



**City of Newport
City Council Minutes
February 5, 2015**

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; Curt Montgomery, Police Chief; Steve Wiley, Fire Chief; Renee Eisenbeisz, Executive Analyst; Fritz Knaak, City Attorney; Jon Herdegen, City Engineer;

Staff Absent –

4. ADOPT AGENDA

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

5. ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Minutes of the January 15, 2015 Regular City Council Meeting
- B. Minutes of the January 15, 2015 Workshop Meeting
- C. List of Bills in the Amount of \$249,836.69
- D. Liability Coverage Waiver Form

With 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion carried.

6. VISITORS PRESENTATIONS/PETITIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

A. County Commissioner Karla Bigham

County Commissioner Karla Bigham - I just wanted to stop by and say that I look forward to working with you on a collaborative and cooperative way on issues that are important to the City of Newport. Today, Mayor Geraghty and I met with the Met Council Chair at the Park and Ride. We had a good discussion on how we can increase ridership and usage of the Park and Ride. I'm excited that Councilman Rahm is on the Red Rock Corridor Commission. We exchanged some ideas, one that I would like to see is that it's a Park and Ride for the State Fair. Also, we need to collaborate to get more routes to St. Paul and Minneapolis. We'll have a grand opening in the spring and will look at some signage to direct people to the Park and Ride. We'll also use social media and other channels like the Chamber of Commerce and Newport Business Association. It's a nice facility. I have a lot of goals this year for the Red Rock Corridor Commission, one of them is to get Hastings in the transit district to get them a route. We're going to be working with our consultant on how we can implement a plan to increase ridership. In collaboration with the County HRA, we're continuing to work with Met Council on Red Rock Crossing. Unfortunately, Met Council didn't award the grant last year but we will go for it again. The other issue is Resource Recovery and how that will play out. I'm watching that very intently and it's very important. I've asked them to make sure that you receive the meeting notices and materials.

Councilman Sumner - Do you know what time the buses stop right now?

Commissioner Bigham - I believe it starts around 6:00 and goes until after 7:00 in the morning and then arrives here around 4:00 and goes until 6:00 in the evening. I know it's on my Facebook page and the City's page as well.

Mayor Geraghty - What's the timeline for the Resource Recovery process?

Commissioner Bigham - We had an introductory meeting in January. Starting in February and ongoing, we'll do a recap and discuss the options. I would say that we would have some sort of decision by June. The options are to continue as is, which is what I support, have the Joint Powers Board purchase it, or sever the contract and go to another facility. It is required by State Law that we process waste so it is a tricky situation. I'd rather have the private sector handle that processing than have the government take it over. I do want Newport involved in that.

Councilman Lund - Do you know how many counties have an equivalent contract? I thought I read that this law has basically been ignored and many counties are not spending any money.

Commissioner Bigham - That is correct, there are some counties that maybe have a difference of opinion with compliance and the MPCA has to have some enforcement for it. Ramsey and Washington Counties have a unique relationship. I can't speak for other counties. There is an equity issue there.

Councilman Lund - If we're going to pay for it and it's not being enforced then it's not a fair situation for the residents of Washington County and whether that means backing up or applying some fines I think you're in a good position to be a voice for it. One way or another it should be a little more fair.

Councilman Sumner- Is that through the Met Council or PCA?

Commissioner Bigham - The MPCA.

Mayor Geraghty - We've met twice this week now, she had a workshop with the mayors and township board members and that was good.

Commissioner Bigham - And I plan on doing that every year. If I can ever be of assistance, feel free to get a hold of me.

7. MAYOR'S REPORT – Nothing to report.

8. COUNCIL REPORTS –

Councilman Rahm - I attended the Red Rock Corridor Commission meeting. I also attended a telecommunications meeting. There will be a transition with the new company that took over Comcast sometime this year.

Councilman Ingemann - Is Qwest with high-speed data down here yet?

Councilman Rahm - I don't think so.

Councilman Sumner - Is it fiber?

Councilman Rahm - Yes and there's fiber down 61 because of the plants but it's getting it to residents.

Councilman Ingemann - Also, gas is still cheaper in South St. Paul.

Councilman Sumner - Lately there's been a couple stories of people going through the ice. Be careful if you're going out there.

Councilman Lund - I attended the Library meeting. They said that participation is high and they want to set up a couple events. I also went to the Leagues' new officials workshop and learned quite a bit.

9. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT –

A. Agreement between the City and Washington Conservation District

Admin. Hill presented on this item as outlined in the February 5, 2015 City Council packet.

Councilman Sumner - That brings us up to speed on items that would need to be handled by our Engineer or Public Works Supt?

Admin. Hill - Yes for \$560.

Motion by Ingemann, seconded by Geraghty, to approve the agreement between the City and Washington Conservation District. With 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion carried.

B. 2015 Annual Appointments

Admin. Hill presented on this item as outlined in the February 5, 2015 City Council packet.

Mayor Geraghty - I'd like to change the Engineer from John Stewart to the firm, MSA. We interviewed three candidates and all of them are great. It's always hard to pick two of the three.

Councilman Rahm - I think they were all great.

Councilman Ingemann - They were all great.

Motion by Sumner, seconded by Rahm, to appoint Marvin Taylor and David Tweeten to the Planning Commission through December 31, 2017 and change the City Engineer to MSA. With 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion carried.

10. ATTORNEY'S REPORT - Nothing to report

11. POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT -

A. Squad Car Purchase

Chief Montgomery presented on this item as outlined in the February 5, 2015 City Council packet.

Councilman Sumner - Is that cost after the trade?

Chief Montgomery - We'll be turning in a 15 year squad car and I believe it'll go into the general fund.

Supt. Hanson - Generally we don't trade them in, they'll be sold on surplus auction.

Mayor Geraghty - This is the same style?

Chief Montgomery - Yes.

Councilman Sumner - How many squads do we have and what is the replacement plan?

Admin. Hill - I think we skip next year and then have two years in a row. It's in your annual budget.

Motion by Rahm, seconded by Geraghty, to approve the purchase of a Ford Utility and equipment at a cost of \$42,968.46. With 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion carried.

12. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT – Nothing to report

13. ENGINEER'S REPORT –

Jon Herdegen, City Engineer - Just a quick update. We were asked to take a look at the water and sewer ordinance. There's a lot of out-dated language and technical information that needs to be looked at. We would like to reorganize it and make it a little clearer. We're hoping to bring a draft to a workshop for discussion at the next meeting or two.

Councilman Sumner - Is this done in other cities?

Engineer Herdegen - We noticed some things, particularly with ownership of lateral lines that didn't have clear definitions that we would like to clear up. We have a lot of technical information that's been in there since the 70's.

Councilman Sumner - Who is going to review these?

Supt. Hanson - We'll be working with Jon on it.

Councilman Lund - Would that go to the Planning Commission first?

Admin. Hill - No.

14. SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT - Nothing to report

15. NEW/OLD BUSINESS

Councilman Lund - We had stuff that we left hanging at the last meeting like the discussion on pay equity. In my review, we've been using the State standard for pay equity for some time and we should positively endorse that standard. If we use another standard and are found in compliance it could create liability for the City. I would make a motion that we endorse the State standard and if there's a problem with that standard I would like to hear what's wrong rather than just switch it without any understanding of the new system.

Mayor Geraghty - We did get additional information from Springsted.

Councilman Ingemann - We're looking a compensation study not a pay equity study, they're two different things. The League of MN Cities did a survey not too long ago and there's another group called the Keystone Group that does compensation studies. It's not just centered on equity.

Mayor Geraghty - I would like to defer this and have a discussion at a workshop. I'm hesitant to pass something for action that wasn't advertised.

Admin. Hill - We can put it on a workshop.

Councilman Lund - Ok, I'll withdraw my motion. Another thing that we could add is that one of the chief complaints against a trash hauler in St. Paul Park is multi-year contracts and not being able to get out of them. Maybe we could add something to our ordinance that says that multi-year contracts are unenforceable or unenforceable on the basis of complaints.

Mayor Geraghty - We can talk about it but I'm not sure how much we can control it.

Attorney Knaak - It's interesting. If you're going to be looking at changing the ordinance in regards to your regulatory powers, you'd be surprised at how many people show up to it.

Councilman Lund - So if we don't have a problem here it wouldn't be worth going down that road?

Attorney Knaak - You could interpret it that way.

Councilman Rahm - If we're talking about workshops, I think we wanted to review our strategic plan every year.

Admin. Hill - I've been speaking with Dave Unmacht and we've been looking at dates.

Councilman Rahm - That should be reviewed every year.

Admin. Hill - I think we did it in March last year.

Councilman Lund - I've been trying to dig into I & I and I think there's enough decisions that need to be made in regards to the schedule and paying for it that I would like to throw that on a workshop.

Mayor Geraghty - We can do that but I would like to keep it to one or two items per workshop.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Geraghty, seconded by Rahm, to adjourn the regular Council Meeting at 6:01 P.M. With 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion carried.

Signed: _____
Tim Geraghty, Mayor

Respectfully Submitted,

Renee Eisenbeisz
Executive Analyst