



CITY OF NEWPORT
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COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES July 19, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Elliott called the City Council Workshop to order at 6:15 p.m. on July 19, 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. 2024 BUDGET DISCUSSION

City Administrator Joe Hatch gave Council a high-level overview of the 2024 budget. Administrator Hatch explained it is early in the process, but assumptions include fiscal disparities remain constant, health insurance will increase about 15%, local government aid will increase about \$41,000, and our overall revenue is expected to increase approximately \$108,000. We are anticipating an increased need for professional services and an increase to general government. Public Safety will increase about 3.99% and we will increase fire to accommodate a full twenty-five member staff. The city is working to keep transfers consistent. The wastewater charge from Met Council went up to 6.1%. The city is working on the lining project to help reduce I/I in problematic areas. The city will begin labor negotiations and calculate those impacts to the budget.

4. CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS LABOR RELATIONS STRATEGY (Minnesota Statutes, section 13D.03, subdivision 1, clause (b)).

Meeting closed on July 19, 2023 at 6:36 p.m. under Minnesota Statute, section 13D.03, subdivision 1, clause (b).

Meeting opened on July 19, 2023 at 7:11 p.m.

5. AREA STUDY UPDATE

Mayor Elliott gave Council an overview on the 2023 area study with HKGi. The city is in the process of developing a plan to facilitate redevelopment on the commercial corridors along Hastings Avenue and 7th Avenue. The community had chances to get involved by filling out a survey, using social pinpoint, and attending the public listening session. Our consultants are researching potential options for redevelopment by using the primary market area (PMA), which is defined as a 10-minute drive time. They researched apartment vacancy rates, average monthly rent costs, commercial costs, retail, and housing. They will give recommendations along with strategies and suggestions to the city. The city has been interested in attracting a grocer, but study shows it is not feasible based on our low population densities. Council discussed there are many ideas, and we will need to determine what is feasible based on our goals.

6. FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

Administrator Hatch stated future meeting agenda items include Cannabis discussion, Emergency Response presentation, Area Study, Keller Fence update, and the future Dog Park.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Elliott adjourned the City Council Workshop at 7:45 p.m. on July 19, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted:
Jill Thiesfeld,
Administrative Assistant II

Signed: _____
Laurie Elliott, Mayor