



CITY OF NEWPORT
2060 1ST Avenue
Newport, MN 55055
(651) 459-5677
ci.newport.mn.us

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
November 17, 2022**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Elliott called the City Council Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. on November 17, 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

Mayor Elliott stated there is one addition to the City Administrators report which is an update on the city construction project.

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

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bill Sumner, residing at 737 21st Street, addressed the Council. Mr. Sumner thanked Tom, Tony, and Zach for running for City Council. Mr. Sumner also thanked the Newport residents that have chosen Tom and Bill to continue to represent them. Mr. Sumner stated that during the ribbon cutting of the new City Hall, he spoke with Assistant Fire Chief Jason Joa who explained several pieces of the apparatus, and Sergeant Bill Harrell, who gave him a tour of the Sheriff's area. Mr. Sumner stated he attended the volunteer appreciation dinner at Tinucci's where they recognized TEN-E Packaging, Newport PTO, and Mr. Sumner.

6. ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes-** October 20, 2022 Council Workshop
- B. Minutes-** November 3, 2022 Regular Council
- C. Minutes-** Park Board September 22, 2022
- D. Gambling Application-** SPP Lion's
- E. Resolution No 2022-44-** Official Depository
- F. Resolution No 2022-45-** Official Safety Deposit Box
- G. List of Bills-** \$237,856.01
- H. Financial Statement-** October 2022

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

7. NEWPORT FIRE RELIEF

A. PERA

Derek Johnson, with the Newport Fire Relief, presented to Council. Mr. Johnson proposed the Fire Relief move their retirement plan from Harmon & Hartman to the State Plan of Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA), and to increase the retirement benefit from \$4,200 to \$4,500 per year of service. This change would save the Fire Relief approximately \$15,000 per year in audits and fees. The cost to the city would be approximately \$850. Mr. Johnson requested Council consider accepting this change. Mayor Elliott stated PERA is a professionally managed investment plan. Member Ingemann stated he is a past member of the relief association, and this is the best thing they could do. Member Chapdelaine inquired if the \$850 is an annual contribution from the city. Mr. Johnson stated no, this would be a one-time contribution. Mayor Elliott inquired what the acronyms VFRA and SVF stand for. Mr. Johnson stated the VFRA is the Harmon & Hartman Volunteer Fire Relief Association, and SVF is State Volunteer Fire. Mayor Elliott inquired if the fire investment board would be disbanded. Mr. Johnson stated yes, there would be a small committee, but any kind of request for benefit increase would come directly from the Fire Chief. Mayor Elliott inquired if the fire relief fund is under, would a request come to the city. Mr. Johnson stated yes, but that is why they are keeping the benefit amount low, so they have a buffer.

Member Ingemann motioned to increase the retirement benefit amount of annual service by \$300, from \$4,200 to \$4,500 per year and for the Newport Fire Relief Association to move to Public Employees Retirement Association's Statewide Volunteer Firefighter Plan effective January 1, 2023 with a vesting schedule of 40% at 5 years, increasing 4% until 100% at 20 years. Seconded by Member Chapdelaine. Approved 4-0-1 (Taylor).

8. WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORT

No Report.

9. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Steve Wiley thanked everyone that come to the open house as it was well attended and personally rewarding. It was a great event for the community and past/present firefighters. Chief Wiley stated their annual food and toy drive coming up on December 4th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Newport Center. The food drive benefits the Friends in Need Food Shelf. They will be collecting food, toys, and cash or check donations. Checks can be made out to Friends in Need.

10. ENGINEER'S REPORT

City Engineer Jon Herdegen stated he has nothing formal to report. Mayor Elliott stated earlier this year Engineer Herdegen worked on a couple of legislative items related to I&I projects. The legislature did not approve several bills related to financing and so those will be going back out into the new session in January and Engineer Herdegen will keep us updated.

11. SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

A. H&U Pay Request- \$43,098.07

Superintendent of Public Works Matt Yokiell stated the first item is the H+U Pay Request No. 22 in the amount of \$43,098.07. Most of this money was for paving the parking lots. Superintendent Yokiell stated contractors are finishing up punch list items and we are putting some final touches on the building.

Member Johnson motioned to approve Pay Request No. 22 in the amount of \$43,098.07 to H+U. Seconded by Member Chapdelaine. Approved 5-0.

B. Vac Truck Purchase

Superintendent Yokiell stated we worked out an agreement with the Watershed District and St. Paul Park to purchase a Vac and Jetting Truck. The benefit for the Watershed is we have been installing grit chambers which take suspended solids out of the storm water before it enters the river. From here we could use the Vac Truck to suck the debris out of the chambers and keep the sediment out of the river. Superintendent Yokiell stated the agreement would be for the two cities to share the truck if we agree to clean the grit chambers for the next 20 years. Each city would pay \$100,000 and the Watershed would pay the difference. Mayor Elliott inquired if the Vac Truck has other uses besides cleaning the grit chambers. Superintendent Yokiell stated yes, we would also be using the truck to clean the sanitary sewer. Member Johnson inquired where the truck would be kept. Superintendent Yokiell stated the plan is to keep it at St. Paul Park. They still need to iron out the details about scheduling, insurance, maintenance, etc. Mayor Elliott stated the \$100,000 for Newport's portion is coming from Federal American Rescue Plan Act so it is not impacting our tax levy or budget.

Member Chapdelaine motioned to set aside \$100,000 of the city's American Rescue Plan Act funds to be used for the purchase of a Vac Truck. Seconded by Member Ingemann. Approved 5-0.

Member Ingemann motioned to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the cities of Newport and St. Paul Park and the South Washington Watershed district. Seconded by Member Chapdelaine. Approved 5-0.

Member Taylor stated he has been noticing a lot of ash borer. Superintendent Yokiell stated they have a contractor lined up to start removal as they have approximately \$67,000 from the DNR in a grant that was secured this past spring for removal and replacement of those trees.

Mayor Elliott inquired how many library windows have been restored thus far. Superintendent Yokiell stated the contractor has two of them out. He has framed in the decorative arch over the doors and is ready for paint but needs warmer weather.

12. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mayor Elliott welcomed our new City Administrator, Joe Hatch, to his first Council meeting with the city.

A. Building Inspections Contract- West St Paul

Assistant to the City Administrator Travis Brierley stated the first item is an inspections contract with West St. Paul. Newport had been using Cottage Grove for building inspections, rental inspections, and code enforcement, but those contracts have either ended or are coming to an end. The city drafted this contract with West St. Paul, and it has been reviewed by our attorney. The code enforcement and rental inspection fees are the same, however the percentage we pay for review and inspections on the building permits is going up to 82%. We did an analysis to make sure we can still cover our costs with our permitting fees. Code enforcement is \$100 per case, and rental inspections are \$37 per unit. Assistant Brierley explained we need permitting software to work with West St. Paul, so there is an agreement from Central Square for \$44,000 for that software. Currently, our permitting software is held on the City of Cottage Grove's server, and we tap into it. The \$44,000 covers initial setup fees and integration of all properties in Newport. There is an annual fee of \$5,000. The permitting software payment will come out of the building inspection revenue.

Member Johnson motioned to approve the building inspection and related services agreement between the City of Newport and the City of West St. Paul effective January 1, 2022. Seconded by Member Ingemann. Approved 5-0.

Member Taylor motioned to approve the purchase of Central Square software for building inspection services in the amount of \$44,000. Seconded by Member Johnson. Approved 5-0.

B. Resolution No 2022-43- 2022 General Election Canvassing

Assistant Brierley stated Resolution No 2022-43 is for canvassing of the 2022 general election. The part that the City Council will be canvassing is for city elected positions. We had two Council positions up for election this year. Council Member Tom Ingemann had been re-elected to another term with 29.68% of the vote. Bill Sumner will be rejoining the Council next year with 28.74% of the vote. Tony Mahmood was not elected and retained 21.39% of the vote, and Zachary Murphy was also not elected and retained 19.09% of the vote. There were also 26 write-ins for 1.11% of the vote. Assistant Brierley thanked all the election judges for their hard work and the voters in Newport for casting their vote to show their support.

Superintendent Yokiell inquired if the next election will be held at the new City Hall. Assistant Brierley stated the city is required to do a resolution by the end of the year stating its polling place for the following year.

Member Chapdelaine motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2022-43 – Canvassing the municipal election of November 8, 2022. Seconded by Member Johnson. Approved 5-0.

C. City Hall Concrete Update

City Attorney Alissa Harrington stated she wanted to give Council an update on the legal ongoing issues regarding the concrete. Attorney Harrington stated she received notification from opposing Council that they had submitted the claim to their insurance. Their insurance processed it and turned around and made a claim against another parties' performance bond. This means they are attempting to work it out among themselves and not involve the city, which is good news. Attorney Harrington will be sure to keep Administrator Hatch and Council updated.

13. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Elliott stated she is very excited to have Administrator Hatch on board and looks forward to working with him on many projects. Mayor Elliott stated the City Hall / Public Safety Building ribbon cutting ceremony was very well attended with around 75 people. Mayor Elliott stated she attended the 3M work group, which is in relation to the \$750 million dollar settlement money for PFAS. She also attended the Planning Commission Meeting and the Volunteer Appreciation dinner.

Member Chapdelaine stated he is happy that we have agreements for interconnects between both Cottage Grove and Woodbury. The federal EPA came out with possible recommendations to lower the health-based standards for how much PFAS is considered too much. The recommended potential numbers are 10 times lower than they are right now. There is concern that \$750 million may not be enough. Another topic of discussion is whether water gets softened at the plant level as opposed to individual homes. The cost is approximately 100 million dollars for each community and the 3M money cannot be used for that. Member Chapdelaine explained that priority one money is for clean drinking water and priority two money is set aside for recreational assets. Newport is working to show plans for our riverfront.

Member Ingemann stated he is meeting with the Cable Commission tomorrow.

Member Taylor stated the last Planning Commission meeting had two public hearings for CUP's. One for Keller Fence on 7th Avenue and the other for Mota's Motors on 7th Avenue. There was a good discussion on both items, but they were tabled so they won't be coming to Council until late December or early January.

Member Johnson stated the fall newsletter was mailed and highlights for the library include a Thanksgiving Napkin Ring Craft on November 21st, adult craft time on November 26th, and Paws to read on November 29th. Reminder that the library is always looking for volunteers.

14. POTENTIALLY CLOSED MEETING

(Meeting closed pursuant to the Attorney-Client Privilege under Minn. Stat. 13D.05, Subd. 3 (b), to discuss 1545 7th Ave and Ground Storage Tank #3.)

Member Johnson motioned to close the City Council Meeting under MN Statute 13D.05. Seconded by Member Ingemann. Approved 5-0.

The City Council Meeting was closed at 6:38 p.m. on November 17, 2022.

Member Chapdelaine motioned to open the City Council Meeting. Seconded by Member Ingemann. Approved 5-0.

The City Council Meeting was opened at 7:10 p.m. on November 17, 2022.

Member Ingemann motioned to find a neutral engineering expert regarding issues related to GSR-3. Seconded by Member Taylor. Approved 5-0.

Member Ingemann motioned to close the City Council Meeting under MN Statute 13D.05. Seconded by Member Chapdelaine. Approved 5-0.

The City Council Meeting was closed at 7:11 p.m. on November 17, 2022.

Member Chapdelaine motioned to open the City Council Meeting. Seconded by Member Ingemann. Approved 5-0.

The City Council Meeting was opened at 8:28 p.m. on November 17, 2022.

15. ADJOURNMENT

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

The City Council Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. on November 17, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted:
Jill Thiesfeld,
Administrative Assistant II.

Signed: _____
Laurie Elliott, Mayor