



CITY OF NEWPORT
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CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES April 6, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Elliott called the City Council Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. on April 6, 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- March 2, 2023 Regular City Council
- B. Minutes- March 2, 2023 Council Workshop
- C. Minutes- March 16, 2023 Regular City Council
- D. Minutes- March 16, 2023 Council Workshop
- E. Minutes- March 21, 2023 Special Council Meeting
- F. Community Garden Policy
- G. Woodbury-Newport Summer Rec 2023 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
- H. Gambling Application- Cottage Grove Ducks Unlimited
- I. Temporary On-Sale Intoxicating Liquor License- Saint Paul Park-Newport Lion's Club
- J. Annual Appointments
- K. Municipal Recycling Grant Distribution (Washington County)
- L. List of Bills- \$173,149.96

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

7. WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORT

No formal report.

8. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Steve Wiley stated they put the new Freightliner 2,000 Gallon Tender into service on March 12th. Chief Wiley stated they had fifteen calls in March, which included alarms, accidents, and a structure fire. Newport Fire assisted Cottage Grove in late February for a significant fire on Hallmark where three residents had to be transported. The morning of the blizzard on April 1st Newport Fire received twelve calls which included six alarms, five power lines down, and one fire. Those calls were in addition to the fire department helping clear roadways due to trees down. Mayor Elliott thanked the crews for clearing the roadways and for their hard work. Superintendent of Public Works Matt Yokiell thanked the fire crew and expressed how great it was to work as a team.

9. ENGINEER'S REPORT

City Engineer Jon Herdegen stated Washington County's County Road 38 Trail project is going out for bid either tomorrow or next Friday and construction will begin in June. Newport's water main replacement project that is accompanying this trail project will be the first work they start on. During construction, there will be challenges on 21st Street in front of City Hall. Engineer Herdegen stated the county sent over a cost share and maintenance agreement for staff's review. The project manager would like to present the formal agreement to Council in May. Engineer Herdegen stated we awarded the contract for the lateral lining project to Musson Brothers. Engineer Herdegen stated we have a draft grant agreement from the state of Minnesota for the 3M settlement project and the interconnects with Cottage Grove and Woodbury. Staff is reviewing and we hope to send back comments to the state within a week so we can get going on the planning and design. It will be a lengthy process as we will be working closely with the two other municipalities.

Mayor Elliott reiterated that it will be tough for those going to the post office or other businesses when work is being done on 21st Street. The result is the road will be narrower than it currently is as we are losing the center turn lane so a trail can be added that will connect from the corner of Maxwell and 21st to the pedestrian bridge on 7th Avenue.

10. SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Superintendent Yokiell stated during the blizzard and power outage last weekend, the public works staff put in 140 hours of overtime trying to keep the wells running, the lift stations pumped down, and the streets cleared and plowed. The storm started around 1:30 Saturday morning and went downhill rapidly. Public works struggled to get streets open so they could get generators moved around and make sure the fire department could get to their calls. The fire department stepped in and helped clear roadways so public works could also get to where they needed to go. Superintendent Yokiell thanked public works staff, Administrator Joe Hatch, Assistant to the City Administrator Travis Brierley, and the fire department for all their help. Superintendent Yokiell stated public works will be picking up storm debris from residents front yards if it is out by the curb today. The compost site opens on Saturday, April 8th. The compost site will be free until April 15th to help residents with the storm cleanup. The hours are Saturdays from 9am-4pm and Wednesdays and Fridays from 3:30pm-6:30pm. Superintendent Yokiell stated the river is at 5 feet, which is about one foot above normal. By Tuesday, they are predicting eight feet of elevation. For comparison, in 2019 we were up to 20.2 feet in St. Paul. Public works will continue to monitor the National Weather Service and prepare for flooding, if necessary, but currently we are in good shape.

Mayor Elliott wanted to make sure the public understands that when we lost electricity, public works had to take the portable generators around to the lift stations and wells to make sure residents had water service even though they did not have power. They were doing this in addition to the snow plowing and tree clearing. Mayor Elliott stated that everyone in Newport was impacted, and she thanked residents for their patience. There were some frustrations, but that is understandable when not everyone knows what is happening behind the scenes. Xcel Energy had almost a thousand people in place in anticipation of this storm, but it still was not enough. Mayor Elliott thanked our staff for serving our residents well.

Member Sumner inquired if we need an additional generator. Superintendent Yokiell stated we will have a post incident meeting and discuss what we can do to improve. Member Ingemann stated we must remember that our public works staff is very small. Mayor Elliott reminded residents that April 8 through April 15th you can take your branches and drop them off for free at the compost site. Superintendent Yokiell stated they cannot take stumps or root balls. Member Taylor inquired if a street has not been picked up yet, can residents still put their tree debris next to the curb. Superintendent Yokiell stated they will make one pass through the city to pick up residential storm debris. Member Chapdelaine inquired if our lift stations and well pumps have priority over residential with Xcel Energy. Superintendent Yokiell stated yes, but Xcel dispatches based on priorities. The bigger feeder lines need to be up and going before it can trickle down. Member Chapdelaine stated he understands and appreciates the effort. Member Chapdelaine stated this was the longest outage since 1998. Mayor Elliott stated there was a question if the City Hall has a generator. We do have a generator at City Hall because it houses our public safety operations for both law enforcement as well as fire. They need power to serve the citizens.

11. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Administrator Hatch stated he has no formal report but will stand for questions.

12. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Elliott stated she is working on our congressionally directed spending and fielded phone calls and emails regarding the power outage and branch cleanup.

Member Ingemann stated residents on the east side of Highway 61 should go online to foodscrapspickup.com. From here you can see if your address is within the pilot test area. If you are eligible, you can order free food scrap bags. They will give you a list of what can and cannot go in the food scrap bags.

Member Sumner stated there was a town hall meeting put on by Representative Hansen and Senator Klein. Two members of Newport attended, and our job was to remind them that we need money for the many projects. There was also a team of five members that trimmed trees in Newport. The Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) is having a meeting and presentation on Wednesday, April 12th. The presentation is by historian Robert Vogel on the Battle of Kaposia. The battle took place in June 1842 when approximately one hundred Ojibway/Chippewa warriors from northern Minnesota launched a surprise attack on the Dakota/Sioux village in Kaposia. The fighting lasted for several hours and ranged over multiple miles along the banks of the Mississippi between Newport, South St. Paul, and Pig's Eye. This presentation will be at 6pm at the Newport Library.

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 6:02 p.m. on April 6, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted:
Jill Thiesfeld,
Administrative Assistant II

Signed: _____
Laurie Elliott, Mayor