



**CITY OF NEWPORT
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES
NEWPORT CITY HALL
January 21, 2021**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Elliott called the City Council Workshop to order at 6:38 p.m. on January 21, 2021.

2. 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.

3. ZONING FOR CATERING/RESTAURANT TYPE BUSINESS

City Planner Sherri Buss stated we received a request from Tony Mahmood who resides at 822 High Street, to operate a catering business from his home. Mr. Mahmood's property is in the MX-3 mixed use district. Currently the City does not have catering allowed as a use in any of our zoning districts. Mr. Mahmood would need a license with the state of MN for a home catering business.

Member Chapdelaine stated his main concern would be the impact for his immediate neighbors, and what type of cooking odors would be involved. Mr. Mahmood stated he is considering purchasing a 30 foot kitchen trailer that he would use to operate his catering business as well as rent a commissary kitchen in South Saint Paul. The trailer would be parked alongside his garage. The trailer includes a 100-gallon freshwater tank and 100-gallon gray water tank. Mr. Mahmood would dump the gray water at the commissary kitchen.

Planner Buss stated if Mr. Mahmood would like to move forward, he would apply for a zoning change which would be sent to the Planning Commission for discussion.

4. CITY LOGO

City Administrator Deb Hill stated the City has discussed updating our busy logo to a more simplified version. Rae Neisen has been working on renditions that are included in the packet and Administrator Hill is looking for direction from Council.

Council discussed they liked the paddleboat without the trees. Council would still like to see everything simplified including less detail on the boat, removing some waves, removing smokestacks, etc. Member Chapdelaine will discuss these changes with Ms. Neisen and bring back to a Council workshop in February.

5. DIVERSITY ENGAGEMENT TASK FORCE

Mayor Elliott stated that Newport was invited by the City of Cottage Grove to participate in a task force with our surrounding cities and school district on racial equity and diversity engagement. Mayor Elliott stated with our limited staff and resources she felt we could be more successful working with a larger group. Member Ingemann inquired what kind of time commitment would be required. Mayor Elliott stated this is new, so the task force would need to determine how to move forward.

Administrator Hill stated she can try to get additional clarity and Council can revisit in a couple weeks.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Administrator Hill described items that will be coming to Council over the next month.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Elliott adjourned the City Council Workshop at 7:39 p.m. on January 21, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted:
Jill Thiesfeld,
Administrative Assistant II

Signed: _____
Laurie Elliott, Mayor