



CITY OF NEWPORT
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CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 1, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Elliott called the City Council meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. on June 1, 2023.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

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

Not Present (1): Council Member Tom Ingemann.

4. ADOPT AGENDA

Mayor Elliott requested the City Administrator's performance review be moved after the Mayor and Council reports.

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

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

6. ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes- May 4, 2023 Council Workshop

B. Minutes- May 18, 2023 Regular Council

C. List of Bills- \$133,478.17

D. Resolution No. 2023-29- Joining the Great River Rail Commission Joint Powers Board

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

7. WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORT

No formal report.

8. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Steve Wiley stated they had twenty-one calls during the month of May. These calls included three structure fires in Cottage Grove.

9. ENGINEER'S REPORT

City Engineer Jon Herdegen gave Council an update on the Lateral Lining Improvement Project. Currently the subcontractor has 85% of the project area televised. Several residents have reached out to engineering to view their televised videos. A reminder letter will be mailed next week explaining that residents have until June 30th to get an agreement in place if they want additional lining. Mayor Elliott stated Engineer Herdegen's contact information is on the project website. She encouraged all residents within this project area to look at their videos. When you sell your home, your lines need to be televised and if there is a problem it will be cheaper to fix the problem now. Engineer Herdegen stated there is link to the project website on the city's website under Departments and Public Works. Member Sumner inquired if there is a plan to look at other areas in the city. Engineer Herdegen stated they have identified areas they believe would be candidates for lining projects, but no timeline has been set. The main line must be lined first before any lateral lines can be lined. Member Chapdelaine inquired if MSA will reach out to residents who may be busy and did not take the time to investigate additional lining. Engineer Herdegen stated the contractor will be looking at the videos and MSA can reach out directly to residents with major issues. Member Taylor inquired how these improvements can be measured. Superintendent of Public Works Matt Yokiell stated they have run times on lift stations. Also, they can compare year end through the Met Council compared to what was pumped from our wells.

10. SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

A. Ice Rink Lighting

Superintendent Yokiell stated they have researched lighting options for the hockey and pleasure rinks. Currently, there is \$50,000 set aside for lighting in the CIP. Superintendent Yokiell worked with an outside specialist who suggested three options. Option one is approximately \$50,000 for used lighting (not LED) from a high school in Iowa with no warranty. Option two is approximately \$60,000 for new LED lighting on new wood poles with a 10-year warranty. Option three is approximately \$70,000 for new LED lighting mounted on galvanized steel poles with a 25-year warranty. Superintendent Yokiell stated he is requesting Council authorization to spend additional money out of the street light fund. They also need \$5,000 for the lighting specialist fee. Mayor Elliott stated the street light fund is limited and can only be used for public lighting. The Council discussed and agreed with option three for new LED lighting on steel poles.

Member Chapdelaine motioned to approve option three and authorize spending up to \$80,000 from the street light fund to cover the ice rink lighting project. Seconded by Member Taylor. Approved 4-0.

Superintendent Yokiell stated our existing outdoor siren on the old fire hall that will go away when that building is demolished. There will be a new warning siren installed on the corner of 8th Avenue and Ford Road. This location will give better sound coverage with the elevation. The plan is to get this new siren operational in July. Informational letters will be mailed out for this change. Member Chapdelaine inquired if we still have the siren on top of the school. Superintendent Yokiell stated yes. Member Taylor inquired when the old fire hall will be demolished. Superintendent Yokiell stated most likely next year.

Superintendent Yokiell stated the new City Hall is in the process of getting solar panels on the roof. This project should be done by the end of summer.

11. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Elliott stated we received the latest population numbers from Met Council. There are 4,501 people living in Newport as of April 1st, 2022. Mayor Elliott stated she went to informational meetings about legislative changes, small city issues, met council, and earmarks. An odor control bill was passed. Mayor Elliott stated we received 2.75 million dollars for I/I funding. Administrator Hatch will look for matching funds.

Member Taylor attended a kickoff meeting for the area study along Hastings and 7th Avenue.

Member Sumner stated there is a Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) meeting at 5pm on June 14th at City Hall followed by a public lecture at 6:30pm at the Newport Library on Navigation Improvements on the Upper Mississippi River. Member Sumner stated Basic Needs is expanding their food rescue operation.

12. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

A. Performance Review (Closed Session)

Mayor Elliott stated there will be a closed session to evaluate the performance of City Administrator Joe Hatch under MN Statute 13D.05.

Member Chapdelaine motioned to close the City Council meeting. Seconded by Member Sumner. Approved 4-0.

The City Council meeting was closed at 6:13 p.m. on June 1, 2023.

Member Chapdelaine motioned to open the City Council meeting. Seconded by Member Taylor. Approved 4-0.

The City Council meeting was opened at 7:25 p.m. on June 1, 2023.

Member Chapdelaine motioned to approve the First Amendment to Employment Agreement. Seconded by Member Sumner. Approved 4-0.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Member Sumner motioned to adjourn the City Council meeting. Seconded by Member Taylor. Approved 4-0.

The City Council Meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m. on June 1, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted:
Jill Thiesfeld,
Administrative Assistant II

Signed: Laurie D. Elliott
Laurie Elliott, Mayor