



**CITY OF NEWPORT  
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES  
NEWPORT CITY HALL  
February 4, 2021**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Elliott called the City Council Workshop to order at 7:23 p.m. on February 4, 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. 1324 11<sup>th</sup> AVENUE**

Assistant to the City Administrator Travis Brierley stated the property at 1324 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue has not been occupied since 2015. In December, a resolution was passed which declared this property a hazardous building. Staff is looking for direction from Council for the next steps with this property.

Mayor Elliott stated she would like full compliance of property maintenance codes. Member Chapdelaine stated a condemned and unsecured building is a public health and safety risk. Assistant Brierley stated he can reach out to our City Attorney Flaherty & Hood to see if we can board up the building and secure it. Member Taylor stated he spoke to one of the neighbors who stated the roof has collapsed. The neighbor will allow the City on their property to take pictures of the property at 1324 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

**4. DIVERSITY ENGAGEMENT**

City Administrator Deb Hill stated she reached out to Jennifer Levitt with Cottage Grove for an update on the diversity engagement program they are working on. Cottage Grove has been diligently working to secure a moderator who could lead discussions but has yet to find a qualified person. There was also talk from the County about the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) program. Mayor Elliott stated that Shoreview sent eight staff members through the GARE program and it was \$14,000. It is a year-long program and very labor intensive. The GARE program would be beyond the scope of Newport.

Member Chapdelaine stated he hopes were we could participate in a regional effort. Administrator Hill will be in contact with the County and Cottage Grove and keep the Council informed of any updates.

**5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Administrator Hill stated the upcoming workshop agenda items include a bonding discussion with Ehlers, garbage hauling start time discussion, Cottage Grove building inspection contract, and an RFP for a new City Planner. Our current City Planner, Sherri Buss, will be with us until the end of June 2021.

## 6. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Elliott adjourned the City Council Workshop at 8:00 p.m. on February 4, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted:  
Jill Thiesfeld  
Administrative Assistant II

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