



CITY OF NEWPORT
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CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
March 16, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

6. ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes-** February 16, 2023 Council Workshop
- B. Lawful Gambling Application-** Pheasants Forever
- C. List of Bills-** \$422,268.08
- D. Memorandum of Understanding and Resolution No 2023-18- MnWARN**
- E. Financial Statement-** February 2022

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

7. WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORT

Washington County Sheriff's Deputy Sergeant Bill Harrell stated on Monday night just before 10:00 p.m. we received a call of shots fired from a motor vehicle at the one thousand block of 10th Avenue. Police responded shortly thereafter and recovered evidence. Sergeant Harrell stated no one was injured and nothing was hit. There are two investigators assigned and working on the case.

Member Sumner inquired if there is an update on the recent homicide. Sergeant Harrell stated it has been wrapped up and is in the court system. Mayor Elliott stated within 12 hours they caught the person and he confessed to the crime.

8. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

A. Airboat Cooperative Agreement

Fire Captain Pat Joyce stated Fire Chief Steve Wiley is out of town, so he can answer questions regarding the airboat cooperative agreement. Mayor Elliott stated she understands this agreement allows us to store the boat and our staff will be trained to take the boat out when called. Captain Joyce stated they have their standard operating guidelines (SOG) in line and Washington County approved them. The training this year will be on April 15th and next year they will go through a weeklong extensive training with Washington County. Captain Joyce stated they will get the airboat the week of April 10th.

Member Ingemann motioned to approve the Airboat Cooperative Agreement. Seconded by Member Chapdelaine. Approved 5-0.

9. ENGINEER'S REPORT

City Engineer Jon Herdegen gave an update on the lateral lining improvements project. The bidding opened a week ago Wednesday for that project. The reason this was not on the agenda this evening was due to a discrepancy found in the bid that impacted the low bidder. Engineer Herdegen stated we received two bids and have resolved the discrepancy and are prepared to recommend a low bidder. Engineer Herdegen requested a special meeting to consider awarding the project. Mayor Elliott stated we could hold a special meeting on Tuesday, March 21st at 10:00 a.m. for the lateral lining project bid.

10. SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

A. H&U Pay Request- \$33,539.40

Superintendent of Public Works Matt Yokiell stated he received Pay Request No. 26 from H+U in the amount of \$33,539.40. This is retainage payout for our electrical contractor.

Member Chapdelaine motioned to approve Pay Request No. 26 in the amount of \$33,539.40 to H+U. Seconded by Member Ingemann. Approved 5-0.

Superintendent Yokiell stated spring load limits for our roads went into effect last Friday. Public Works has been out patching a few times already, but the temperature changes between above and below freezing is hard on the roads. Superintendent Yokiell stated they are watching the flooding predictions results and so far, there is not a big concern. Hopefully the water melts and infiltrates and we do not get a large snowfall or large amount of rain. Member Sumner inquired how the roads are looking this year compared to other years with all the bad weather we have had. Superintendent Yokiell stated the snow is not as much of a factor as the moisture with the temperature changing between above and below freezing. The moisture sinks in and then when it freezes it expands.

11. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

A. Moratorium

City Administrator Joe Hatch stated we have been working on the moratorium and our City Attorney will be discussing the interim ordinance.

1. Interim Ordinance

City Attorney Alissa Harrington stated that based on previous discussions we have drafted an interim ordinance which would put a 12-month moratorium on specific uses to be studied. Mayor Elliott stated we are hopeful this will not last 12 months while we study 7th and Hastings Avenue. Administrator Hatch stated we received proposals that include timelines of approximately six months. Mayor Elliott stated we had a lengthy workshop discussion about this two weeks ago. During that discussion we talked about each use in order to make a decision on whether the moratorium should apply to that specific use or not.

Member Chapdelaine motioned to adopt Interim Ordinance No. 2023-02. Seconded by Member Ingemann. Approved 5-0.

2. Resolution No 2023-20- Targeted Development Study Group

Administrator Hatch stated we have discussed putting together a study group that would look at the targeted development study area. The group would potentially consist of a consultant (HKGi), City Planner Nathan Fuerst, Assistant to the City Administrator Travis Brierley, Administrator Hatch, Mayor Elliott, Member Taylor, Chair of Planning Commission Brandon Leyde, and Planning Commissioner Maria Bonilla.

Member Sumner motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2023-20. Seconded by Member Taylor. Approved 5-0.

B. City Website- E-Notify

Administrator Hatch asked staff to develop a new portion of our website where we can store submitted concept plans to keep our residents and the community more informed. Assistant Brierley stated there is now a webpage under Planning and Zoning that lays out the process and includes links to our city code and comprehensive plan. Each application includes a summary and the status of the application. There is also a link to each application and the site location. Assistant Brierley showed Council where they can find this on our website by going under “Departments” and then clicking on the link to “Development and Land Use Applications” under the “Planning and Zoning” heading. Mayor Elliott stated this is a nice addition to our website and will be very helpful. Administrator Hatch inquired how residents can sign up to receive notifications when there are changes made to our website. Assistant Brierley stated under the “How Do I” section, there is a link to “E-Notify” where residents can sign up and select what items that they want to be notified about. Mayor Elliott stated it is nice to see us using some of the functionality within our new website.

C. Resolution No 2023-19- Claiming Tax Forfeited Land (Mill Pond)

Assistant Brierley stated in August we were notified by the county that the Mill Pond property was in tax forfeit and the city could have the opportunity to claim the property, although the DNR has the first right. We have been in direct communication with the county, and they provided us with a sample resolution. If this resolution is approved, it stakes our claim of the property if the DNR does not want it. Mayor Elliott stated the funds from our earmarked funding would be eligible to pay for this property. Attorney Harrington stated she would like to amend the third whereas in Resolution No. 2023-19 to read: The City of Newport finds it in the best interest of the public to assume the tax forfeit parcel for the public purpose of flood control and storm water management in the area. This ensures the resolution is clear in requesting it under the public purpose doctrine rather than the public use doctrine.

Member Chapdelaine motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2023-19 as described with the friendly amendment added. Seconded by Member Ingemann. Approved 5-0.

12. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Elliott stated she and Administrator Hatch spent March 9th at the Capitol where they had a chance to meet with representative Rich Hansen and Senator Matt Klein. Representative Hansen is sponsoring an odor bill which could be helpful to our residents. Senator Klein is the chair of the tax committee. He is proposing an additional 150-million dollars go into the fund for smaller cities, which would mean an increase next year for Newport. Mayor Elliott attended a 3M settlement meeting that was related to the EPA limits coming out for the forever chemicals.

Member Chapdelaine stated the new/updated colored newsletter looked great and wanted to let the staff responsible know they did a good job.

Member Taylor reminded residents that next Tuesday is the first of three community meetings the school district is hosting for their facility planning.

Member Sumner stated District 53 is having a town hall meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 19th at the Inver Grove Heights Community Center on inflow and infiltration (I&I). Member Sumner stated the Watershed District asked and he agreed to serve as a citizen on a citizen’s advisory committee. The Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) will meet on Wednesday, April 12th at 5pm. On, May 10th, there will be a special HPC training workshop. Member Sumner stated in lieu of the recent bank collapses he spoke with the bank manager at Midwest One and was told their bank is widely diversified. Some banks typically hold an 8% cash reserve, but Midwest One holds a 12% cash reserve, so they should be in good shape.

13. ADJOURNMENT

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

The City Council Meeting was adjourned at 6:09 p.m. on March 16, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted:
Jill Thiesfeld,
Administrative Assistant II

Signed: _____
Laurie Elliott, Mayor