



CITY OF NEWPORT
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**CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
March 2, 2023**

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

Present (4): Mayor Laurie Elliott, Council Member Tom Ingemann, Council Member Marvin Taylor, and Council Member Bill Sumner.

Not Present (1): Council Member Kevin Chapdelaine.

4. ADOPT AGENDA

Mayor Elliott stated she would like to amend the agenda to include a presentation from Washington County on organic recycling.

Member Sumner motioned to adopt the agenda as amended. Seconded by Member Ingemann. Approved 4-0.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

6. ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes- February 16, 2023 Regular Council
- B. Resolution No 2023-17- Re-Establish Rates
- C. Gambling Application- Rock Mountain Elks
- D. Historic Preservation Commission 2023 Contract
- E. List of Bills- \$181,952.71

Member Ingemann motioned to adopt the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Member Sumner. Approved 4-0.

7. WASHINGTON COUNTY ORGANICS COLLECTION PILOT

Washington County Commissioner Karla Bigham stated Mayor Elliott did a fantastic job at the State of the Cities lunch with the Chamber of Commerce. Commissioner Bigham stated there is an upcoming food scraps recovery program at the Recycling & Energy (R&E) Center and Newport has been selected for the pilot program. Commissioner Bigham introduced Michael Reed, who is the Ramsey County Joint Leadership Team Member.

Mr. Reed stated this is a collaboration between Ramsey and Washington County. Mr. Reed stated they have spent 1.35 million dollars in upgrades to the facility and to address odor concerns. Mr. Reed passed around sample compostable bags that will be part of the program. There are two sizes for the bags: 6 gallons and 13 gallons.

Sam Hanson, who is the Joint Activities Manager for Ramsey/Washington R&E, gave a presentation to Council on the upcoming food scrap pickup program. This is a brand-new program that will use thicker compostable bags specially engineered so they can survive the travel from the waste trucks to the facility where they will be separated and taken to a compost facility. Any resident will be able to sign up for the program free of charge and will also get the compostable bags for free. At home, residents will collect their food scraps in the provided bags and drop them in their trash dumpster. From there the bags will end up at the R&E Center where robotics will identify the specific bags and pull them from the waste stream. The compost bags will then be brought to a compost facility. This is a free and voluntary program. Eventually it will be available to all residents in Ramsey and Washington County. Before launching this large program, they want to do testing. In April, they will roll out a pilot program to four sites: two in Ramsey County and two in Washington County. Part of Newport was selected as one of the pilot sites. The goal is to expand to more communities in the last quarter of the year.

Mayor Elliott stated it is great the program is getting kicked off and we are excited to be a part of the pilot. Mayor Elliott inquired what items are allowed to go in the compostable bags. Mr. Hanson stated food scraps, paper towels, Kleenex, certified compostable items, bones, etc.

Member Sumner inquired where the composting will take place. Mr. Hanson stated it will be sent to Shakopee for the interim. Member Sumner inquired about a variety of other items such as safety, odor, and operation. Sam Hall, who is the facility manager, provided general responses to Member Sumner's questions and invited him to tour the facility.

Member Taylor inquired if the city should be promoting this program. Mr. Hanson stated during the pilot they will be very targeted in their approach for outreach. Once they have a larger rollout, they would be happy to have help getting the word out about this program.

8. WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORT

City Administrator Joe Hatch gave Council an update from the Sheriff's Office. Administrator Hatch stated Washington County has AEDs for City Hall and the Sheriff's office will provide training to staff next week. The AEDs will be on the first and second floor of City Hall, the Library, and at Public Works. This will make our community safer for both residents and staff.

9. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

No Fire Chief's report.

10. ENGINEER'S REPORT

No Engineer's report.

11. SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Superintendent of Public Works Matt Yokiell stated with the warm temperatures coming they plan to shut the ice rink down after Sunday.

12. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Administrator Hatch had no formal report.

13. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Elliott stated she attended an additional earmark training which is related to the \$350,000 that we are receiving from the federal government. Mayor Elliott stated she also attended a meeting with staff from Senator Smith's office regarding this earmark spending and how those dollars could be used. Mayor Elliott stated yesterday she attended the Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce luncheon for the State of the Cities. She talked about why Newport is great for businesses and the amenities we have to offer.

Member Ingemann stated he attended the cable commission meeting. The cable commission is planning to make videos for non-profits. If your non-profit would like to get a video made, you can reach out to Ann Schweisguth with the cable commission.

Member Taylor stated the school district is restarting its facility planning process. They have recently conducted a new community survey / demographic study and will review the results with the community on March 21st from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Cottage Grove Middle School. They will also hold meetings in April when they get a preliminary plan, and in May when they work toward a final plan. One note for Newport residents is they will not bring forth a plan that closes any elementary school.

Member Sumner thanked Public Works for getting the trails open and his neighbors for keeping the fire hydrant open on 21st.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Member Ingemann motioned to adjourn the City Council Meeting. Seconded by Member Sumner. Approved 4-0.

The City Council Meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m. on March 2, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted:
Jill Thiesfeld,
Administrative Assistant II

Signed: _____
Laurie Elliott, Mayor