



**City of Newport
City Council Minutes
May 21, 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; Bill Sumner; Tracy Rahm; Dan Lund

Council Absent – Tom Ingemann

Staff Present – Deb Hill, City Administrator; Bruce Hanson, Supt. of Public Works; Steve Wiley, Fire Chief; Renee Eisenbeisz, Executive Analyst; Fritz Knaak, City Attorney; Jon Herdegen, City Engineer;

Staff Absent – Curt Montgomery, Police Chief;

4. ADOPT AGENDA

Motion by Sumner, seconded by Rahm, to adopt the Agenda as presented. With 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, the motion carried.

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 May 7, 2015 Regular City Council Meeting
- B. List of Bills in the Amount of \$165,035.21
- C. Publication of Ordinance No. 2015-1
- D. Chicken Permit for 3010 Bailey Road
- E. Gambling Permit for Booya
- F. **Resolution No. 2015-10** - Amending Resolution No. 2015-7

With 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, the motion carried.

6. VISITORS PRESENTATIONS/PETITIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

A. Presentation of the Betty Haugen Preservation Award

Linda Michie, Heritage Preservation Commission Chair - Every May during National Historic Preservation Month, the City of Newport honors an individual or organization that has made an outstanding contribution to the preservation, protection, and use of Newport's historic buildings and sites. This year, the Haugen Award goes to the Newport Library Advisory Committee in recognition of their efforts to preserve and adaptively reuse the historic Newport Public Library. Built in 1868 as the Newport Baptist Church, the Gothic Revival style building has housed the Newport Library since 1889. The Library is a designated Newport heritage landmark and is one of the oldest continuously operating libraries in the State of MN. This year marks the thirteenth annual presentation of the Haugen Award, which is named for Betty Ann Haugen, a longtime Newport resident and one of the original members of the city's Heritage Preservation Commission, who passed away in 2002. Here to accept the award is Jo Bailey.

Jo Bailey, President of the Library Advisory Committee - Thank you, I'm very happy to accept this on behalf of the Library Advisory Committee, it will be cherished. I'd like to say a few words about our wonderful library. I think it was marvelous that in the 1880's, these people had a lot of foresight because we had a Mayor back then who said "We can get most of the pleasures of the world with a free public library." With that thought in mind, the second thing Newport did when they became a village was to start a library in the old school house. They Mayor's brother was the first librarian and had to read all of the books to make sure they were ok for the general public to read. We're in our 126th year and is either the first or second oldest library in MN. It had its grand opening December 14, 1889. We have a book about the history of the Library if any of you would like to read it. As you know, we're now the Library and Community Center which is working out really well.

Mayor Geraghty - I'd like to thank the Advisory Committee as well. It's a team effort, we have a lot of volunteers that work there and without them, it wouldn't be what it is either so I'd like to thank them as well for their time.

B. County Commissioner Karla Bigham - Public notice of an open house for input on the Library System and Strategic Plan to be held on May 27, 2015 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Cottage Grove Washington County Center

County Commissioner Karla Bigham - Thank you for allowing me to come and briefly announce that the Washington County Library System is currently undergoing a strategic plan and there will be two public forums as part of that. They are next Wednesday, May 27 from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. at the Cottage Grove Washington County Center and Thursday, June 4 from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. at the Stillwater Government Center. Hopefully folks can stop by one of them and provide input. If you can't make it feel free to email me at karla.bigham@co.washington.mn.us.

7. MAYOR'S REPORT – Nothing to Report

8. COUNCIL REPORTS –

Councilman Rahm - I went to the refinery open house last weekend and was very impressed with what they did there. I think the Council should write a note of thanks and appreciation to them. I'd be happy to draft something up.

Councilman Sumner - I also attended the open house. The refinery has gone through several ownerships and I've been on the community advisory panel for the last half dozen years and the work they do to be a good and safe neighbor is quite impressive and I think it would be appropriate to send them a thank you note. There are a large number of people that work there that live in this community. They have a large impact on the safety and economy of this local area.

Councilman Lund - I met with representatives of Met Council, Deb, Bruce and Jon and we were talking about inflow and infiltration. Most of you are aware that I'm a little frustrated with their plan. The only data they've presented to mitigate it is \$200 million and that's a gross underestimate. This is important to Newport because we have a per capita inflow problem that's worse than anywhere else in the metro. I think by having inaccurate numbers is not helpful. It's a problem that should be in front of the legislature and Newport would be first in line. There was a good exchange of information both ways. We can spread out our assessment from last year to be capped at 25% from our annual waste water expense which is a significant reduction by letting us spread it out. They also seemed surprised by some of the issues we're having with our liners.

Supt. Hanson - We showed them some of the televising we did last year under the wet conditions, we're going to relay that to them to show some of the issues we're having with some of the work we've done. I think it was a good meeting.

Councilman Rahm - Do they understand our topography and how the bedrock influences it?

Supt. Hanson - We tried to explain that.

Councilman Lund - I think it was useful and will be ongoing discussions.

Mayor Geraghty - Is it premature to talk about a bonding request?

Councilman Lund - They don't have any data, their study is 10 years old and in that time, they've found that stopping the water is not as easy as they thought. What did they say about having some type of committee together?

Admin. Hill - They were looking at getting a group together to look at how the program should commence from here. They didn't say how that would be formulated. It would be for the entire seven county region.

Councilman Sumner - We should try to get a member on that.

9. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Nothing to report.

10. ATTORNEY'S REPORT - Nothing to report.

11. POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT - Nothing to report.

12. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT –

Chief Wiley - To echo Councilman Sumner, we've had a good working relationship with the refinery as a mutual aid partner. We spent two training sessions there. I'd like to thank everyone that came out the meat raffle last Friday night, it was a blast and the fastest that we ever sold out of all our product. I'd like to thank Kay and her staff at the Cloverleaf for supporting us. Another thing, I think everyone heard, we had a fire May 9th. There were two garages on fire and they spread to the houses. We had Cottage Grove, St. Paul Park, and Woodbury out there and I'd like to thank them. We all worked extremely hard and did a great job mitigating the damage the best we could. Officer Crist from the Police Department also did a great job. He was the first on the scene and treated the injuries and updated the Fire Department as we were arriving. I'd also like to thank Mr. Hanson, he allowed us to use the Public Works facility and equipment for a training drill. It was one of the best drills we've had in the last ten years in regards to realism. We appreciate the collaboration.

Councilman Sumner - Who takes command when you have multiple departments come in?

Chief Wiley - It's up to the discretion of the department but 99.9% of the time, we are.

Councilman Sumner - How bad was the wind that day?

Chief Wiley - It was pushing pretty hard from the east so that was not good for us.

Councilman Sumner - The fire started in the most eastern garage?

Chief Wiley - Yes and there was a live power line that came down so we had to protect citizens and the fire fighters from that.

Councilman Sumner - Thanks to the guys. Can you add more volunteers?

Chief Wiley - We probably could.

13. ENGINEER'S REPORT –

Engineer Herdegen - Nothing formal, we're working on getting our restoration issues from last year's project under control. We got a newsletter out last week. We're encouraging people to mow to stop the weeds from coming up. The contractor is going to spray for weeds, fertilize and seed.

14. SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT -

Councilman Sumner - How much rain have we had?

Supt. Hanson - There was one significant one where it was over an inch but I can't remember when that was.

Mayor Geraghty - How is the SCADA project going?

Supt. Hanson - It's going well.

Councilman Sumner - The maple leaves in the gutters, is that something we should sweep out? Is that a big deal to sweep?

Supt. Hanson - It is because we're pretty full up. Grass is more of a concern than the pods because of the seed and fertilizer.

15. NEW/OLD BUSINESS

16. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Geraghty, seconded by Sumner, to adjourn the regular Council Meeting at 5:53 P.M. With 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, the motion carried.

Signed: _____
Tim Geraghty, Mayor

Respectfully Submitted,

Renee Eisenbeisz
Executive Analyst