



CITY OF NEWPORT
2060 1ST Avenue
Newport, MN 55055
(651) 459-5677
ci.newport.mn.us

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
August 3, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Elliott called the City Council meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. on August 3, 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 – July 11, 2023 Special Council
- B. Minutes – July 19, 2023 Regular Council
- C. Resolution No. 2023-32- Appointment of Election Judges
- D. Resolution No. 2023-33 – Recognizing Vacation Leave Balance
- E. Resolution No. 2023-34- Accepting Pioneer Day Donations
- F. Park Reservation Application- Wilcziek
- G. List of Bills - \$166,079.88

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

7. WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORT

City Administrator Joe Hatch stated Sergeant Bill Harrell is not present, but wanted to inform Council that the deputies are conducting sweeps of the city regarding code enforcement.

8. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Steve Wiley stated there was a great turnout at Night to Unite. They had about twenty firefighters throughout the city attending different events including Bailey Meadows, High Street, and Newport Lutheran Church.

Chief Wiley thanked Marathon Refinery for their generous donation of \$50,000 to help offset the costs of the new air packs, compressor, and fill station.

Mayor Elliott inquired about fire calls last month. Chief Wiley stated they had a vehicle fire, medical calls, and assisted Cottage Grove with a structure fire for a home that was hit by lightning.

9. ENGINEER'S REPORT

City Engineer Jon Herdegen stated the 21st Street water main replacement project is underway. They hope to be done within a couple of weeks. There were two scheduled water main shutdowns, but unfortunately, they had one yesterday that was not scheduled. The temporary watermain line crossing the road got hit and cracked one of the valves. They were able to replace the valve, but the water was out until 4:30 p.m. Engineer Herdegen stated he will check with the County as there may be a partial payment coming to the August 17th meeting.

Engineer Herdegen stated the lateral lining contractor will be mobilizing on site at the beginning of next week to start the cleaning work. Mayor Elliott reminded residents that two-million dollars of this project is being funded by the state.

10. SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Superintendent of Public Works Matt Yokiell stated we have a DNR grant for removing trees that are diseased by the emerald ash borer and are currently working at Loveland Park. Once the diseased trees are removed, they will replant new trees. Mayor Elliott inquired if this work is only being done at Loveland Park. Superintendent Yokiell stated it will be on public property in parks and boulevards. The largest percentage of diseased trees is at Loveland and Busy Beaver.

11. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Administrator Hatch stated our fire department will be burning the home at 1651 Cedar Lane on August 19th for training purposes. Administrator Hatch stated the City Hall has new hours. City Hall will be open Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 4:00pm.

12. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Elliott stated we shifted the date of the last Council meeting to attend an award ceremony for the construction of City Hall. Newport received a "Top Projects of 2022" award, which also came with a feature in the Finance and Commerce magazine. Brunton Architect and H+U Construction were both recognized for their work on this project.

Mayor Elliott thanked Representative Rick Hansen as put another \$67,000 in funding for emerald ash borer issues for Newport into a bill that was approved with the last session in 2023.

Member Chapdelaine stated the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) released a notice guiding fish consumption out of the Mississippi River from the Ford Dam in St. Paul to the Hastings Dam (Pool 2). Any children under the age of fifteen or anyone that could become pregnant, or breastfeeding should not consume any fish from Pool 2 due to PFAS.

Member Sumner stated the Red Cross needs blood donations and encouraged anyone who can to donate. Member Sumner attended the National Night out celebration and stated Tony Mahmood put on a wonderful BBQ feed. On Wednesday, August 9th, the HPC will have a meeting at City Hall followed by a presentation by our Historian at the Newport Library at 6:30pm. Member Sumner reminded residents that the farmers market is open on Sundays from 9am to 1pm at the Newport Shopping Center.

13. ADJOURNMENT

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

The City Council meeting was adjourned at 5:47 p.m. on August 3, 2023.

Respectfully submitted:
Jill Thiesfeld,
Administrative Assistant II

Signed: Laurie D. Elliott
Laurie Elliott, Mayor