



**City of Newport
City Council Minutes
June 20, 2013**

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, Steven Gallagher

Council Absent – Tom Ingemann,

Staff Present – Deb Hill, City Administrator; John Neska, Asst. Supt. of Public Works; Curt Montgomery, Police Chief; Renee Helm, Executive Analyst; Fritz Knaak, City Attorney; John Stewart, City Engineer

Staff Absent – Bruce Hanson, Supt. of Public Works; Mark Mailand, Fire Chief;

4. ADOPT AGENDA

Executive Analyst Helm – There is one addition to the Consent Agenda. The background check for the new owners of the Newport Liquor Store came back this afternoon so I would like to add their off-sale application to the approval of liquor licenses under the Consent Agenda.

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

5. ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Minutes of the June 6, 2013 Regular City Council Meeting
- B. List of Bills in the Amount of \$208,421.65
- C. Approval of Liquor Licenses

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

6. VISITORS PRESENTATIONS/PETITIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

7. MAYOR'S REPORT –

Mayor Geraghty – I would like to remind the public that there is a campout at Loveland Park this Saturday. It starts at 2:00 p.m. My email account was hacked and an email went out stating that I was stranded in the Philippines and needed money. I did send an email out stating that it was spam.

8. COUNCIL REPORTS –

Councilman Gallagher – Nothing to report.

Councilman Sumner – I just want to remind individuals that giving blood is very important and to do so if you're healthy enough.

Councilman Rahm – I met with staff this past week to go over the Performance Measurement Program and Strategic

Plan. I believe we'll have workshop in July to go over it. I also have a proposal for rebranding that I would like to give at a workshop or Council meeting.

9. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT –

A. Resolution No. 2013-26 – Approving a Rezoning Request from Leisa Knauff

Sherri Buss, TKDA Planner, presented on this item as outlined in the June 20, 2013 City Council packet.

Councilman Rahm – I have a comment. We're recommending that the buffer zone for St. Paul Park Refinery be rezoned to B-1, why wouldn't we want that to be industrial? The reason being that right now it's not being developed and we could get more tax revenue if it were developed.

Ms. Buss – I think the Planning Commission could have gone with light industrial but they didn't want industrial storage there. We just don't have enough marketing information. You also need to think about what's across the street.

Councilman Rahm – My only concern is that they continue to increase that buffer zone which decreases our tax revenue.

Ms. Buss – They need to have a buffer zone to some degree.

Mayor Geraghty – Does this Resolution include those additional parcels?

Ms. Buss – Yes.

Councilman Sumner – What is the tax base for industrial storage?

Ms. Buss – I'm not sure.

Councilman Sumner – I don't believe the Refinery would ever want to develop that so if it would be a substantial step up maybe we should have that option. But we can always come back and rezone it.

Ms. Buss – I think the Planning Commission was thinking longer term and what would you like to have there if the Refinery ever left.

Mayor Geraghty – The only question I have on the Resolution is that the "Now, Therefore" section does not mention what we're rezoning the old parcels to.

Executive Analyst Helm – That is stated in the Resolution after all of the parcels are listed.

Councilman Gallagher – Do they have a developer and plan?

Ms. Buss – They have been working with a broker and a potential developer who would like to build a warehouse/office for a furniture company. They would be required to get a Conditional Use Permit for that use and we can set regulations in that.

Councilman Gallagher – Is that road capable of handling trucks like that?

Engineer Stewart – No.

Ms. Buss – They told us that there would be delivery sized trucks, not semis. We'll have them talk with John about what the road can handle.

Engineer Stewart – You could get a delivery truck on that road.

Councilman Sumner – How many lots are they looking at?

Ms. Buss – Four or five of the parcels.

Attorney Knaak – I would just recommend a slight language amendment. At the end it should just say “Now, Therefore Be it Resolved that the City Council approves.”

Motion by Sumner, seconded by Rahm, to approve Resolution No. 2013-26 as amended. With 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, the motion carried.

B. Resolution No. 2013-27 – Exempting Residents from Minnesota Statutes 344 Regarding Partition Fences

Sherri Buss, TKDA Planner, presented on this item as outlined in the June 20, 2013 City Council packet.

Councilman Gallagher – Do we have any livestock in Newport.

Executive Analyst Helm – There is a farm animal permit for horses up on Kolff Street.

Motion by Gallagher, seconded by Sumner, to approve Resolution No. 2013-27. With 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, the motion carried.

C. Resolution No. 2013-28 – Amending Grant Agreement #3000025302 Between the State of Minnesota and the City of Newport for the Acquisition of 1625 and 1629 Cedar Lane

Admin. Hill presented on this item as outlined in the June 20, 2013 City Council packet.

Motion by Sumner, seconded by Gallagher, to approve Resolution No. 2013-28. With 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, the motion carried.

Executive Analyst Helm – The City was awarded the 3rd Step in the GreenStep Cities program at the League of Minnesota Cities conference this week. Since we’ve joined, we’ve completed 18 best practices. The 3rd Step is the final step as of right now. The Coordinators are working on the 4th and 5th Step requirements. I’ll put something online stating that we received this.

Mayor Geraghty – I would like to thank Renee for this.

10. ATTORNEY’S REPORT –

11. POLICE CHIEF’S REPORT –

A. May 2013 Activity Report

Councilman Gallagher – How’s your CSO doing? I noticed his monthly total was much higher this month.

Chief Montgomery – That number is the total that he’s found. Most of them are corrected once a warning is sent.

Councilman Rahm – Has anyone heard any complaints about it because I haven’t?

12. FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT –

13. ENGINEER’S REPORT –

A. 2013-2015 Street Improvement Projects

John Stewart, City Engineer, presented on Resolution No. 2013-25 as outlined in the June 20, 2013 City Council packet. The bids for the street improvement projects will be opened on June 27, 2013 and we’re hoping that the City Council can award the bid at their meeting that evening. Item #3 on the Resolution was amended to remove the annual recurrence

Councilman Gallagher – In item #3, we're requiring the last 4 feet to drain to the street. Does that limit anyone who would like to install a rain garden?

Engineer Stewart – We're trying to make sure that the rain does not drain into the properties. There would be no way of accommodating a rain garden in a driveway area.

Councilman Sumner – This only refers to residential properties correct?

Engineer Stewart – Yes.

Motion by Geraghty, seconded by Sumner, to approve Resolution No. 2013-25 as amended. With 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, the motion carried.

Attorney Knaak presented on Ordinance No. 2013-6 as outlined in the June 20, 2013 City Council packet.

Motion by Gallagher, seconded by Sumner to approve Ordinance No. 2013-6. With 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, the motion carried.

14. SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT –

Asst. Superintendent Neska – We did some seal coating this week and they completed that yesterday, sweeping should commence next week. We're about 90% done with the tennis courts at Loveland Park. It should be open by the end of next week.

15. NEW/OLD BUSINESS

A. Discussion Regarding Electronic Billboards

Councilman Rahm – We discussed this earlier this year and I had a public meeting regarding it. I would like to know if the Council would like to move forward with this and request a package from the companies that presented to the EDA earlier this year.

The City Council directed Councilman Rahm to contact the two companies that presented to the EDA and request packages from them.

16. CLOSE THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTERS

The City Council closed the meeting to the public to discuss personnel matters at 6:16 p.m. The City Council opened the meeting to the public at 6:30 p.m.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Gallagher, seconded by Sumner, to adjourn the regular Council Meeting at 6:31 P.M. With 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, the motion carried.

Signed: _____
Tim Geraghty, Mayor

Respectfully Submitted,

Renee Helm
Executive Analyst