



**City of Newport
City Council Minutes
April 19, 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, Tom Ingemann, Bill Sumner, Tracy Rahm, Steven Gallagher

Council Absent –

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;

Staff Absent – John Stewart, City Engineer

4. ADOPT AGENDA

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

5. ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA

Councilman Rahm requested that the list of bills be taken off of the Consent Agenda to discuss the purchase of the gazebo for the Newport Bailey School Forest Learning Facility.

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

- A. Minutes of the April 5, 2012 Regular City Council Meeting
- B. Minutes of the April 5, 2012 City Council Workshop Meeting

With 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion carried.

Councilman Rahm – I wanted to remove the list of bills because it was a large amount and I would like us to look at it to make sure everything is okay. Also, I would like to discuss the gazebo for the Bailey School Forest Learning Facility. I'd like to talk about an amended proposal to what's included in the packet. I'm wondering what I'm supposed to say when residents come and ask me why the Council is spending money on a shelter in the woods with no power when the tennis courts have not been repaired yet.

Mayor Geraghty – You can tell them that it's a project that the City has been considering for years.

Councilman Rahm – That's good but what if, we put up a solar powered park pavilion? We can say that we have a facility that's useful for science experiments or night-time activities. It's progressive towards our green initiatives and has an environmental theme. For about \$10,000 more than what is on the list of bills we could have a solar-powered gazebo and then that would be something that I would be interested in supporting even though it costs more because it lines up with our strategic plan.

Mayor Geraghty – Why did you reject the first time around?

Councilman Rahm – I didn't see how it fit in the plan but now I can see better.

Mayor Geraghty – I thought it was funding.

Councilman Rahm – It was funding. I thought this is a way of looking at it more differently.

Mayor Geraghty – I'm open to the idea. I'm not sure if it would disrupt the time table or if it's something that we can modify easily, if we can still come in under funding. I'm still committed to getting it installed by August 2012.

Superintendent Hanson – Could we put it on after the pavilion is up? Electricity at other parks didn't go in until years after the pavilions went up.

Mayor Geraghty – Once it's added, what can you actually power?

Councilman Rahm – I looked for something that was used for cabins and rv's. I'm asking for a consideration. I was thinking of tabling the purchase of the gazebo until we research it more but I like Bruce's idea of purchasing it and then adding on.

Superintendent Hanson – Maybe this should go back to the Parks Board and School Forest Committee because there has been no discussion about adding power to the facility. Currently, they have no plans at using it at night which is why power wasn't discussed.

Councilman Rahm – This has a 25-30 year productive life for less than \$10,000, it's probably less than it would cost to run power up there.

Mayor Geraghty – What time do the parks close?

Superintendent Hanson – Dusk

Mayor Geraghty – I'm not sure we would want to encourage night use unless it was an educational thing.

Councilman Rahm – Yea, the rules would have to change to allow for something like that. We would also need to consider vandalism.

Mayor Geraghty – Could we pass it and give staff the direction to research it to see if we could buy it as a package right away or add on to it.

Admin. Anderson – We did raise the \$10,000 donations but we don't have additional funds for this. I can tap into another couple funding sources but otherwise the City would be funding it. To keep the thing on schedule, I like the idea of approving it tonight and staff can research it.

Mayor Geraghty – If we can get it as a package we should do that.

Councilman Rahm – There are some structural issues that we would need to look at. There are kits out there that are pretty easy to install. I think it would be a good PR thing.

Councilman Ingemann – Are these kits portable so that we could set it up when we need to use it and take it down when it's not in use?

Councilman Rahm – You can do that but I wouldn't recommend it because the portable ones have less power.

Councilman Sumner – Will the gazebo be in a location where it'll get a lot of sun?

Admin. Anderson – Yes

Councilman Sumner – What about portable generators?

Councilman Rahm – That's another way of doing it but is it really green?

Motion by Ingemann, seconded by Sumner to approve the list of bills as presented and direct staff to research solar energy and electricity alternatives for the Learning Facility to discuss at a future City Council meeting. With 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion carried.

6. VISITORS PRESENTATIONS/PETITIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

7. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Geraghty – I attended the second meeting for the Comprehensive Plan Review on Tuesday night and I would like to thank Tracy for facilitating that.

8. COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Gallagher – I had a Met Council meeting.

Councilman Sumner – I also attended the Comp Plan Review. Councilman Rahm continued to present some good ideas that have been looked at by the City. I look forward to the next meeting. Work has started on the North Ravine project, I understand there are some substantial changes up by the Public Works building. It should be finished mid-summer. I'd also like to thank Renee for the tutorial she gave on the iPad.

Councilman Ingemann – I was at the Planning Commission meeting last Thursday. We had a Board of Appeals review for a local business that wasn't too happy with the denial of the installation of an above-ground storage tank for fuel.

Councilman Rahm – I also attended the meeting last Tuesday.

9. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A. Resolution No. 2012-10 – Authorizing the City of Newport to Participate in the Minnesota GreenStep Cities Program

Executive Analyst Helm and Admin. Anderson presented on this item as outlined in the April 19, 2012 City Council packet. the Minnesota GreenStep Cities program that was established by a coalition of public and private stakeholders including the League of Minnesota Cities, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), and the Office of Energy Security and Clean Energy Response Team. The program is a voluntary challenge, assistance and recognition program to help local governments achieve their sustainability goals through implementation of 28 best practices. Each best practice can be implemented by completing one or more specific actions from a list of four to eight actions. There are three steps that the City can be recognized for. To be recognized as a Step 1 City, the Council will need to

approve the attached resolution stating that the City will participate in the program. To be recognized as a Step 2 City, the City will need to complete six (6) best practices and to be recognized as a Step 3 City, it will need to complete 12. City staff has reviewed the 28 best practices and created an inventory of what has been completed and what the City is in the process of completing. According to staff's calculations, the City has completed seven (7) best practices to date and is in the process of completing eleven (11) more best practices.

Motion by Geraghty, seconded by Rahm to approve Resolution No. 2012-10 Authorizing the City of Newport to Participate in the Minnesota GreenStep Cities Program. With 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion carried.

B. Police Department Squad Car Purchase

Chief Montgomery and Admin. Anderson presented on this item as outlined in the April 19, 2012 City Council packet. City staff is recommending that the City purchase the 2013 Ford Utility to replace the 1998 squad car at a cost of \$40,256.08. It was requested that staff research the cost of adding lights to the push bar and if they are not too expensive to add them to the total.

Motion by Ingemann, seconded by Gallagher to purchase the 2013 Ford Utility with the addition of lights in the push bar. With 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion carried.

10. ATTORNEY'S REPORT – No Report

11. POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT –

A. March 2012 Activity Report – Chief Montgomery presented on the March 2012 Activity report as outlined in the April 19, 2012 City Council packet. On Saturday, April 28, Washington County will be taking expired prescriptions at its Government Center in Stillwater from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Washington County will also be placing drop boxes in Forest Lake, Cottage Grove and Stillwater.

12. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT – No Report

13. ENGINEER'S REPORT – No Report

14. SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT –

Superintendent Hanson – The State Erosion Control Officer was out recently, as well as Matt Moore from South Washington Watershed District, to make sure that all the erosion control is in place for erosion control. They're well aware of all the problems and should be taking care of it.

15. NEW/OLD BUSINESS

16. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Gallagher, seconded by Sumner, to adjourn the regular Council Meeting at 6:22 P.M. With 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion carried.

Signed: _____
Tim Geraghty, Mayor

Respectfully Submitted,

Renee Helm
Executive Analyst