



CITY OF NEWPORT
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COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES November 3, 2022

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Elliott called the City Council Workshop to order at 6:07 p.m. on November 3, 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. REFINERY PRESENTATION

Kate Blair Klossner, Government Affairs Manager, and Austin Fontenot, General Manager for Marathon Refinery, presented to Council. They gave an update on the St. Paul Park Refinery and inquired about the needs of the community. Mayor Elliott thanked Marathon Refinery for their generous donation in sponsoring Pioneer Days.

Superintendent of Public Works Matt Yokiell stated he has been working with Aaron Christy regarding a potential partnership for a dog park for Newport. The proposed area for the dog park is in the buffer zone between 5th and 7th Avenue and 2nd street. This area has water available as well as space for parking. Superintendent Yokiell is working to get pricing for fencing and will get that information to Mr. Christy. Mayor Elliott inquired the threshold for local approval. Ms. Klossner stated the local approval threshold is \$5,000 and anything larger than \$5,000 would require a higher level of approval. Mayor Elliott explained that the dog park is a high priority and very meaningful for our community. Ms. Klossner understands the importance and will advocate on the city's behalf.

Mayor Elliott inquired about emissions. Mr. Fontenot stated he can provide emissions reports showing their reductions.

4. CIP/BUDGET UPDATE

Assistant to the City Administrator Travis Brierley stated staff updated the CIP. The goals were to put items in the CIP, estimate life cycles / replacement costs, stabilize the transfers going from the general fund to the CIP’s, and avoid significant fluctuations in the future. Council discussed park priorities. Mayor Elliott stated the second priority out of the parks survey was a dog park, and the third priority was to fix our sport courts. Council discussed new play equipment at Busy Beaver and an updated ice rink at Loveland. The direction for staff is to reduce the funds for the hockey rink from \$150,000 to \$125,000 and use the remaining \$25,000 for the potential dog park fencing. They should take an additional \$50,000 out of NEDA for the Busy Beaver play structure. The Busy Beaver play structure will most likely need another \$15,000 to \$25,000. This year we will use the current boards for the hockey rink, but next year we can investigate something else. The Lions Park money would be used to redo the tennis courts.

Assistant Brierley presented the 2023 budget update. The preliminary proposed levy was 3.7 million but had unknown factors including health care costs and updates to the CIP. Staff found our health care costs increased 7% and discussed the budget if our CIP is reduced by \$220,000.

City Engineer Jon Herdegen informed Council about a MPCA Grant, and stated they recently completed a sanitary sewer study for a future development north of Bailey Road.

5. FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

Assistant Brierley stated future agenda items include final CIP/Budget, TNT Presentation, Planning Commission Public Hearings for CUP’s, Fire Relief proposal for PERA, and vacation buyout.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Elliott adjourned the City Council Workshop at 8:01 p.m. on November 3, 2022.

Respectfully submitted:
Jill Thiesfeld,
Administrative Assistant II

Signed: _____
Laurie Elliott, Mayor