



**CITY OF NEWPORT
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES
NEWPORT CITY HALL
March 18, 2021**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Elliott called the City Council Workshop to order at 7:06 p.m. on March 18, 2021.

2. 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.

3. NEWPORT PARKS

Mayor Elliott asked Superintendent of Public Works Bruce Hanson to give a presentation to educate the Council on our current park amenities and potential park updates. This is the first step as we go through the planning of our City parks.

Superintendent Hanson presented the Park Master Plan that was put together by the Park Board and TKDA in 2018.

The Council discussed Levy Park, which is also known as Cedar Lane. Superintendent Hanson stated the City still needs to acquire one home and there are restrictions for this area. Mayor Elliott stated this area is beautiful and peaceful and sees it as a passive park with picnic tables, a canoe launch, etc. City Planner Sherri Buss stated the plans presented are conceptual plans and eventually the City will need to hire a landscape architect and engineer to go through the process of creating an actual plan. Mayor Elliott stated we should broaden the opportunities for age ranges and interests when going through our park planning.

Lions Park is where the new City Hall / Fire Hall is being built, and therefore this park will need to be redone. Mayor Elliott inquired if this will be the main ice rink for the City. Superintendent Hanson stated the current plan is for an ice rink, pleasure rink, play area, and new shelter. Member Taylor inquired the timeline for this park. Superintendent Hanson stated it will be about two years. The plan is to potentially use Loveland park for the ice rink in the interim. Member Chapdelaine stated we should consider a skate park or something for teenagers as this location.

Loveland Park has basketball courts, tennis courts, and ball fields. Mayor Elliott stated this park is accessible by bike and therefore could be an opportunity to have something aimed toward older kids. Council discussed this park would be good for pickleball and soccer fields. Another idea is an outdoor ninja warrior challenge course. Member Taylor inquired who uses these ball fields. Superintendent Hanson stated East Ridge Athletic Association uses both ball fields and the batting cages.

Pioneer Park is another park that could potentially have pickleball courts and/or half-court basketball. Mayor Elliott stated she liked that we were looking at play structures that had many different activities for kids to do. Member Taylor stated this park is about a block away from the school, so we should make sure not to duplicate the amenities at the school.

Council briefly discussed the sacred red rock that is currently at the Methodist Church. Planner Buss stated it is complicated as there are multiple tribes involved who all feel they have some ownership in this rock.

Mayor Elliott stated there was a request from a resident to remove the fence at the Grove Street overlook. Superintendent Hanson stated we would need to go through the League and our Attorney's for advice if we were ever planning to remove it.

4. PIONEER DAY

Assistant to the City Administrator Travis Brierley stated Pioneer Days would be challenging to host this year due to uncertainties with to Covid-19 guidelines and getting vendors. We will not have the corn vendor, kid games, etc. so staff is recommending we cancel this year. Council agrees we cannot host Pioneer Days without the vendors that make Pioneer Days a fun and memorable event.

5. BUILDING INSPECTIONS CONTRACT

This item was tabled until the next workshop meeting.

6. COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Photos of the new council chambers were shown to Council. Mayor Elliott explained the horizontal lines on the dais mimics the horizontal lines on the exterior of the building. Council discussed and approved the new renderings of the council chambers. Assistant Brierley will work with the South Washington County Telecommunications Commission for the technology in the chambers.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

City Administrator Deb Hill stated future agenda items include building inspection contract, RFP for televising for our I&I, Newport Island, County 38 Trail, and the City logo.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Elliott adjourned the City Council Workshop at 8:34 p.m. on March 18, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted:
Jill Thiesfeld,
Administrative Assistant II

Signed: _____
Laurie Elliott, Mayor