

New Plymouth City Council Meeting
MONDAY
June 17, 2024
6:00 P.M.
New Plymouth City Council Chambers

On the 17th of June 2024, the New Plymouth City Council meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Council President Eileen Balcer.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Councilmember Davis, Councilmember Evans, Council President Balcer were present. Mayor Binggeli was absent.

Staff members present, City Clerk Marianne Gatchell, City Attorney Jill Holinka, and Public Works Superintendent Beau Ziemer

June 3, 2024, City Council Meeting Minutes- Action Item
Councilmember Davis made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 3, 2024, council meeting. Councilmember Evans seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Claim Approvals- Action Item
Councilmember Evans made a motion to approve the claim approvals for \$68,837.17. Councilmember Davis seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Citizen Comments- Virginia Barton 205 W Canal St raised concerns about missing website updates and requested information on when planning and zoning records and financials would be uploaded. She also questioned the impact of a new update on the planning and zoning commission and expressed concerns about the lack of access to the official newspaper.

New Business-

- a. Dan Chadwick Park Bench Donation Request- (Action Item)
Councilmember Balcer discussed the proposal to install a park bench in honor of Dan Chadwick and the need for guidelines regarding dedications. Councilmember Evans suggested we table the decision until more information is available. We will discuss with the mayor if the city covers expenses after donations. Public Works Superintendent Beau Ziemer recommended that we invite the Eagle Scout back for an update. **Councilmember Balcer motioned to table the decision. Councilmember Davis seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.**

- b. Idaho American Legion Girls/Boys State Program-Julie & Randy Taylor- Donation Request- (Action Item)
Julie Taylor, Girls State Chairman from American Legion (New Plymouth, Fruitland, Weiser, and Payette) spoke about the program available for high school and junior girls and boys.

This program introduces them to the structures and functions of their state government beginning with the city level, county level, and the state. Emma Eldred, an upcoming senior of New Plymouth High School, spoke about her experience with the program.

Councilmember Balcer is in full support of this program. **Councilmember Evans made the motion to approve the donation of \$900.00 for one girl and one boy for the 2025 session. Councilmember Davis seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.**

c. Payette Soil & Water Conservation District-Donation Request- (Action Item)

Chairman Jo Anne Smith from the Payette Soil and Water Conservation District requested continued support for their conservation efforts. **Councilmember Davis motioned to approve the \$1,000 donation for fiscal year 2024. Councilmember Balcer seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.**

d. Don Littlefield- Sunny's Car Rally Special Events Permit- (Action item)

Don Littlefield, organizer of the Sunny's Rally Car Show requested support for the event and scholarships for high school students. **Councilmember Balcer motioned to approve the special events permit. Councilmember Evans seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.**

e. Special Events Permit Kiwanis Alive After 5- (Action Item) City Hall to follow up with mosquito abatement for events in Kiwanis Park.

Councilmember Evans motioned to approve. Councilmember Davis seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

f. Adopt Drug & Alcohol Policy – (Action Item)

The council discussed the adoption of drug and alcohol policies as an addendum to the personnel policy. Concerns were raised about the reporting structure and the need for anonymous reporting options. It was suggested to clarify the roles of city officials and consider the inclusion of multiple individuals in the reporting process. **Councilmember Davis motioned to approve the adoption of the drug and alcohol policies with the identified changes. Councilmember Evans seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.**

g. Jeff Williams-Engaging Elected Officials for the 250th Anniversary of the USA- (aka The Semi Quincentennial in 2026)- (Action Item)

Jeff Williams, member of the Board of Directors from the Payette County Museum discussed the upcoming 250th anniversary of the United States and proposed forming a committee to plan a county-wide celebration He provided flyers and expressed his intention to reach out to the mayor or council president to find a representative from the city of New Plymouth. There is no action.

h. Carl Hayes Engineering Fee's – (Action Item)

Carl Hayes, local irrigation district manager discussed his grievance with the city planning and zoning administrator (no longer with the city) and expressed his grievance regarding engineering costs incurred during the annexation of his property and feels the \$800 fee was excessive. Public Works Superintendent Beau Ziemer described the process as inefficient, there was a lack of communication between the planning and zoning administrator and himself, and the city engineer was overutilized.

Councilmember Balcer said she was thankful for bringing this to our attention and expressed her apologies for his bad experience. The council going forward is requesting clearer and documented procedures for a more positive outcome. **Councilmember Davis motioned that we deny paying or waiving the fee. Councilmember Evans seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.**

Department Reports

Library Report- There is a Library Board spot opening in July. The library has been super busy with the summer reading program.

Mayor & Council Comments

Councilmember Evans said that tonight was a really good meeting where we learned a lot. Councilmember Davis thanked Beau for shinning a light on the way things have been, it was helpful to hear.

Adjournment

Councilmember Balcer motioned to adjourn, and Councilwoman Evans seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 P.M.

Approve:

Attest:

Eileen Balcer, Council President

Marianne Gatchell, City Clerk