



**City of Newport
City Council Minutes
January 7, 2016**

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL -

Council Present – Tim Geraghty; Tom Ingemann; Bill Sumner; Tracy Rahm; Dan Lund

Council Absent –

Staff Present – Deb Hill, City Administrator; Bruce Hanson, Supt. of Public Works; Renee Eisenbeisz, Assistant to the City Administrator; Fritz Knaak, City Attorney; Larry Osterman, Sergeant; Sherri Buss, TKDA Planner

Staff Absent – Steve Wiley, Fire Chief; Jon Herdegen, City Engineer;

4. ADOPT AGENDA

Motion by Ingemann, seconded by Rahm, to adopt the Agenda as presented. With 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion carried.

5. ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA

Councilman Ingemann - I would like to remove the resolution for the election judges out for discussion.

Councilman Sumner - I have a comment on the minutes, it says "I heard from a building", it should be "builder."

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

- A. Minutes of the January 7, 2016 Regular City Council Meeting as amended
- B. List of Bills in the Amount of \$345,380.24
- C. Gambling Permit
- E. **Resolution No. 2016-3** - Accepting Donations for the Period of December 1, 2015 - January 14, 2016

With 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion carried.

D. Resolution No. 2016-2 - Establishing Hourly Rates for Election Judges

Councilman Ingemann - The head judge gets \$10 and the regular judge gets \$9. The proposal is to go to \$11.50 for the head judge and \$0.50 for the regular judge. I propose \$11.50 for the head judge and \$10 for the regular judges.

Councilman Sumner - Was there any reason for these rates?

Asst. to the City Admin. - It was just to be similar to the average County hourly rates. It's about \$3,200 per year.

Councilman Rahm - Compared to what they do, this is nothing when it comes down to it.

Motion by Ingemann, seconded by Lund to approve Resolution No. 2016-2 as amended. With 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion carried.

6. VISITORS PRESENTATIONS/PETITIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

Virgil Voller, 1685 Kolff Street - I'll pass this around, that's a long time ago with the mailman today. That was put in someone else's box on the 10th. They held on to it until that time. Someone should get on the mailman and get us some delivery during the day. The wife asked the person at Woodbury and we've been calling for years. They don't answer.

Councilman Ingemann - This was delivered in 2010 and you just got it today?

Mr. Voller - Yes. On your new houses that you want to build here in Newport, wouldn't it be feasible to make a diagram of the drains that are under the cement so the new owner knows where they go? Shouldn't it be in the final plans?

Councilman Rahm - They know where the connections go from the house to the street so I'm not sure what your question is.

Mr. Voller - All the drains that go to it should be outlined. The plans are thrown away. You had a good subject about \$600,000 on houses, the young fellow says that would be a bad idea. What about the houses that you bought out on the River, why did you do that?

Mayor Geraghty - That was a decision we made about 10 years ago when we decided not to spend \$3 or \$5 million to put in a levee and it would have been more economical to buy out the properties. We're getting half of them paid for. The levee will break eventually and they would be gone.

Mr. Voller - They can raise them up. Would you like a park named after you?

Mayor Geraghty - That's not for me to decide.

Mr. Voller - The industrial park would be a good place for it. The cheap street up there, you made it narrower. Now when they park on two sides, you can't get a fire truck through.

Mayor Geraghty - I never see cars on the street. They'll get them moved.

Mr. Voller - They don't have ladders so they don't worry about getting there or not.

7. MAYOR'S REPORT – Nothing to report.

8. COUNCIL REPORTS –

Councilman Lund - I had a brief discussion with Steve Bern, the head of the Newport Athletic Association and he is interested in setting up a formal procedure for reserving Loveland Park.

Councilman Rahm - Is it going to the Park Board first?

Councilman Lund - It's not there yet.

Mayor Geraghty - Just on scheduling the fields?

Councilman Lund - Yes, Woodbury doesn't have room anymore.

Mayor Geraghty - Do they have help yet?

Councilman Lund - No, he's looking for volunteers.

Mayor Geraghty - We want to make sure our kids have the same opportunity.

Councilman Sumner - I attended the Planning Commission meeting and they discussed the ordinance that is before us. I'd also like to thank the Planning Commission members, we have a good group there.

Councilman Ingemann - I wasn't able to attend the Planning Commission meeting, however I was at Lake of the Woods fishing. I got a 24 inch, 6 pound walleye. The yearly gas report, Newport is \$1.69, South St. Paul is \$1.65 and St. Paul Park is \$1.66.

Councilman Rahm - Nothing to report

9. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – A. Classification and Compensation Study

Julie Urell, Springsted, presented on this item as outlined in the January 21, 2016 City Council packet.

Councilman Lund - You added in an appendix relating to benefits, I found that really helpful. We have exceptional benefits including health care and vacation.

Councilman Ingemann - Looking at the recommendation it's basically, ok, thank you.

Councilman Sumner - It doesn't truly recognize where the employees are with their total compensation correct?

Ms. Urell - The scope of the study was looking at base compensation.

Mayor Geraghty - Do we want to adopt anything or take any action?

Councilman Ingemann - When we look at the budget.

Councilman Lund - I think it shows that we don't have any glaring deficiencies.

Mayor Geraghty - At some point we have to accept the pay grid?

Councilman Lund - We can do that later. When it's time to figure out raises again.

Councilman Ingemann - The recommendation doesn't say anything about that.

Mayor Geraghty - It says to determine the date of the adopted pay plan, when's that?

Councilman Lund - I think either the end of this year or at the end of 2017. Everyone is being paid fairly.

Mayor Geraghty - Any legal things we have to do?

Attorney Knaak - If you saw disparity, I think you would be compelled to follow it. You paid for it so you need to ask whether or not you should do anything.

Councilman Ingemann - The budget is already set.

Admin. Hill - I see it as, if we're not going to use it, we're not going to use it. It's a great tool for recruitment and for employees. Continuing to follow the premise that salaried is tied to the unions, there's no incentive for the salaried employees.

Mayor Geraghty - Would the 49ers fall into the grid system?

Admin. Hill - I imagine that will come up during negotiations.

Councilman Lund - If we were to use the grid, it would make sense to include the benefits. Because our benefits are higher and the current grid doesn't account for benefits, I don't think there would be any cost in implementing a grid with benefits. That's another reason to push it off until next budget year. I don't think we need to be ahead of the curve on total compensation.

Councilman Ingemann - The budget is already set and we already reduced it by \$150,000. We'll figure it out at the end of the year.

Mayor Geraghty - What methodology would you use to incorporate the benefits into the grid?

Ms. Urell - I'd need to look into that.

Councilman Lund - We offer five to ten days more on vacation so you can figure that into it. I don't think it makes sense for the City to implement a grid based on the average salaries when our benefits are above average.

Councilman Sumner - On the fringe benefits page, we don't have anything listed for PTO, would the same numbers for vacation slide down into that column?

Ms. Urell - It shows that for the organizations that have vacation and sick time, what the comparison is for Newport. For example, if you look at one year, Newport has 13.75 days, where the organizations have 11 days.

Councilman Sumner - Do those numbers drop down to the PTO. Where we're higher than average for vacation, we're below for PTO. Is that correct?

Ms. Urell - No because PTO incorporates both sick and vacation where vacation is separated out for Newport. If you look on the next page, you can see sick leave.

Councilman Sumner - At one year, sick and vacation is 25.75 and the average PTO is 19, that's pretty significant.

Mayor Geraghty - It sounds like we'll take it up again at budget time.

B. Zoning Amendments

Sherri Buss, TKDA Planner, presented on this item as outlined in the January 21, 2016 City Council packet. The Planning Commission amended the Ordinance during their January 14, 2016 Planning Commission meeting. They changed Section 1330.05, Subd. 10 to say "enclosed accessory structure, no roof required" instead of "fully enclosed accessory structure."

Councilman Rahm - On the dynamic signs for businesses, is there a size maximum?

Ms. Buss - Not for dynamic signs, we assume they would be part of a pylon or billboard. There haven't been any changes to that.

Councilman Sumner - Would these impact the proposal for an electronic billboard?

Councilman Rahm - That's what I'm wondering.

Ms. Buss - They have to have a permit but they are allowed.

Motion by Geraghty, seconded by Ingemann, to approve Ordinance No. 2016-2 as amended. With 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion carried.

10. ATTORNEY'S REPORT - Nothing to report.

11. WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORT -

Councilman Sumner - Any accidents with the snow fall?

Sgt. Osterman - Nothing major.

Councilman Sumner - Are kids staying off of the ponds?

Sgt. Osterman - I haven't seen anything.

Supt. Hanson - It's best for them to stay off of the ponds.

12. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT – Nothing to report.

13. ENGINEER'S REPORT - Nothing to report.

14. SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT -

Supt. Hanson - With the recent Flint, Michigan water issues, we've had some concerns. We want to verify to our residents that our water is safe. Our source water is out of two deep wells. We do annual testing, our consumer confidence report is available online and at City Hall. Our maximum contaminant level for lead is 15 ultra grams per liter and ours is 1.4. I haven't received the guidelines but we test tap water every three years and that's up this year.

15. NEW/OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Geraghty - I'd like to welcome the Newport Dollar Store.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Geraghty, seconded by Ingemann, to adjourn the regular Council Meeting at 6:17 P.M. With 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion carried.

Signed: _____
Tim Geraghty, Mayor

Respectfully Submitted,

Renee Eisenbeisz
Assistant to the City Administrator