



**City of Newport
City Council Minutes
January 5, 2012**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Tim Geraghty called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL -

Council Present – Tim Geraghty, Bill Sumner, Tracy Rahm, Steven Gallagher

Council Absent –Tom Ingemann,

Staff Present – Brian Anderson, City Administrator; Bruce Hanson, Supt. of Public Works; Curt Montgomery, Police Chief; Mark Mailand, Fire Chief; Renee Helm, Executive Analyst; Fritz Knaak, City Attorney; John Stewart, City Engineer

Staff Absent – None

4. ADOPT AGENDA

Motion by Sumner, seconded by Rahm, to adopt the Agenda as amended. With 3 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent, the motion carried.

Councilman Gallagher arrived at 5:32 p.m.

5. ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Sumner, seconded by Rahm, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, which includes the following items:

- A. Minutes of the December 15, 2011 Regular City Council Meeting
- B. List of Bills in the Amount of \$70,907.22
- C. Pay Equity Report
- D. Ordinance No. 2012-1 – Amending the City Code of Ordinances, Chapter 7, General Regulations and Offenses

With 3 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent, the motion carried.

6. VISITORS PRESENTATIONS/PETITIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

7. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Geraghty – I attended a Library Board meeting on December 26. It was a bit sad but I think the transition will work well for the Library and Mike is off to a good start.

8. COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Rahm – Nothing to report

Councilman Ingemann – Absent

Councilman Gallagher – Nothing to report

Councilman Sumner – I've been working with Tom and staff in regards to negotiations and we'll be bringing more information as they make progress.

9. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A. 2012 Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives

Admin. Anderson presented on the 2012 Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives as outlined in the January 5, 2012 City Council packet.

Mayor Geraghty – In regards to the 2012 Plan, would you like to discuss it tonight or have a separate workshop?

Admin. Anderson – Yea, we could discuss it tonight and then bring it back for a workshop.

Councilman Gallagher – Could we take a week to think about it and bring it back?

Admin. Anderson – Yes

Mayor Geraghty – I have a couple things. I would like the City to continue working on the website and providing information to the public on our financial situation. We've committed to doing that and I would like that noted in here. Also, providing more online services such as paying bills online. I'd also like to add that the City will market the Veterans' Memorial throughout 2012.

Councilman Gallagher – I would like to add something regarding citizen outreach. Maybe we can try to connect with our citizens more through Facebook, Twitter, or an electronic monthly newsletter. Do we have any analytics about how many hits we get on our website?

Admin. Anderson – I think we can request to have that put on the website. It's usually HR, Parks and Rec and then Building Inspections that are the most popular. What was our last Facebook count?

Executive Analyst Helm – There's about 100 followers.

Councilman Rahm – I like having a strategic plan and I like that we've been able to knock a couple of these items out. I would like to see what our main themes are that we want to accomplish and how we show alignment to those themes. I'd also like to add a resident satisfaction survey.

Admin. Anderson – Yes, we can roll that out but I wanted to wait until we had accomplished a couple tasks since we had so much going on. There are a couple things that we'll want to decide such as who we want to contact. We can have the survey be electronic or spend a little more money for a phone bank.

Councilman Rahm – As our population ages and becomes technological savvy, electronic feedback is what young people are looking for.

Councilman Sumner – I think we have a fairly mature population and I think paper contact will reach the most people.

Councilman Rahm – A lot of people have email these days so we could save on postage cost.

10. ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Knaak – You have before you the monthly prosecution report. The total cases were 27, which is higher than our norm, which is 15-20. I have nothing new to report on two particular cases.

11. POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT –

Chief Montgomery – On Saturday, December 31, there was a robbery at the Newport Subway shop. Newport Police is still investigating the robbery and it's still considered an active case. I'd just like to ask that if anyone was by Subway around 1:00 p.m. on December 31 and they think they saw something to please give us a call. Secondly, I am a member of the local law enforcement officers association. I have been elected president of the association and am therefore the regional representative for the state. I'll be going to quarterly meetings on behalf of the association. Lastly, you have the December activity report and I'll take any questions.

12. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT – No Report

13. ENGINEER'S REPORT – I provided you with a list for the North Ravine project, we have 27 potential bidders and I'm hoping to get 12. We'll be opening the bids on Tuesday at 10:00. In regards to the 4th Avenue Ravine, we had an agreement with MNDot for \$80,000 for land acquisition costs. We spent around \$42,000 and we were successful in getting MNDot to transfer the remaining balance of \$38,000 to the North Ravine project. The contractor that we hired for the I/I project would like to get started with the nice weather so we're going to meet with them to discuss it.

14. SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – The ice rinks are still closed due to the weather. We'll continue to work on them as the weather permits. There are signs on the building. With the technology of our new water meter system I was able to do a profile for an upset resident. I was able to show her that she used a lot of water in September. We can get down to the hour with the profile system.

15. NEW/OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Geraghty – I want to announce that we're having a meeting on January 9 at the Newport Library to discuss the library and interviewing candidates for 2012 vacancies.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Geraghty, seconded by Sumner, to adjourn the regular Council Meeting at 6:06 P.M. With 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, the motion carried.

Signed: _____
Tim Geraghty, Mayor

Respectfully Submitted,

Renee Helm
Executive Analyst