

New Plymouth City Council Meeting  
MONDAY  
February 5, 2024  
6:00 P.M.  
New Plymouth City Council Chambers

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of February 2024, the New Plymouth City Council meeting was called to order at 6:01 P.M. by Mayor Lisa Binggeli.

The pledge of allegiance was led by Mayor Binggeli.

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, Deputy Clerk Suzanna Culpepper, City Superintendent Beau Ziemer, City Engineer Andy Gehrke, and City Attorney Dan Chadwick.

January 16, 2024, City Council Minutes- Action Item

**Councilwoman Balcer made a motion to approve the minutes from January 16, 2024. Councilman Davis seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Claim Approvals- Action Item

**Councilwoman Evans made a motion to approve the claim approvals totalling \$48,818.34. Councilwoman Zeimer seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Message from the Mayor

Mayor Lisa Binggeli talked about all the new things happening at City Hall. The new sign out front in the lobby and the new sign for the council room which will have the City Seal which will be here soon. There will also be a new sign on the front of the building which has already been ordered, which is amazing. There will be policy changes, ordinance updates, lots of work being done to better the city. As always if there are any concerns email and she will respond.

Citizen Comments

Debbie Mills-Smith would like to see if there can be benches placed along the pathway. She loves to walk the pathway but would like to be able to rest along the way. Mayor Binggeli said we will work on getting that started. Andy Gehrke said there is a possibility that we could get grant funding for them. Toni Blacketter reminding everyone about the Presidential Caucus and placed a flier on the bulletin board in the lobby. Virginia Barton said it has been 25-30 years since the city has had a forensic audit. She suggested we establish an ordinance that requires a periodic forensic audit. She also suggested having P&Z meetings more then once a month to make time for the very over dure Comp Plan. Mayor Binggeli said we are working on the Comp Plan, we want to do it, but we want to do it right. Depending on the help we need, it might have to be something we work on in the next budget year. Greg Evans said regarding the pathway benches, checking to see if we would consider people doing benches as moratorium.

New Business-

- a. Appointment of Planning & Zoning Commissioner Angela Graham- (Action Item)  
**Councilwoman Balcer made a motion to approve the Appointment of Planning & Zoning Commissioner Angela Graham. Councilwoman Evans seconded the motion. Motion carries.**
- b. Farm Lease- (Action Item) Mayor Binggeli said this is the Farm Lease that approved on 1/2/2023 by the previous council. It has been leased by the same person for the same price of \$135.00 per acre, at \$1650.00

a year. The city maintains the fence. We have been going through the process of legally getting the water rights. Which has cost the city \$15,000.00 in engineering fees. It would be prudent to see if we can lease the ground at a more current rate to make up this engineering cost. City Attorney Dan Chadwick said we can terminate the current lease with a 60-day notice.

**Councilwoman Evans made a motion to terminate the current farm lease. Councilman Davis seconded the motion.**

Department Reports

Engineering Status Report- City Engineer Andy Gehrke said he updated the format of the report. It has the listed dates and then the listed next steps for projects as well as check off boxes.

Public Works Report-

Councilman Davis would like to see more work on the city street signs. When signs go down to have them fixed and updated with the new standards. Public Works Superintendent Beau Zeimer said we don't have the funds right now to replace the signs with the updated standards. But we replace the safety signs as quickly as possible.

Mayor & Council Comments

Councilwoman Balcer said that our city staff Marianne and Suzanna are doing the best they can with the situation they have been left with. She appreciates the patience they are being given by the public. She is happy to see the departments working so well with each other. Mayor Binggeli reminded the public that she does have appointments available on Tuesdays at city hall. Councilwoman Zeimer said there is a grant out right now for assistance to fire fighters, and the deadline is the end of March. For information you can email AIC.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:38 P.M.

Approve:

Attest:

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Lisa Binggeli, Mayor

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Marianne Gatchell, City Clerk