



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

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES February 16, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Elliott called the City Council Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. on February 16, 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 Chapdelaine motioned to adopt the agenda. Seconded by Member Ingemann. Approved 5-0.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

6. ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes-January 19, 2023 Regular Council
- B. Minutes-February 2, 2023 Regular Council
- C. Trolling Agreement
- D. List of Bills- \$165,125.52
- E. Resolution No 2023-16- Fee Schedule
- F. Financial Statement- January 2022

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

7. WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORT

Washington County Sheriff's Deputy Sergeant Bill Harrell stated on February 6th, there was a homicide at the Newport transit station. Within the first hour there were several detectives working on this case. The talented and knowledgeable detectives were able to solve this case relatively quickly and within twelve hours of the call, the suspect was under arrest. Mayor Elliott thanked the detectives for their hard work and fast response time. Residents were relieved knowing this case had been resolved quickly. Mayor Elliott extended her condolences to the victims' family.

Member Sumner inquired if there are any routine problems occurring in the city. Sergeant Harrell stated no major issues, but deputies have been writing parking tickets.

8. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Steve Wiley stated they received a FEMA grant for \$120,00, which will cover about 50% of their needs for new air packs. Firefighters wear the air packs when they go into dangerous environments. Mayor Elliott inquired the average life of an air pack. Chief Wiley stated their air packs are anywhere from 13-18 years old which is well past their useful life. A number of the packs are out of service because they do not make parts anymore. Chief Wiley stated they would have replaced these air packs sooner, but they were notified in early 2023 regarding the FEMA grant they applied for in 2019. Mayor Elliott stated she is grateful to FEMA for getting us the grant. Member Sumner inquired if this is on our CIP. Chief Wiley stated there is \$170,000 in the CIP for air packs.

Chief Wiley stated the Newport Fire Department will be taking over responsibility for the Washington County airboat starting the week of April 10th, with an all-day training on April 15th. The Fire Department will be responsible for getting the airboat to the scene and operating it for search and rescue emergencies. Mayor Elliott stated this opportunity is possible with our new building as in the past we did not have the space. Chief Wiley stated the airboat is currently housed in Cottage Grove. Member Sumner stated he saw the Fire Department recently had cold water training and inquired if this is ongoing training. Chief Wiley stated they have done annual cold-water training for the past five years.

9. ENGINEER'S REPORT

City Engineer Jon Herdegen stated the lateral lining project is out for bid. The project bids on March 8th. They are holding a pre-bid meeting for contractors interested in this project next Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Engineer Herdegen stated Washington County has completed their project plans and specifications for the County Road 38 Trail. The city will be replacing some water main as part of that project. They are sending their plans to MnDOT state aid for review. Engineer Herdegen expects the County to come to a Council meeting in March or April with a cost share agreement.

10. SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

A. H&U Pay Request- \$69,955.00

Superintendent of Public Works Matt Yokiell stated he received pay request No. 25 in the amount of \$69,955 for H+U. Most of this money is paid out retainage and the rest is the final payment for site work that took place.

Member Sumner motioned to approve Pay Application No. 25 in the amount of \$69,955.00 to H+U. Seconded by Member Chapdelaine. Approved 5-0.

Superintendent Yokiell stated in mid-February they noticed the Glen Road Pond turning a shade of red or pink. This is caused by a natural bacteria that grows underneath the ice or as the ice is melting. There was a post explaining the red pond on the city website and city Facebook page along with a link to learn more about it. Superintendent Yokiell cautioned folks to stay away from any discolored ice as it can be toxic to people and pets if enough is consumed.

Superintendent Yokiell stated the Magellan Pipeline at the Bailey School Forest is in the process of clearing their pipeline easement through the woods. This is a 50-foot easement so there are many trees and brush that are being cleared.

Superintendent Yokiell stated they are trying to maintain the ice at the rink as long as possible.

Member Sumner inquired how Newport is doing with water main breaks. Superintendent Yokiell stated we had two water main breaks so far this year, so we are doing good.

11. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

City Administrator Joe Hatch had no formal report.

12. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Elliott stated she attended a number of meetings related to our congressionally directed spending including pre-disaster mitigation, environmental planning and historic preservation, and national technical review overview. Mayor Elliott stated she and Administrator Hatch had a zoom meeting with the Region 5 FEMA group who will assist us with our application materials and the final approval of the project.

Member Chapdelaine stated the land use training that Administrator Hatch set up was excellent and the presentations were well done.

Member Taylor stated he attended the Red Rock Corridor Commission. The one item of note is they are working with a consultant to do a new visioning process this upcoming year.

Member Sumner stated he also attended the land use training and agreed with Member Chapdelaine that it was very helpful. Member Sumner stated the Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) had a meeting and they are looking to promote tourism with the many historically important sites we have in Newport. Some of the historic sites include: the red rock, the mission building log cabin, the train tower, our village hall, the red rock cemetery, and several overlooks.

13. ADJOURNMENT

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

The City Council Meeting was adjourned at 5:57 p.m. on February 16, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted:
Jill Thiesfeld,
Administrative Assistant II

Signed: _____
Laurie Elliott, Mayor