



**CITY OF NEWPORT
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
NEWPORT CITY HALL
April 21, 2022**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Elliott called the City Council Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. on April 21, 2022.

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 Rozlyn Johnson.

Not Present (0): None.

4. ADOPT AGENDA

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

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bill Sumner, residing at 737 21st Street, addressed the Council. Mr. Sumner has chosen to grow out his hair and found two other organizations in addition to Locks of Love, where you can donate hair. Mr. Sumner stated the Red Cross is still in need of blood donations. Mr. Sumner reported on the Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) goals and objectives as they had a meeting last week. The recommendations they are bringing forward include sponsoring public education activities for preservation month and Pioneer Days, present historic talks at the Newport Library, provide members of the Council staff and Advisory Commission with education and training on heritage preservation, designate the WPA River Outlooks, Main Street Landing, and Pioneer Park as Newport Heritage Landmarks, develop management plans for all city-owned heritage preservation resources, celebrate 30-years of HPC work, and a written synopsis of the dairy work performed in Newport by Miss Lucy Irish around the time period of 1851.

Faseka Tamerat, residing at 498 3rd Avenue, addressed the Council. Ms. Tamerat stated she was in last summer for a vinyl fence issue that was later approved and changed in the ordinance. Ms. Tamerat stated her six-foot vinyl fence was approved; however, she was not able to get the fence in last summer and that permit has expired. This year she submitted a permit for a six-foot cedar privacy fence to match her neighbors and it was rejected by the office as she is on a corner lot and therefore cannot exceed 4-feet. Ms. Tamerat is requesting a revision to allow her six-foot fence. Mayor Elliott stated she will have staff research this and will have a discussion at an upcoming workshop meeting.

6. ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA

A. List of Bills- \$125,591.35

B. Financial Statement- March 2022

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

7. WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORT

None.

8. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Steve Wiley stated the Newport Fire Department was able to donate fire gear that will be going to Ukraine. They donated fifteen bunker pants, fifteen bunker coats, seven pairs of firefighting boots, seventeen pairs of gloves, and eight helmets. Chief Wiley thanked Firefighter Boche and Firefighter Lemke for taking the time to deliver these items to the collection site in Oronoco. Mayor Elliott stated it is a great program and she is glad we were able to participate.

9. ENGINEER'S REPORT

City Engineer Jon Herdegen stated he has nothing formal to report but will stand for questions. Mayor Elliott stated a year ago we were looking at doing an environmental analysis of the old police shooting range and inquired if Engineer Herdegen has an update. Engineer Herdegen stated MSA helped the city with a phase one environmental assessment on that site. Phase one involves research of the previous uses for the site. There are potential environmental impacts that would be further vetted in a phase two. Engineer Herdegen stated it is not worth the cost of the phase two environmental assessment if the city is not planning to sell the property or changing the use of that property.

10. SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

A. Pay Request H&U- \$491,188.32

Superintendent of Public Works Bruce Hanson showed the Council progress pictures of the new City Hall / Public Safety Building.

Superintendent Hanson is recommending Pay Application No. 15 in the amount of \$491,188.32 for labor and materials. Member Chapdelaine inquired if we are on budget and on schedule. Superintendent Hanson stated our schedule changed but does not anticipate our budget is off very much.

Member Chapdelaine motioned to approve Pay Application No. 15 in the amount of \$491,188.32 for H+U. Seconded by Member Johnson. Approved 5-0.

B. Pioneer Park Play Equipment

Superintendent of Public Works Matt Yokiell stated the Pioneer Park play equipment was brought to Council at the last meeting and there were a couple minor changes. The trapper photo opportunity was removed and replaced with a friendly river creature. The anchor was also removed on the paddleboat. Superintendent Yokiell requested a motion to purchase the Pioneer Park playground equipment in the amount of \$319,656.94. There is a small potential that the rock excavation could cost more, but they have examined the site and are not overly concerned.

Mayor Elliott reminded the public there were initial park plans from 2018 that were then updated. The Park Board and Council had chances to look over and revise these plans. Mayor Elliott stated she is excited to see the new modern equipment and accessible surface at Pioneer Park.

Member Ingemann motioned to approve the purchase of the Pioneer Park playground equipment. Seconded by Member Taylor. Approved 5-0.

Superintendent Yokiell stated he is happy to announce they have filled the maintenance operator position with Karen Moe. On Monday they will move forward and post the maintenance aid position and work to get that position hired. Mayor Elliott requested Ms. Moe's appointment be on the next agenda so she can be formally appointed.

Superintendent Yokiell stated Public Works is in the process of street sweeping, and next week they will start hydrant flushing for the spring season.

Member Chapdelaine inquired if road restrictions are still in place and Mayor Elliott inquired what the weight limits are. Superintendent Yokiell stated we still have road restrictions in place as it is weather dependent, and the weight limits are three ton per axel.

11. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A. 910 12th Street

Assistant to the City Administrator Travis Brierley stated we received a rezoning request from 910 12th Street who would like their property rezoned back to mixed-use from residential. Due to land use requirements, staff asked the applicant to withdraw their application and staff would try to get approval. The City Council and the Planning Commission have both reviewed this zoning request. During the Planning Commission meeting they had an in-depth discussion, and their recommendation is to take no action and leave the zoning as residential. Council would need to make a motion if they would like to keep this parcel as residential R-1.

Council discussed and would like to see what develops in that neighborhood in the next three to six months. Council could have another discussion about this area in the future.

Member Chapdelaine motioned to maintain the R-1 zoning for 910 12th Street. Seconded by Member Johnson. Approved 5-0.

B. Olson Addition- Park Dedication Fees

Assistant Brierley stated we went through a major subdivision at 1851 Century Avenue. As part of the conditions, the City Council has the option to reduce or waive any park dedication fees in exchange for right-of-way (ROW) dedicated to the city. The dedicated ROW can be developed to a future trail, which is a park amenity. The current park dedication fee is \$13,600. Staff recommends we reduce those fees by \$13,226.15 to account for the dedicate ROW. That would leave the remaining park dedication fee to be \$373.85.

Council discussed and is concerned that it is a potential future trail and not a guaranteed trail. Assistant Brierley stated he could have a conversation with the county about their plans and if the city provides relief on the park dedication fees that it be deducted from our future costs.

C. Resolution No 2022-17

City Administrator Deb Hill stated Resolution No. 2022-17, is a resolution expressing appreciation to Newport Superintendent of Public Works Bruce Hanson on his many dedicated years of service. Mayor Elliott read Resolution No. 2022-17 out loud.

Mayor Elliott motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2022-17. Seconded by Member Chapdelaine. Approved 5-0.

Mayor Elliott stated there will be a plaque added to the entrance of the Public Works building noting that the building is now named after Superintendent Hanson. Mayor Elliott thanked Superintendent Hanson for his service.

Administrator Hill stated we are so grateful and privileged to have worked with Superintendent Hanson and expressed sincere gratitude to Superintendent Hanson.

Superintendent Hanson stated he has attended over seven hundred Council meetings and tonight is his last meeting. He is proud of the building and honored to work with the various Councils and Staff.

Superintendent Hanson stated he has enjoyed his career and will miss many aspects of it. He plans to enjoy his retirement and thanks everyone! Mayor Elliott stated there will be a reception next week for Bruce's retirement.

12. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Elliott stated they had a special council meeting on April 11th to ensure the fire equipment could be donated to the Ukrainian fire departments. Mayor Elliott stated she met with Bob Vogel from the HPC to talk about funding option and grants for Newport's historical buildings as well as the 30th anniversary celebration for the HPC. Newport has two members that have been on the HPC for 30 years that will be recognized later this fall. Mayor Elliott stated she had lunch with the Mayor of Woodbury to talk about mutual interest between our communities including the 3M drinking water fund and their new water treatment plant. Mayor Elliott attended a Newport Elementary PTO meeting along with Member Taylor, Senator Bigham, and Representative Frankie to discuss the school districts plan.

Member Taylor stated it will be a tough night as the school board will be voting on the 10-year facility plan.

Member Johnson stated the library will be having a Mother's Day craft on May 2nd through May 7th. New library hours will be starting April 24th and will be listed on the website. The library received barcoded library cards which was part of a donation. Finally, the library can always use more volunteers.

Member Chapdelaine stated they went furniture shopping the last couple of weeks and was impressed by what we were able to get that fit within our budget, and he thought Administrator Hill and Superintendent Hanson did a wonderful job.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Member Chapdelaine motioned to adjourn the City Council Meeting. Seconded by Member Johnson. Approved 5-0.

The City Council Meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m. on April 21, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted:
Jill Thiesfeld,
Administrative Assistant II

Signed: _____
Laurie Elliott, Mayor