



**CITY OF NEWPORT
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
NEWPORT CITY HALL
October 7, 2021**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Elliott called the City Council Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. on October 7, 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 Taylor motioned to adopt the agenda. Seconded by Member Ingemann. Approved 5-0.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Keith Robinson, who resides at 1230 11th Avenue, addressed the Council. Mr. Robinson inquired about the high MWCC charge on his water bill. Mayor Elliott stated that Council will be discussing this issue at the workshop meeting this evening. Mr. Robinson also brought up the high school taxes. Mayor Elliott explained that the city has no control over the school board levy.

Bill Sumner, who resides at 737 21st Street, addressed the Council. Mr. Sumner stated that the Red Cross has a terrible shortage of blood supply and encouraged residents to donate if possible.

6. ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes-** September 16, 2021 Regular Council
- B. Kennel License**
- C. Resolution No. 2021-42-** Deer Hunting
- D. List of Bills-** \$215,011.56

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

7. WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORT

None.

8. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Steve Wiley stated this week is fire prevention week. They will not be having an open house this year, but plan to hold one next year in the new facility. Newport Firefighters will be at Newport Elementary tomorrow doing fire prevention with the different grades at the school.

9. ENGINEER'S REPORT

A. 10th Avenue Stormwater Improvements

1. Partial Payment Application No 4 (Final)

City Engineer Jon Herdegen stated there is a final payment request for the 10th Avenue Stormwater Improvement Project. Fitzgerald Excavating has submitted the close out documentation and completed the remaining punch list items. Fitzgerald Excavating has requested the final payment in the amount of \$17,533.75. Mayor Elliott stated a resident expressed concern that the north end is not draining. Engineer Herdegen stated they ran the 12" drain tile as far north as they could before it would start coming out of the ground. In each structure they provided inlets so people can extend private drain tile into their yards if they choose.

Member Chapdelaine motioned to approve Partial Payment Application No. 4 (Final) in the amount of \$17,533.75 for Fitzgerald Excavating. Seconded by Member Johnson. Approved 5-0.

B. 3M PFC Settlement

Engineer Herdegen stated they had the subgroup meeting for the 3M PFC Settlement a couple weeks ago. They introduced the grant applications that cities will be pursuing for different phases of these improvement projects. Moving forward our next step would be to engage both Woodbury and Cottage Grove to determine plans for our interconnects.

10. SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Superintendent of Public Works Bruce Hanson gave Council an update on the new City Hall Building. The underground plumbing is complete, the decks are poured, and the framing is done on the second level. They are waiting for an update on the parking lot installation and are still hoping to get the parking lot in this fall. Superintendent Hanson stated they had a meeting on the solar system roof and an agreement will be brought forward in Mid-November.

Mayor Elliott stated she heard talk in the community that the new City Hall Building is going to raise our taxes. Mayor Elliott explained that with the new home and business construction, low interest rates, low construction bids, etc. there is very little impact on homeowners' taxes. Newport had a zero-increase last year and this year Council approved a maximum 2% increase. This increase was not driven from the new City Hall Building.

Superintendent Hanson stated they will be having another K-bid city auction of surplus items. The auction will include a '89 Ford Crew Cab along with some miscellaneous items.

11. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A. Storm Sewer Maintenance Agreement

City Administrator Deb Hill stated there is a storm sewer maintenance agreement between M/I Homes, the homeowner's association, and the City of Newport. M/I Homes extended retaining walls that were not on the master grading plan and therefore will need to retain this portion. Our attorney has gone through this agreement and Council will need to approve.

Member Taylor motioned to approve the Storm Sewer Maintenance Agreement in Bailey Meadows with M/I Homes. Seconded by Member Johnson. Approved 5-0.

12. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

A. Annual Appointments

Mayor Elliott stated we have a vacancy on the Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) and have received an application from Penny Duff to fill this vacancy through January 31, 2023. We also received an application from Brian Xiong earlier this summer. Mayor Elliott spoke to Mr. Xiong, and he would be willing and interested in serving on the Park Board. That term would end on January 31, 2024.

Member Chapdelaine motioned to approve the appointments of Penny Duff to the HPC, and Brian Xiong to the Park Board. Seconded by Member Ingemann. Approved 5-0.

Mayor Elliott stated Buckthorn Day is coming October 30th at Bailey Forest from 9:00am – noon. Mayor Elliott stated the Park Survey phone calls will start next week. Residents should be on the lookout for a call coming from a 507-area code and participate if you can as this will be helpful for our park planning process.

Member Johnson stated the library is working on initializing an electronic catalog. Books in the Park is bring presented to the Park Board on October 28th. At the end of October, the library will be doing a pumpkin painting and asked that you call and reserve your pumpkin if you wish to take part in this activity.

13. ADJOURNMENT

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

The City Council Meeting was adjourned at 6:16 p.m. on October 7, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted:
Jill Thiesfeld,
Administrative Assistant II

Signed: _____
Laurie Elliott, Mayor