



CITY OF NEWPORT  
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## CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES February 2, 2023

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Elliott called the City Council Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. on February 2, 2023.

### 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 Bill Sumner.

Not Present (0): None.

### 4. ADOPT AGENDA

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

### 5. STATE OF THE CITY

Mayor Elliott presented the State of the City address to share Newport's many accomplishments in 2022. The new City Hall Public Safety building opened which addressed safety concerns, space needs, ADA compliance issues, and maintenance efficiencies. It was built with future growth in mind and will serve Newport into the 22<sup>nd</sup> century. The city rolled out a new logo and website along with the building opening. Another project that was complete in September was the new ADA complaint playground in Pioneer Park. Staff is currently working on the second highest priority which is bringing a dog park to Newport. We have also been laying the groundwork to expand river access to our residents. Last spring Mayor Elliott applied for \$350,000 in congressionally directed spending which was approved by congress last month. Funds will be used to address flooding and storm water issues along the Mississippi River and for items such as land acquisition and starting the design and development of river amenities. In November our Heritage Preservation Commission, along with two member Jo Bailey and Beverly Bartle, celebrated 30 years. Both members were recognized at a reception and with a tree planted in their honor. Our Public Works Superintendent Bruce Hanson retired after 40 years, and we promoted from within and hired Matt Yokiell as our new Superintendent. Our City Administrator Deb Hill also retired after almost 10 years. We worked with an executive recruiter and welcomed Joe Hatch as our new City Administrator in November. In 2023 we will see construction of a trail extension connecting the north side of 21<sup>st</sup> Street to the pedestrian bridge on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue. This year we will be lining the T-intersections of 228 residential sewer service lines and sealing 122 manholes to reduce rainwater inflow in the area. We are also seeking infrastructure funding from the legislature for two additional street projects. Clean water is important to Mayor Elliott. Last year she spoke about Newport securing 3-million dollars in 3M settlement funds for drinking water connections to the cities of Woodbury and Cottage Grove. The Council authorized the design, bidding, and construction administration for our connections to those systems so Newport residents can enjoy the same water quality as the larger cities surrounding us. Lastly, we have just begun a planning process for future economic and business development in Newport. This will include corridor studies along Hastings and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Mayor Elliott thanked Newport staff, our consultant services, and our county, state, and federal legislators for their assistance.

## 6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

## 7. ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA

A. **Minutes-** December 15, 2022 Regular Council

B. **Minutes-** January 5, 2023 Regular Council

C. **Lawful Gambling Application-** St Thomas Aquinas Church

D. **Liability Coverage-** Does Not Waive Tort Limits

E. **Resolution No 2023-12-** Restricted Parking Hastings Avenue

F. **Resolution No 2023-14-** Well Two Maintenance

G. **Resolution No 2023-15-** Off-Sale Liquor License LOS Liquor Inc (Newport Liquor)

H. **List of Bills-** \$79,523.00

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

## 8. WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORT

Washington County Sheriff's Deputy Sergeant Bill Harrell had no formal report. Member Sumner inquired if folks are staying off the roads so Public Works can plow the streets. Sergeant Harrell stated they have had to write a few citations. The deputies do not like writing citations and hope people will keep their cars off the streets so Public Works can plow safely.

## 9. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Steve Wiley had no formal report. Mayor Elliott inquired if Chief Wiley has stats on January calls. Chief Wiley stated they had about twelve calls (no mutual aid calls). Member Sumner inquired about the annual tug of war battle between the kids and the Fire Departments at the Family Fun Night. Chief Wiley stated the Fire Department lost for about the seventh year in a row to the kids.

## 10. ENGINEER'S REPORT

### A. Lateral Lining Improvements

#### 1. Resolution No 2023-13- Approving Plans and Specifications and Ordering Advertisements for Bids

City Engineer Jon Herdegen stated they completed the lateral lining improvements plans and specifications and submitted those to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and the Public Facilities Authority (PFA) for review. The MPCA reviews the technical specifications and the PFA reviews the financing. Engineer Herdegen stated they received approval from both organizations and are now requesting Council approval of the plans and specifications and to direct staff to solicit for bids. There were a few corrections to the Engineers report in the packet. Engineer Herdegen stated they plan to advertise this project three times in the Pioneer Press; twice in the Sunday paper, and once in a Thursday paper. They also changed the pre-bid meeting to February 21<sup>st</sup>, and plan to open bids on March 8<sup>th</sup>. They would begin in April and the schedule allows for six weeks to televise the lines and an additional six weeks for property owners to review and decide if they want to extend the lateral liner. The goal would be to have everything completed by the end of the year. Mayor Elliott inquired if the televising work is obtrusive. Engineer Herdegen stated the goal for televising is to be as minimally obtrusive as possible, but there may be cases where the contractor will need to televise from inside the home toward the main. Mayor Elliott inquired when the actual work would begin. Engineer Herdegen stated most likely at the end of June. Mayor Elliott stated this project is mainly for the west side of Highway 61 and the property owners affected have been notified. Mayor Elliott inquired if Engineer Herdegen can explain why homeowners may choose to extend their liner. Engineer Herdegen stated the main objective of this project is to eliminate rainwater getting into the sanitary sewer system and typically the penetrations occur within the first 10 feet of the line. However, from that point to the house there are joints in the pipe or areas where roots may cause infiltration, and therefore some homeowners may choose to extend the liner.

Member Sumner inquired if a homeowner could reach out to MSA if they have questions about extending the liner. Engineer Herdegen stated there will be a report that comes with the televised inspection that would identify any deficiencies in the line.

Member Sumner motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2023-13 – Approving Plans and Specifications and Ordering Advertisements for Bids. Seconded by Member Ingemann. Approved 5-0.

Engineer Herdegen updated Council on the water interconnects with Woodbury and Cottage Grove. MSA will meet with both communities in about a month to start some preliminary planning. MSA submitted a grant application through MPCA, and the review process takes around 6-8 weeks.

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

Superintendent of Public Works Matt Yokiell gave Council an overview of a new Parks and Trails app that is available on the city's website. On the parks page when you click on the link it brings up a map of the city. From here, you can find your current location, parks, trails (paved and unpaved), park amenities, park reservation application, etc. Mayor Elliott stated it is nice to see our trails in one place for people who like to go walking and hiking. Member Sumner inquired about the city's salt usage this season. Superintendent Yokiell stated things are going well and they can still purchase more salt if need be. Public Works has been working to reduce our salt use across the city.

## **12. ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

### **A. Temporary Ordinance No 2023-01- Moratorium**

City Attorney Alissa Harrington stated based on conversations from the workshop, staff drafted a temporary, short-term moratorium that allows staff and Council to identify more specific areas and uses that should be studied during the longer planning process. This covers all new non-residential development in the business, industrial, and mixed-use areas guaranteeing that no additional non-conforming uses would be started. This temporary ordinance would then be replaced by a longer, more targeted moratorium that is expected to be ready in March. Council has the option of doing nothing, adopting the draft interim ordinance as written, or amending and adopting the draft interim ordinance. Mayor Elliott inquired if this is a 90-day interim ordinance. Attorney Harrington stated that is correct. City Administrator Joe Hatch stated the city planner should have a recommendation for Council for the workshop on February 16<sup>th</sup>. Staff will be looking for feedback on the identified district, zoning, and the limitations that could potentially be put in place. From there staff will develop a longer-term moratorium for Council to review and potentially approve at the first meeting in March. If/when Council approves the longer-term moratorium, we would then rescind the 90-day moratorium.

Member Sumner motioned to adopt the Temporary Ordinance No. 2023-01 – Establishing a three-month study period and moratorium on new non-residential uses in the B, I, and MX districts. Seconded by Member Chapdelaine. Approved 5-0.

Administrator Hatch stated we have a training scheduled for next Tuesday for our Planning Commission, staff, and Council on land use. The trainers include a representative from the League of MN Cities, a community development director, our city attorney, and our city planner's supervisor.

## **13. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS**

Mayor Elliott stated she met with County Commissioner Karla Biggam and St. Paul Park Mayor Sandi Dingle to discuss common interests at the county level. Mayor Elliott stated she went to the public officials update at the Marathon Refinery. The refinery talked about their shutdown process and the experts they bring in to work with various functions within the refinery. They discussed safety equipment they have onsite for emergencies. They also discussed how they are working towards cleaner fuel and cleaner energy.

Member Ingemann stated he met with the Cable Commission last Thursday where they elected officers.

Member Chapdelaine stated he also attended the refineries public official dinner.

Member Taylor stated he appreciated all the work that went into the winter family fun night. Member Taylor stated Loveland Park has great potential for various winter activities.

Member Sumner stated he attended the family fun night and the meeting at the refinery. At the refinery meeting Member Sumner was able to sit with the general manager and the head of their government affairs and asked specifically for more support for Newport. They both agreed and are looking forward to ways they can support Newport. The HPC annual meeting is coming up in February and Member Sumner encourages folks to attend. Member Sumner stated Punxsutawney Phil says we are in for six more weeks of winter!

#### **14. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The City Council Meeting was adjourned at 6:22 p.m. on February 2, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted:  
Jill Thiesfeld,  
Administrative Assistant II

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