



**CITY OF NEWPORT
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
NEWPORT CITY HALL
March 3, 2022**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Elliott called the City Council Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. on March 3, 2022.

Mayor Elliott welcomed Cub Scout Pack 817 to the Council Meeting. Mayor Elliott stated the cub scouts are working to earn a badge and will help us with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bill Sumner, residing at 737 21st Street, addressed the Council. Mr. Sumner stated the Red Cross still needs blood donors. Mr. Sumner stated he is wearing gold and blue to stand in solidarity with the citizens of Ukraine. Mr. Sumner thanked his fellow tree advocates who have been out trimming trees to make Newport look good for the future.

6. ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes- February 17, 2022 Regular Council
- B. Planning Commission Minutes- December 2021
- C. Resolution No. 2022-10 Re-Establishing Precincts
- D. Gambling Application- Ducks Unlimited
- E. List of Bills- \$307,597.07

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

7. WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORT

Washington County Sheriff's Deputy Sergeant Bill Harrell stated they arrested three burglars for three different burglaries which were unrelated in the past three weeks. There were able to arrest one burglar this morning based on a call from a concerned citizen. Sergeant Harrell stated they are always willing to check things out if residents notice anything suspicious.

8. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Assistant to the City Administrator Travis Brierley stated Fire Chief Steve Wiley wanted to inform the Council that a gas line was struck yesterday at the corner of Hastings and 21st. A contractor struck the feeder line buried about 15 feet down from the surface when doing tunnel boring for fiber optic cables. Subway was briefly evacuated and businesses along Hastings Avenue North of 21st lost gas service until late last night. The fire department was able to clear this incident around 10:30 p.m. The fire department was then called around midnight to help with a structure fire in St. Paul Park. The fire department will be conducting a live burning on March 12th near Century Avenue and Glen Road. The fire department appreciates this opportunity offered by the homeowner. Neighbor notifications will be mailed out tomorrow.

9. ENGINEER'S REPORT

None.

10. SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Superintendent of Public Works Bruce Hanson stated the floor at the new City Hall / Public Safety Building was poured today and it went well. Mayor Elliott inquired if the contractors will be doing any work on weekends. Superintendent Hanson stated not at this time, but they are trying to catch up, so it is a possibility down the road. Member Taylor inquired about a rough timeframe for the new building. Superintendent Hanson stated they are approximately two months behind.

11. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A. Newport Transit Station Area Comp Plan Amendment

City Planner Nathan Fuerst stated the city initiated a comprehensive plan amendment process to correct several inconsistencies identified by staff. The amendments include a map amendment to the future land use map, a text amendment which would align the zoning districts in the comprehensive plan with those established in the zoning code, and a text amendment to align the densities in the comprehensive plan with those in the zoning code. If the Council adopts the resolutions for these changes, the next step would be to submit the comp plan amendment to the Met Council for their review and approval. The city received a concept plan for development on this site that could only be allowed if the future land use map is amended as it would allow for residential uses in close proximity to the transit station. Member Taylor inquired how many units per acre are proposed for the concept development plan. Matt Yetzer, with MWF Properties, stated the concept plan is 102 units on 3.5-4 acres which equates to 25-30 units per acre.

1. Resolution No. 2022-11 Future Land Use Map Amendment

Planner Fuerst stated this resolution is to classify the parcels as mixed residential and commercial

Member Ingemann motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2022-11 for the Future Land Use Map Amendment. Seconded by Member Chapdelaine. Approved 5-0.

2. Resolution No. 2022-12 Comp Plan Text Amendments

Planner Fuerst stated this resolution is for the two text amendments.

Member Chapdelaine motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2022-12 for the Comp Plan Text Amendments. Seconded by Member Johnson. Approved 5-0.

B. 910 12th Street Land Use

Planner Fuerst stated there was an omission in the comprehensive plan process. The property at 910 12th Street was rezoned in Jun 2011 from residential to mixed-use. The rezoning and associated future land use were not reflected on the 2040 future land use map and the property was subsequently rezoned back to single family residential. If the Council adopts this resolution, it will move to the Met Council for their review followed by a rezoning of this property. Member Taylor stated he was on the Planning Commission when this property was changed from MX to R1 in 2019, and it was a recommended change, and not an omission. Planner Fuerst stated the residents were working with staff and identified their parcel had a zoning designation of R1 and requested it be rezoned. It was determined that a comp plan amendment would be required to rezone their property back from residential R1 to the previous designation as mixed-use. Council discussed and determined the Planning Commission should relook at this based on the new information.

1. Resolution No. 2022-13 Future Land Use Map Amendment

Member Chapdelaine motioned to refer this rezoning question back to the Planning Commission for further consideration and discussion. Seconded by Member Johnson. Approved 5-0.

C. Employee Resignation- Bruce Hanson

City Administrator Deb Hill stated she received a letter from Bruce Hanson informing Council of his notice to resign as the Superintendent of Public Works for the City of Newport on April 29, 2022. Administrator Hill read his letter aloud for the record.

Mayor Elliott stated Superintendent Hanson will be recognized at a future Council meeting but wanted to thank him for the many things he has done for this community including the Public Works building and the new City Hall Public Safety building.

Administrator Hill stated she and the entire staff have thoroughly enjoyed working with Superintendent Hanson and have the utmost respect for him. Superintendent Hanson is professional, fun, and a really great cook.

Member Chapdelaine motioned to accept the letter of resignation from the Superintendent of Public Works Bruce Hanson. Seconded by Member Ingemann. Approved 5-0.

12. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Elliott stated there is a COVID 19 vaccine event at the Newport Library on Wednesday, March 16th from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. They will be offering first and second doses of the Pfizer vaccine for ages five and up as well as first, second, and booster doses for ages twelve and up. You can also pick up free at-home Covid tests.

Mayor Elliott stated they are still taking applications for the Park Board. If you are interested, please go to the city website, and fill out an application.

Member Johnson stated on March 17th, the library is hosting a four-leaf clover craft. The library continues to have peer tutoring and paws to read on Tuesdays. There are many ways you can volunteer at the library, so please reach out to Sara-Marie if you are interested.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Elliott thanked our special guests, Cub Scout Pack 817, for attending the Council Meeting.

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

The City Council Meeting was adjourned 6:17 p.m. on March 3, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted:
Jill Thiesfeld,
Administrative Assistant II

Signed: _____
Laurie Elliott, Mayor