very seriously, and it was great to see the level of response that showed up to Newport.

## 9. ENGINEER'S REPORT

City Engineer Jon Herdegen stated he is putting together a presentation for the March 4<sup>th</sup> workshop to go over the 3M settlement and have a discussion as to how Newport wants to formally respond.

Mayor Elliott stated she has a meeting scheduled on March 5<sup>th</sup> to talk about the 3M settlement.

Member Chapdelaine stated it important for Council to read through the information Engineer Herdegen will be sending and ask questions in advance in preparation for the workshop on March 4<sup>th</sup>.

## 10. SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Superintendent of Public Works Bruce Hanson stated he has nothing formal to report but will stand for questions.

Mayor Elliott inquired about the frozen water tower. Superintendent Hanson stated they had icing on GSR3, which is the Bailey Meadows reservoir, so they had to do additional pumping and recirculating to keep that from freezing. They were able to keep it in service.

## 11. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

### A. City Hall and Public Safety Building Bond

#### 1. Resolution No. 2021-14- GO Bond 2021A

Jason Aarsvold from Elher's presented the pre-bond sales report. Newport is looking at a ten-million-dollar bond because if we stay under ten-million dollars in issuance annually we can designate the bonds bank qualified which means the interest rates will be lower. The bond covers the new City Hall, the 12<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Street project, and two bonds that will be refunded due to interest savings. Mr. Aarsvold stated the plan is to do this on a competitive basis by soliciting bids for the bonds. Ehlers will then tabulate the bids and bring Council the low-cost buyer of the bonds. The plan for sale of the bonds will be on March 18<sup>th</sup> and the closing of the bonds will be around April 8<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Elliott explained the concept for refunding the bonds. Mayor Elliott stated we are currently paying a certain interest rate and if we refund it re-issue the bonds at a lower interest rate that is where we will get the savings.

Member Chapdelaine inquired about the current interest rates. Mr. Aarsvold stated rates are at a historic low. Ehlers is projecting a true interest cost around 1.33%.

Member Chapdelaine motioned to adopt Resolution 2021-14 for the GO Bond 2021A. Seconded by Member Ingemann. Approved 5-0.

### B. Planning Commission Date and Times

City Administrator Deb Hill stated the Planning Commission discussed switching meeting days to give Council more time to review the packet prior to Council meetings. The Planning Commission agreed they could meet on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m.

Member Johnson motioned to approve the Planning Commission meetings on the second Tuesday of every month. Seconded by Member Ingemann. Approved 5-0.

## 12. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Elliott stated the State has put together the vaccine connector website. They are encouraging all Minnesotans to register who have not had the Covid-19 vaccine. You will then be contacted when the vaccine is available for you. The website is [MN.gov/vaccineconnector](https://MN.gov/vaccineconnector). Assistant to the City Administrator Travis Brierley stated he will put direct links to this website on the Cities homepage and Facebook page.

Member Taylor stated the Planning Commission had its meeting last Thursday. There are two new members that he welcomed aboard. The Planning Commission reviewed and is recommending the Bailey Road study area to be zoned Residential Estates.

Member Johnson stated on Friday she and Council Member Ingemann toured the Recycling and Energy Center. One new addition that will be coming in March has to do with food composting. They will be giving residents green bags to collect food scraps which will then be put in your trash can. From there a robot will pick the green bags out of the garbage and put it in an area for composting. They are also extending the loading dock to help with odor and garbage flying around.

Member Chapdelaine stated last Wednesday he attended the HPC meeting. Member Chapdelaine stated at a previous meeting he reported that he and Administrator Hill attended a Zoom meeting with a group that was looking to reduce the amount of plastic that end up in the Mississippi river and eventually our oceans. He is going to have the group, Friends of Pool 2, take over that project as it is similar to what that group already does.

## 13. ADJOURNMENT

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

The City Council Meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m. on February 18, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted:  
Jill Thiesfeld,  
Administrative Assistant II

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Laurie Elliott, Mayor