



**CITY OF NEWPORT
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES
NEWPORT CITY HALL
April 7, 2022**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Elliott called the City Council Workshop to order at 6:20 p.m. on April 7, 2022.

2. 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.

3. PIONEER PARK

Superintendent of Public Works Matt Yokiell provided a handout to Council for the updated playground plans at Pioneer Park. Council discussed minor changes such as the removal of the anchor and replacing the trapper with an animal or gender-neutral option. The timeframe for ordering equipment is approximately four months. Final plans should be brought to a future meeting for approval.

4. BIOLAWN

Dave Langer with Langer Real Estate Services, Aaron Johnson and Will Haselbauer with bioLawn, and Nate Erickson with Transwestern addressed the Council. Mr. Langer stated he has been involved with several business deals in Newport and believes bioLawn would be a good fit for this community.

Mr. Johnson stated they took the feedback from the last meeting and addressed the economic benefits, the relationship with the neighborhood, and site improvements. They also put together a rendering of the site. They are looking for feedback to determine if Council supports their business and can move forward.

Mr. Johnson stated they provide residential home services for lawn care, tree care, and holiday lighting. They do not do landscaping, mowing, or snowplowing. They are focused on plant health care such as fertilization, disease control treatments, and pest management. The chemicals they would be using would be kept onsite. They use the lowest toxicity products, as well as natural and organic products. They employ twenty-five people, and the business is currently located in Oakdale. Mr. Johnson stated bioLawn would occupy the Northwest section of the property. The Southern property would be redeveloped to improve that area and bring more businesses to Newport.

Council discussed and is in consensus for bioLawn to proceed forward. Council believes they would need a Conditional Use Permit (CUP). Mr. Johnson stated their bank financing would require an approved CUP. City Planner Nathan Fuerst stated a CUP requires a public hearing.

5. UPCOMING CITY EVENTS

A. Pioneer Day

City Administrator Deb Hill stated Matt Yokiell, Deb Schulz, and Pauline Schottmuller met to discuss Pioneer Day, which will be held on Sunday, August 14th. Elvis will not be performing this year, but the car show is on. Staff is currently looking for someone to cook the corn but will not know for a few weeks. Staff has been booking entertainment which includes a band, K9 demo, and a potential raptor presentation. Mayor Elliott stated the Refinery would like to volunteer.

B. Grand Opening/Open House- New City Hall and Public Safety Building

Mayor Elliott wanted to discuss the grand opening for the new City Hall. Mayor Elliott thought it would be nice to have a giveaway at each section (Administration, Fire, and Police) of the building and wanted Councils feedback. Member Chapdelaine stated he likes that idea as it will give folks a chance to walk around the entire building and meet staff at each location. Staff can research promotional giveaway items and pricing.

C. HPC 30th Anniversary

Mayor Elliott stated she will meet with Bob Vogel next week. There are two members, Jo Bailey, and Bev Bartl, that have been on HPC for 30 years and it would be nice to recognize them with a resolution of appreciation. Another idea would be to plant a tree for them at the new City Hall.

6. FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

Administrator Hill stated upcoming agenda items include a resolution for Superintendent Hanson for his retirement, tower ordinance, I/I presentation, and the audit.

Administrator Hill stated there will be an open house for Bruce’s retirement on Wednesday, April 27th from 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at City Hall. Light refreshments will be provided.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Elliott adjourned the City Council Workshop at 7:44 p.m. on April 7, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted:
Jill Thiesfeld,
Administrative Assistant II

Signed: _____
Laurie Elliott, Mayor