

New Plymouth City Council Meeting  
TUESDAY  
February 20, 2024  
6:00 P.M.  
New Plymouth City Council Chambers

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of February 2024, the New Plymouth City Council meeting was called to order at 6:08 P.M. by Mayor Lisa Binggeli.

The pledge of allegiance was led by Dana Ziemer.

Roll call was taken with council members Dana Zeimer, Josh Davis, Suzanne Evans, Eileen Balcer and Mayor Lisa Binggeli present.

Staff members in attendance were City Clerk Marianne Gatchell, City Superintendent Beau Ziemer, City Engineer Andy Gehrke, and City Attorney Dan Chadwick.

February 5, 2024, City Council Special Meeting Minutes- Action Item

**Councilwoman Balcer made a motion to approve the minutes from February 5, 2024, Special Meeting. Councilwoman Ziemer seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

February 5, 2024, City Council Meeting Minutes- Action Item

**Councilwoman Balcer made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 5, 2024. Councilwoman Evans seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Claim Approvals- Action Item

**Councilwoman Balcer made a motion to approve the claim approvals, excluding the payment to Argus Observer for \$210.43. Councilman Davis seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Message from the Mayor

Mayor Lisa Binggeli let the public know that the meetings will be available via zoom and the link will be on the city website. The library is in the process of getting bids for the remodel next door. Our new city hall sign for our front will be ready in the next few weeks, very excited about this.

Citizen Comments

None

New Business-

- a. Spring Clean-Up Dates- 3/6/2024-4/3/2024- (Action Item)

**Councilwoman Ziemer made a motion to approve the Spring Clean-Up Dates for 3/6/2024-4/3/2024. Councilwoman Balcer seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

- b. Change of City Auditor- (Action Item) Mayor Binggeli informed the public and the council that we have had the same auditor for the last 12 years. We are in contract with the current auditor, Quest CPAs through 2025. City Clerk Marianne Gatchell spoke with Kurt Folke at Quest CPAs in reference to making a change. Kurt said they would allow us to cancel the contract if the council decides to change auditors. Marianne reached out to Zwygart John Certified Public Accountants, which was recommended by the City of Emmett. They said they would be willing to take the city on as clients, but recommended we stay with Quest as they have already started the 2023 fiscal year audit. Discussion between council, Mayor, and staff. The decision was made that we will have Quest CPAs complete the FY2023 audit and make a possible change for next years audit.

**Councilwoman Evans made a motion to stay with our current auditor this year and change auditors for the 2025 year. Councilwoman Balcer seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

c. Training for City Council- (Action Item)

City Attorney Dan Chadick said he can offer basic training concepts, roles and responsibilities, etc. which could be done under his current monthly hourly retainer. He can put together a pamphlet for the council as well. He recommends doing a special meeting for this training which would be open to the public. This should be added to the city website calendar once a date is decided on. He also said there are a lot of trainings available on the AIC website which are very informative. No action is needed.

d. Creation of Committee for Volunteers for Park Benches in Pathway- (Action Item) Mayor Binggeli said at our last city council meeting patron Debbie Mills-Smith said she would like to see benches along the pathway. Mayor Binggeli and PW Superintendent Beau Zeimer have come up with a plan to map out the pathway, placing 3 benches on each segment of the park. Beau will come up with a spec for the benches with the price to purchase and install. There is a local boy scout that will take this on as his Eagle Scout Project. He will be responsible for finding the donors to purchase the benches and collecting the funds. The plan is to have the benches in by summertime. We will follow up on the project and report. No action needed.

Department Reports

Library Report- City Librarian Melanie Cope said they are going to need a new library board member soon. eBooks is doing awesome. Councilwoman Balcer said it is exciting to see the numbers continuing to go up.

Payette County Sheriff Report-

Beau said the word on the street is there is a lot more sheriff presence in town. Mayor Binggeli said they are contracted for 8 hours of patrolling per day.

Mayor & Council Comments

NP Rural Fire Chief Joseph Wyatt said they have lots of trainings in the coming months. He said their call volume has gone up 25% this year. The fire fighters are paid on call, he is the only full-time paid employee. EMS is staffed 24/7 with all volunteers. He said there is big need in funding for NP Rural Fire District. The idea of doing an open house for the public to come see what the needs really are and why would be a good idea. City Attorney Dan Chadick explained the process of impact fees, which included amending the comprehensive plan and adopting an ordinance to establish an advisory committee. The research was ongoing to confirm if the ordinance was ever published, which is necessary for it to be effective. There will be a special advisory committee with the fire district, which will be tasked with developing a capital improvement plan. The council will approve the committee members, and the committee will be composed of individuals from both city limits and the fire district. Impact fees will be triggered by new construction building permits only. We will revisit impact fees at a later date for follow-up.

Adjournment

**Councilwoman Balcer moved to adjourn the council meeting. Councilwoman Ziemer seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:09 P.M.

Approve:

Attest:

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Lisa Binggeli, Mayor

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Marianne Gatchell, City Clerk