



**CITY OF NEWPORT  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
NEWPORT CITY HALL  
February 17, 2022**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Elliott called the City Council Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. on February 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**

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

**5. STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS**

Mayor Elliott presented the State of the City Address to the public. Mayor Elliott discussed the highlights of Newport's accomplishments in 2021. These include the construction of the new public service building, securing 3M settlement funds for safe drinking water connections with Woodbury and Cottage Grove, the park survey that was given in order to establish priorities for updating our parks, an update to our website which is in the works for 2022, refinery safety bill that requires all refineries in MN to have a full-time firefighting crew on-site at all times, revising our city logo, and updating our nuisance code. Mayor Elliott thanked the many people involved in these various projects for all their hard work in moving the city forward.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Bill Sumner, residing at 737 21<sup>st</sup> Street, addressed the Council. Mr. Sumner stated he continues to grow his hair out as he plans to donate it to Locks of Love. Mr. Sumner stated the Red Cross continues to need blood donations. Mr. Sumner stated he found a cell phone on Hastings Avenue which he turned in to the Sheriff's office. Finally, Mr. Sumner discussed that he attended the Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) meeting and was elected President of the HPC for the upcoming year.

**7. PRESENTATIONS**

**A. Newport Community Garden**

Marge Meconis and Susan Lindoo gave a presentation to Council on the Newport Community Garden. Volunteers from Newport on the Move started the garden in 2011 near Fire Station 2 off Glen Road. In 2017, the Community Garden was moved to a new site on the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 15<sup>th</sup> Street. The garden received a grant from the Refinery to purchase fencing materials and the Newport Public Works Department installed the fencing. There are permeant paths and water at the site. The site includes a large giving garden and 16 individual plots available for rent. In 2011, the giving garden gave 729 pounds of produce and in 2021 they gave 2,073 pounds of produce to the Friends in Need Food Shelf. They are now working to expand the garden and make larger individual plots. Ms. Lindoo thanked the many supporters of the garden and stated they are always in need of more volunteers to help.

## **8. ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Minutes-** January 20, 2022 Regular Council
- B. Minutes-** January 20, 2022 Council Workshop
- C. Minutes-** February 3, 2022 Special Council
- D. Minutes-** February 3, 2022 Regular Council
- E. Minutes-** February 3, 2022 Council Workshop
- F. Planning Commission Minutes** (Approved)
- G. Resolution No. 2022-09-** Abating Assessments
- H. Massage License-** Ochis
- I. Kennel License-** Buetow
- J. List of Bills-** \$178,997.11
- K. Financial Statement-** January 2022

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

## **9. WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORT**

Washington County Sheriff's Deputy Sergeant Bill Harrell stated he is pleased to announce they will be hosting a Citizens Academy this year, which will be the first one since COVID. They will be accepting applications starting in March and you can contact Sergeant Harrell if you are interested. Sergeant Harrell believes the academy will be on Monday evenings for 12 weeks. It will be a great opportunity for the public to learn about the various components of the sheriff's office.

## **10. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT**

None.

## **11. ENGINEER'S REPORT**

### **A. Sanitary Sewer Lining (I&I)**

- 1. Engineer's Report**
- 2. MSA Scope/Proposal**
- 3. Sanitary Sewer Lateral Lining Agreement**
- 4. Public Engagement Task Order**
- 5. Assessment Procedure Task Order**

City Engineer Jon Herdegen stated at the January 20<sup>th</sup> workshop there was a discussion on the sanitary sewer lining and manhole sealing project that is funded through the 2020 bonding bill. There are three formal agreements laid out in the packet for Council's consideration. These include the sanitary sewer lateral lining agreement for \$309,500, the public engagement task order for an estimated \$12,000, and the assessment procedure task order for an estimated \$8,500. These agreements outline the roles and responsibility of MSA as well as the city and have been reviewed by the City Attorney.

Mayor Elliott informed the public that this is a comprehensive project involving 228 residential service laterals and 122 manholes. The plan for this project is to help reduce our Met Council costs for treatment of our sanitary sewer lines.

Member Ingemann motioned to approve the Sanitary Sewer Lateral Lining Agreement. Seconded by Member Chapdelaine. Approved 5-0.

Member Johnson motioned to approve the Public Engagement Task Order. Seconded by Member Ingemann. Approved 5-0.

Member Taylor motioned to approve the Assessment Procedure Task Order. Seconded by Member Ingemann. Approved 5-0.

Engineer Herdegen stated at the last workshop we reviewed our capital improvement plan and identified three priority projects. We worked with representative Karla Bigham and representative Frankie to include those as requests for infrastructure projects. Mayor Elliott stated our three priority projects are estimated at \$2 million, \$5 million, and \$6 million. These are expensive projects and that is why we need to advocate effectively to help us with funding for these projects.

Engineer Herdegen stated the 3M settlement subgroup met yesterday and reviewed the procedure for applying for planning and construction grants. We will need to meet with Woodbury and Cottage Grove Staff to plan for the interconnects.

## **12. SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT**

### **A. Pay Request H&U- \$216,815.67**

Superintendent of Public Works Bruce Hanson stated there is a pay request number 13 from H+U for \$216,815.67 for labor and materials.

Member Chapdelaine motioned to approve Pay Request No. 13 for H+U in the amount of \$216,815.67. Seconded by Member Johnson. Approved 5-0.

### **B. Sale of MNDot Property**

Superintendent Hanson stated the next item is the sale of MNDot property. This property is located behind well number two and the pedestrian bridge. This is a piece of property that was bought by MNDot to allow access to build the pedestrian bridge. They no longer need this property and offered it for sale to the city. Superintendent Hanson stated he does not believe the city has a need for this property and recommends we notify the state so they can put it up for public sale.

Member Ingemann motioned to decline the offer to purchase Parcel ID 36.028.22.32.010 in the amount of \$32,000. Seconded by Member Chapdelaine. Approved 5-0.

## **13. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

None

## **14. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS**

Mayor Elliott reminded the public that there is one opening on our Park Board. If you are interested in applying, please go to the city's website. There will be some fun activity coming with the Park Board as they make plans to upgrade our playgrounds. Mayor Elliott stated that Xfinity has an affordable connectivity program (ACP) where eligible households can get a credit up to \$30 per month towards internet service. Visit xfinity.com/acp to apply for that credit.

Member Taylor stated the Planning Commission met last Tuesday and discussed discrepancy in zoning near the transit station, potential acquisition with the land use for Croix Holding property, and a potential rezone of a single-family parcel on 12<sup>th</sup> Street.

**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 6:31 p.m. on February 17, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted:  
Jill Thiesfeld,  
Administrative Assistant II

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