



**CITY OF NEWPORT
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
NEWPORT CITY HALL
August 19, 2021**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Elliott called the City Council Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. on August 19, 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

Greg Ruhland, residing at 1014 Maple Hill Road, addressed the Council. Mr. Ruhland stated he would like the Council to consider exploring options to remediate the large water bills, particularly in quarter two and quarter three. Some ideas include giving a sewer discount to both quarter two and quarter three, installing a backwater valve so storm water is kept separate, and not assessing waste control fees on irrigation.

John Dombrow, residing at 1023 Maple Hill Road, addressed the Council. Mr. Dombrow stated he is also concerned with our large water bills. Mr. Dombrow understands the city charges sewage based on water usage during the winter months. He feels this is unfair as the snowbirds would not get charged as much sewage since they would be gone during the months when their usage is determined. Mayor Elliott stated she can have staff investigate.

6. ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes-** August 5, 2021 Regular Council
- B. Morris Leatherman Contract**
- C. Resolution No 2021-39-** Outlot A Perkins Addition
- D. Resolution No 2021-40-** Outlot B Perkins Addition
- E. List of Bills-** \$1,611,372.79
- F. July 2021 Financial Report**

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 that a power outage caused a series of fire alarms to go off Tuesday morning. It was determined a car accident on Glen caused the power outage.

9. ENGINEER'S REPORT

A. PFC 3M Settlement

City Engineer Jon Herdegen stated they had a briefing with the state trustees for the 3M settlement and received great news. It has been decided that Newport will get an interconnect with Woodbury and Cottage Grove, and they will be treating to a health index of 0.5. Member Chapdelaine stated this was a team effort and thanked Mayor Elliott and Engineer Herdegen. Member Chapdelaine stated we will have an interconnect with Woodbury and Cottage Grove who will both have water treatment plants. The water coming out of those treatment plants will be zero PFAS. Mayor Elliott stated our residents deserve the same quality of water as our neighboring communities. Member Ingemann wanted the community to understand that we currently do not have any PFAS in our water, but we are protecting our future water. Mayor Elliott clarified that some private wells have PFAS. Member Taylor stated for homeowners who are not part of the municipal water system, the point-of-entry treatment (POET) system is a great way to treat your water to undetectable levels of PFAS.

10. SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

A. H&U Pay Request No. 7- \$1,183,087.58

Superintendent of Public Works Bruce Hanson stated there is a pay application in the amount of \$1,183,087.58 for the new City Hall / Public Safety building. The majority of this payment is for the prefabricated concrete walls for the building.

Member Ingemann motioned to approve the Pay Request No. 7 in the amount of \$1,183,087.58 to H+U. Seconded by Member Chapdelaine. Approved 5-0.

11. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A. Ordinance No 2021-12- MRCCA

City Planner Harry Davis stated the first item is a request from the DNR to make a few changes to our Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA) ordinance. The changes include clarifying definitions/requirements, and revising the formula used to calculate setbacks for decks and patios. The Planning Commission has recommended approval of this proposed ordinance.

Member Chapdelaine motioned to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-12 – MRCCA. Seconded by Member Johnson. Approved 5-0.

B. Ordinance No 2021-13- Fences

Planner Davis stated the next item up for discussion is changes to the fence code. The changes to the fence code include opening up materials used for fences, addressing fences in right-of-way or easements, and requiring a permit for new fences. During the public hearing at the Planning Commission meeting there was request for clarification on barbed wire and a question on signage or lettering on fences. The Planning Commission has recommended approval of the proposed fence ordinance. Mayor Elliott inquired if the fence code meets staff needs. City Administrator Deb Hill stated the updates are helpful as the strict list of materials was problematic with residents who requested vinyl fences.

Member Taylor inquired about fences on corner lots since our language used the terms front yard and side yard. Assistant to the City Administrator Travis Brierley stated a front yard is defined from the house to the street. If you are on a corner, you would have two front yards, two back yards, and no side yards.

Member Chapdelaine motioned to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-13 – Fences. Seconded by Mayor Elliott. Approved 5-0.

Administrator Hill stated our census count for 2020 in the City of Newport was 3,979.

12. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Member Johnson stated the library is gearing up for fall. On August 31st and September 1st from 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. they are having a back-to-school party. Starting September 9th from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. there will be a youth-led active reading time where middle school children will read to younger children.

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 6:13 p.m. on August 19, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted:
Jill Thiesfeld,
Administrative Assistant II

Signed: _____
Laurie Elliott, Mayor