



**CITY OF NEWPORT
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
NEWPORT CITY HALL
December 2, 2021**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Elliott called the City Council Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. on December 2, 2021.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

Present (4): Mayor Laurie Elliott, Council Member Kevin Chapdelaine, Council Member Marvin Taylor, and Council Member Rozlyn Johnson.

Not Present (1): Council Member Tom Ingemann.

4. ADOPT AGENDA

Member Chapdelaine motioned to adopt the agenda as presented. Seconded by Member Johnson. Approved 4-0.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bill Sumner, residing at 737 21st Street, addressed the Council. Mr. Sumner stated the Basic Needs thrift store has successfully moved into its new location in Cottage Grove. He reminded residents the Red Cross is always looking for volunteers to donate blood for the blood banks. Mr. Sumner stated he is growing out his hair in hopes of donating it to the Locks of Love organization and encouraged others to give if they can.

6. ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes-** October 21, 2021 Regular Council
- B. Minutes-** October 21, 2021 Council Workshop
- C. Minutes-** November 4, 2021 Regular Council
- D. Minutes-** November 4, 2021 Council Workshop
- E. List of Bills-** \$645,068.96

Member Johnson motioned to adopt the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Member Chapdelaine. Approved 4-0.

7. PRESENTATIONS

A. Ideal Energies

Rich Ragatz, with Ideal Energies, addressed the Council to discuss the solar roof for the new City Hall building. Mr. Ragatz stated Ideal Energies installed a ground mounted array a few years ago at the Public Works building on Bailey Road. Mr. Ragatz explained that rates continue to rise, which will save the city more money when doing a solar array. The new City Hall will have a rooftop solar array that will connect into the switch gear of the building. Most of the energy that is created will be used onsite. There is a 25-year warranty with the solar panels. Mr. Ragatz went over the projected energy savings with the solar roof.

Superintendent of Public Works Bruce Hanson stated if he has consensus from Council, he will work to bring a contract back for approval.

8. WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORT

Washington County Sheriff Deputy Sergeant Bill Harrell introduced five Washington County Deputies to the Council. Deputy Seth Heinen works day shift. Deputy Keith Schipp works day relief. Deputy Chris Maziarka works mostly nights and a couple afternoon power shifts. Deputy Lauden Rinzel has been with us about two years and works midnight shifts. Deputy Danielle DuRand will be starting at the first of the year. Sergeant Harrell stated they all have great attributes and do wonderful things for Newport. Mayor Elliott welcomed the deputies and thanked those who have been serving in our community.

9. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Mayor Elliott stated Fire Chief Steve Wiley is absent tonight but wanted to remind residents that this Sunday between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. the fire department will be having their annual toy and food drive. Checks for the food shelf can be written out to Friends in Need.

10. ENGINEER'S REPORT

None.

11. SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

A. City Hall Change Order- City Council Chambers

Superintendent Hanson stated there is a change order for the Council Chamber redesign including the reshaping of the dais and electrical changes to the first floor. The renderings in the packet include both the original design and the new design. The total change order is \$121,888. Mayor Elliott inquired about the cost of the redesign compared to the original design and cost estimate. Corey Brunton and Ginnie Schneider with Brunton Architects addressed the Council. Mr. Brunton explained the enhancements to the design of the dais and amenities contributed to the higher costs. There were also additional audio and video costs.

Member Chapdelaine motioned to approve Proposal Request No. 09R and 9R2 for the City Hall Change Order. Seconded by Member Taylor. Approved 4-0.

12. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A. Public Hearing (6:00pm) Truth in Taxation

Mayor Elliott opened the Truth in Taxation public hearing at 6:00 p.m. on December 2, 2021.

City Administrator Deb Hill presented the proposed 2022 property tax levy and budget. The general fund budget breakdown is 35% for police and fire, 16% for streets, 15% parks and recreation, 33% general government, and 1% contingency. Fiscal disparities will decrease by \$9,498 in 2022. Newport has a great bond rating of AA stable. The CARES money that came in was applied mainly to our police budget. We are projected to have a healthy fund balance ration of 65.7%. The proposed levy is 11.37%, and all but 2% is captured taxes. The tax impact on a median value home is \$19.77 a year or \$1.65 a month.

Mayor Elliott stated our AA bond rating provides significant savings when borrowing money as we get a much better interest rate. Mayor Elliott wanted the public to know there were limitations on what the CARES money could be used for. Administrator Hill stated in addition to the police, the CARES money was also used for sanitizing items, face masks, touchless paper towel dispensers, etc.

Mr. Sumner stated he was excited to hear that a certain percentage of the water availability charges (WAC) and sewer availability charges (SAC) from the Bailey Meadows development was going back to controlling the costs residents are paying for water and sewer.

Mayor Elliott closed the Truth in Taxation public hearing at 6:18 p.m. on December 2, 2021.

B. Resolution No. 2021-45- City Budget 2022

Member Chapdelaine motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2021-45 to approve the levy certification and approve the City Budget for 2022. Seconded by Member Taylor. Approved 4-0.

C. FEMA

1. Resolution No. 2021-44- Authorizing Sub Grant Agreement

2. Commitment of Funds

Administrator Hill stated she has been working on a FEMA grant which would allow the city to acquire and mitigate 1651 Cedar Lane and breach the levee. The grant would be for \$455,800, with the city's portion being \$113,950 (25%). Staff contacted the DNR and believes they could contribute about half which would bring the city's portion down to \$57,000. The request is for Council to approve the sub-grant agreement and commit the necessary funds.

Dan Richardson, residing at 1485 Cedar Lane, addressed the Council. Mr. Richardson inquired if the funding includes dock removal, etc. Administrator Hill stated yes. Superintendent Hanson stated the culvert would be gone as part of the levee being breached.

Member Johnson motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2021-44 - Authorizing the Sub-Grant Agreement. Seconded by Member Taylor. Approved 4-0.

Member Chapdelaine motioned to approve the Commitment Letter of Funds. Seconded by Member Johnson. Approved 4-0.

13. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Elliott thanked Member Chapdelaine for covering the last meeting while she was absent.

Member Johnson stated the library has many things going on in December, so please check the online calendar. There is a holiday sing-along on December 11th at 1:00 p.m. They are also doing peer tutoring for grades K-6.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Member Johnson motioned to adjourn the City Council meeting. Seconded by Member Chapdelaine. Approved 4-0.

The City Council meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m. on December 2, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted:
Jill Thiesfeld,
Administrative Assistant II

Signed: _____
Laurie Elliott, Mayor