



CITY OF NEWPORT
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CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
April 20, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Elliott called the City Council Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. on April 20, 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 Sumner. Approved 5-0.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

6. SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT

John Loomis, Deputy Administrator with the South Washington Watershed District, addressed the Council. Mr. Loomis stated we are on year seven of the ten-year watershed management plan. At the start of the ten-year plan they were focused on wrapping up a lengthy flood control project. That work is done and have now shifted their focus to water quality and resiliency work. The watershed fees are flat from last year and they had a nominal increase in their levy. The typical household in the district saw a \$2.00 impact on their bill over last year. Mr. Loomis stated they have re-established the citizen advisory committee and thanked Member Sumner for being part that committee. Mr. Loomis discussed multiple incentive programs as well as educational programs with the South Washington County School District. Mr. Loomis stated they recently cost shared on a vacuum truck with Newport and St. Paul Park. Mayor Elliott inquired if Mr. Loomis could explain what a watershed district means. Mr. Loomis stated a watershed district is focused on water resources within a specific drainage area.

7. ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes-** April 6, 2023⁴ Council Workshop
- B. List of Bills-** \$540,622.13
- C. Financial Statement-** March 2023

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

8. WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORT

Washington County Sheriff's Deputy Sergeant Bill Harrell stated the county donated four automated external defibrillators (AED) to the city. They can be used at City Hall, the Library, and Public Works. Sergeant Harrell stated he intends to train staff on how to use them.

9. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

A. Mutual Aid Agreement

City Administrator Joe Hatch stated he is filling in for Fire Chief Steve Wiley who could attend this evening. Administrator Hatch stated there is a Mutual Aid Agreement between the fire departments within Washington County Minnesota and the fire departments within St. Croix County Wisconsin. If there is an emergency and one of these entities requests additional resources, another department can respond. Administrator Hatch stated there have not been changes to this agreement from the previous one and requests Council to authorize this agreement.

Member Ingemann motioned to adopt the Mutual Aid Agreement. Seconded by Member Sumner. Approved 5-0.

10. ENGINEER'S REPORT

City Engineer Jon Herdegen stated next Thursday is the pre-construction meeting for the lining project. Over the next four weeks there will be televising trucks collecting the televised inspections. Once the televising is complete, homeowners will be able to review the results. The actual lining work will start around the fourth of July. Engineer Herdegen stated the County Road 38 Trail project is out for bid and Washington County is leading that effort. Staff is working on the cost share and maintenance agreements. Kevin Peterson plans to attend the Council Meeting on May 2nd to formally present the agreement and give a project update. Engineer Herdegen stated he submitted the grant applications for the 3M settlement funds.

11. SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Superintendent of Public Works Matt Yokiell stated they have been watching the river for potential flooding. The current prediction is for the river to crest around nineteen feet next Tuesday or Wednesday. For reference, in 2019, we hit 20.2 feet. Mayor Elliott inquired if we are sand bagging. Superintendent Yokiell stated no, but they dropped off sand and sandbags for one resident last Friday. Superintendent Yokiell stated the brush cleanup is still in progress. As of last Sunday, they had around five hundred hours of staff time with this storm event. Residents can pick up free woodchips at Public Works anytime between 7am and 3pm Monday through Friday. Superintendent Yokiell stated he spoke to H+U who is working with contractors to line up the flagpole repairs at City Hall. Superintendent Yokiell stated the Newport Library window restoration project is still in progress. There were supply chain and weather issues which caused delays. Mayor Elliott inquired if Superintendent Yokiell could talk about the items that have been pushed out in their work schedule. Superintendent Yokiell stated street sweeping, potholes patching, and fire hydrant flushing have been delayed.

12. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Administrator Hatch stated last Monday, the city purchased the 1651 Cedar Lane property. This property has experienced water issues as it is right next to the river. This is an exciting opportunity for potential recreation and park space. Mayor Elliott stated we have been working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for grant funds for about two years. Administrator Hatch stated he attended the Washington County Community Development Agency (CDA) meeting yesterday. They authorized an agreement to pay for half of our area study, which will be approximately \$25,000.

13. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Elliott stated she and Administrator Hatch attended several meetings related to our congressionally directed spending application. Administrator Hatch sent in the final application last Thursday for a grant up to \$350,000.

Member Ingemann invited residents to go online to <https://foodscrappickup.com>. The east side of Highway 61 in Newport is the Newport test area for the Ramsey/Washington County food scrap pickup program. Residents in the test area can sign up and request the free compostable food scrap bags. When the bag is filled with food scraps, simply tie a knot at the top of the bag and place it in your trash can.

Member Chapdelaine stated he attended the latest 3M drinking water meetings. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) came out with suggestions on safe level for PFAS in our drinking water. A few interesting things he learned from the meeting include there is no guarantee that bottled water is any safer than the drinking water you are getting out of your tap. Also, the East Metro is in a good position compared to other areas of the state and country because we have 3M settlement money available to build new treatment facilities. Member Chapdelaine stated we need to thank Katie Sieben and Karla Bigham for pursuing this issue and getting us to where we are today. Mayor Elliott stated Minnesota is doing its own studies and research and not just accepting what the EPA says it should be. Engineer Herdegen stated the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and trustees anticipated lower contaminate levels were coming and have a robust contingency program built-in with the conceptual drinking water supply plan. Member Chapdelaine stated that Newport will continue to have safe drinking water as we will be tied to new treatment plants with Woodbury and Cottage Grove. Member Ingemann stated at the present time we do not have a problem with PFAS. Mayor Elliott stated that is correct as we meet current state standards as well as proposed state standards.

Member Taylor stated the Planning Commission met last week to discuss a concept plan for Red Rock Villas.

Member Sumner stated he talked to people from other cities, and they did not have Public Works collecting their brush from the storm. Member Sumner thanked Newport Public Works for their excellent level of service. Member Sumner stated on Wednesday, May 10th, the Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) will have a special training on preservation techniques.

14. POTENTIALLY CLOSED MEETING

(Meeting closed as authorized by Minn. Stat. 13D.05, subd. 3(b), to consider potential litigation regarding Total Mechanical Inc, 420 Broadway Ave, St. Paul Park, Minnesota.)

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

The City Council Meeting was closed at 6:22 p.m. on April 20, 2023.

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

The City Council Meeting was opened at 6:51 p.m. on April 20, 2023.

Member Chapdelaine motioned to direct staff to prepare an agreement with Total Mechanical for the repainting of the interior of Ground Storage Reservoir #3 in the amount of \$4,900. Seconded by Member Sumner. Approved 5-0.

15. ADJOURNMENT

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

The City Council Meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m. on April 20, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted:
Jill Thiesfeld,
Administrative Assistant II

Signed: _____
Laurie Elliott, Mayor