



CITY OF NEWPORT
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CITY COUNCIL MINUTES November 3, 2022

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

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

Assistant to the City Administrator Travis Brierley requested item 13 for the potentially closed meeting be removed from the agenda.

Member Chapdelaine motioned to adopt the agenda with the removal of item 13. Seconded by Member Johnson. Approved 5-0.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bill Sumner, residing at 737 21st Street, addressed the Council. Mr. Sumner stated the city had a Buckthorn removal event on Saturday and had a good turnout. Mr. Sumner attended the award presentation for the Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) and Bev Bartl was present. It was nice to have the presentation for the long-time member awards. Mr. Sumner stated there are options with the South Washington Community Education at the Community Center for various activities that go on throughout the week.

6. ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes- October 6, 2022 Council Workshop
- B. Minutes- October 20, 2022 Regular Council
- C. List of Bills- \$164,429.10

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 reminded residents that winter parking rules are in effect. Sergeant Harrell explained they start out the season handing out notices for vehicles that are in violation for parking on city streets between 2:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. These notices are important reminders because when the snow falls, they will be giving out citations or having vehicles towed.

8. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Steve Wiley gave an update on incidents in October. They had fifteen incidents, with three of those being mutual aid calls into Cottage Grove. Two were structure fires, and one was a structure fire that came in, but was then cancelled. They had a car fire in Newport and the rest were motor vehicle accidents or alarms. Chief Wiley stated he attended a Washington County Chiefs meeting last night where he heard an interesting statistic. In Washington County there have been 97 structure fires, and Newport has responded to 17 of those. That equates to Newport responding to 18% of the structure fires within the entire county.

9. ENGINEER'S REPORT

A. Watermain Material Quotes

City Engineer Jon Herdegen stated he has one item for formal consideration. Washington County is moving forward with their County Road 38 Trail connection. MSA is 90% complete with the plans for the watermain improvements along 21st Street that will be conducted in conjunction with the trail project. Washington County plans to bid that project before the end of the year. There has been high fluctuation in delivery times for construction materials. The county is concerned as they want to complete this work at the beginning of their project, so they requested we purchase the materials ahead of time. The item for consideration is to consider the three quotes for watermain materials. Ferguson Waterworks was the low bid at \$42,523.00. There was a close spread between the quotes, but we have worked with Ferguson in the past. Engineer Herdegen request Council to consider accepting the low bid.

Member Chapdelaine motioned to accept Ferguson Waterworks bid for \$42,523.00 for the watermain materials for the 21st Street watermain replacement. Seconded by Member Johnson. Approved 5-0.

Engineer Herdegen gave an update on the lateral lining project and stated the plans are about 90% complete. They are working through specifications on how to sequence the construction to make sure there is time after televising the lines to provide an opportunity for homeowners to view the televised results and make decisions on how far the lining should go. They are hoping to bring final plans to the second meeting in November or the first meeting in December. Mayor Elliott inquired if the two million that the state is providing toward this project will be enough. Engineer Herdegen stated he thinks we have sufficient funds for the initial project for the lateral lining as well as putting end seals in all the pipes going in and out of manholes. It is unlikely that we will be able to seal every manhole within the project area, but we can pick and choose the manholes that are in the worst condition.

10. SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Superintendent of Public Works Matt Yokiell stated he has nothing formal to report but will stand for questions. Mayor Elliott reminded residents they will have one extra day the compost site will be open and that is on November 19th.

11. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

A. Solar Contract City Hall and Public Safety Building

Assistant Brierley stated we have a gentleman to present on the solar contract for the City Hall / Public Safety Building. The contract has been reviewed by our City Attorney and is very similar to the contract that was presented earlier this year.

Rich Ragatz with ideal Energies presented an overview of the Solar Array contract for the new City Hall. Mr. Ragatz stated in November 2018, ideal Energies put in a ground mounted solar array at the Public Works facility. The new solar array at City Hall will be 85 kilowatts. Ideal Energies will work with our roof contractors to make sure our roof warranty remains valid. The solar array will create energy that's used on-site. iDeal Energies takes care of the maintenance during the payback period, which is 20 years. After 20 years, you get all the energy for free. There is a 25-year warranty with the panels, but they should last 40 years.

Mayor Elliott inquired what the timeline for work and installation will be after the contract is approved. Mr. Ragatz stated they have the product in their warehouse and plan to do the construction in summer 2023.

Member Chapdelaine motioned to approve the Solar Array Purchase, Facility Lease, and Power Purchase Agreements with iDeal Energies for the City Hall / Public Safety Building. Seconded by Member Ingemann. Approved 5-0.

Assistant Brierley reminded residents that the City Hall Open House will be on November 16th from 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

12. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Elliott stated for the City Hall Open House, there will be a ribbon cutting at 2:00 p.m. and the building will be open for self-guided tours and light refreshments. Residents will get a chance to meet the new City Administrator. Mayor Elliott stated the buckthorn removal event was helpful at getting some of the buckthorn out of Bailey School Forest. Mayor Elliott congratulated McDonough Landscaping, a Newport business, that received a Gold Award with the Star Tribune Readers Choice Poll. McDonough Landscaping focuses on residential landscape installations.

Member Ingemann stated Tuesday is election day so get out and vote!

Member Chapdelaine stated he attended the 30-Year celebration of the HPC where they honored Bev Bartl and Jo Bailey for their 30 years of service on the HPC. Both ladies were recognized with trees planted and plaques by each tree at the new City Hall.

Member Taylor stated he attended the Red Rock Corridor meeting. It is at an interesting state right now and there are a lot of questions and uncertainty about the future.

Member Johnson congratulated Bev Bartl and Jo Bailey and thanked them for their years of service on the HPC.

13. ADJOURNMENT

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

The City Council Meeting was adjourned at 6:06 p.m. on November 3, 2022.

Respectfully submitted:
Jill Thiesfeld,
Administrative Assistant II

Signed: _____
Laurie Elliott, Mayor