



CITY OF NEWPORT
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COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES February 16, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Elliott called the City Council Workshop to order at 6:02 p.m. on February 16, 2023.

2. 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.

3. DEVELOPMENT PLANNING DISCUSSION

City Administrator Joe Hatch stated staff would like to discuss details for the longer-term moratorium. City Planner Nathan Fuerst put together a presentation for this discussion. The three zoning districts identified in this study include MX-3 (General Mixed Use), MX-1 (Downtown Mixed Use, and B-2 (General Business). The land use requests that Council may want to have as part of the moratorium include rezoning, comprehensive plan amendments, planned unit developments, and major residential subdivisions.

Council discussed hiring a consultant to study the two corridors. Administrator Hatch stated we would want the consultant to facilitate a study group committee, review the current land use application process, review the current zoning codes, review the comprehensive plan, engage the community, and complete a market study for the potential redevelopment zones. Administrator Hatch explained that staff will be bringing a resolution rescinding the short-term moratorium, a resolution to approve a longer-term moratorium, and a potential consultant to a future Council meeting. Assistant to the City Administrator Travis Brierley discussed the communication plan and how we will get information to our businesses and residents. Council discussed who should be part of the study group committee.

4. CITIZEN AND COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Elliott inquired how Council would like to handle appointments to various committees. One option is to develop a structured process and the other option would be to handle appointments on a case-by-case basis. Council agreed that if the applicant is unknown, then one or two Council Members should meet with the interested applicant and bring a recommendation back to Council.

5. PAID FAMILY LEAVE LEGISLATION DISCUSSION

Mayor Elliott stated there is a fast-moving bill at the legislature for paid family and medical benefits. The concern is how this bill could affect Newport since we are such a small city. The cost and logistics would be hard to manage. Mayor Elliott inquired if Council is comfortable with her sending a letter opposing this bill to Representative Hansen and Senator Klein.

6. FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

Administrator Hatch stated future agenda items include MNWarn, hockey boards, security cameras, infrastructure projects for grants, League of MN Cities – City Day on the Hill, etc.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Elliott adjourned the City Council Workshop at 7:54 p.m. on February 16, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted:
Jill Thiesfeld,
Administrative Assistant II

Signed: _____
Laurie Elliott, Mayor