

New Plymouth City Council Meeting
MONDAY
17th November 2014
7:00 pm
New Plymouth City Council Chambers (Library)

On the 17th of November, 2014, the New Plymouth city council meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00 pm by Mayor Joe Cook. Roll call was taken with council members Warnke, Mayer, York and Kurth in attendance.

Staff members in attendance were Danielle Painter, Beau Ziemer, Gina Christensen and Andy Gerhke.

Regular Agenda – **Councilman York moved to approve regular agenda. Councilman Mayer seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

Consent Agenda – **Councilman Mayer moved to approve consent agenda. Councilman Warnke seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

Old Business

Reschedule City Tour – Item tabled due to inclement weather.

New Business

FY 2014 Audit Presentation – City Auditor Kurt Folke presented the findings of the FY 2014 audit to council. Mr. Folke stated that the audit went very well as the books were in very good order. He commended City Clerk Painter for her attention to the city's financial records and Deputy Clerk Christensen for her concise and accurate city council meeting minutes. He stated that all monthly Mr. Folke then reviewed the audit report with the council, highlighting various line items and discussing options for decreasing the remaining deficit in the street fund left from previous construction projects. He also briefly discussed depreciation of some of the city assets, mainly equipment, and recommended a rate increase to cover the replacement cost of those items.

Councilman York moved to approve FY 2014 Financial Audit. Councilman Mayer seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Water/Sewer Rate Increase – Item tabled for further information.

Councilman Mayer moved to table discussion of a water/sewer rate increase. Councilman York seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

NPRFD Levy & Annexation – Discussion began regarding the failure of the New Plymouth Rural Fire District levy to pass at the recent election and the resulting impact to the city. Councilman Mayer mentioned that she was aware of significant support from many city residents and recommended annexation by the fire district prior to putting the levy up for vote again to allow those residents to vote for its passage. She also recommended assuring the fire district that their current contract with the city would be honored until annexation could occur. After some discussion, the council agreed that prior annexation would be beneficial to both the city and the district. Councilman Mayer, Mayor Cook and Councilman York then spoke about the misinformation that had been printed and circulated through the community and suggested steps to replace it with positive, correct information. It was then agreed upon to give the fire district commissioners time to meet and discuss options before sending a letter requesting annexation and assuring that our contract would be honored. Mayor Cook stated that annexation of the city had always been his position.

Councilman York moved to draft a letter to the New Plymouth Rural Fire District to be approved by

City Attorney Bert Osborn. The purpose of the letter shall be to request annexation by the Fire District and to show support from the city through honoring our current contract, as well as providing continued funding through January 2016. Councilman Warnke seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Ordinances and Resolutions

None

Mayor and Council Comments

Councilman York commented on the weather and the great job the city crew was doing on keeping the streets clear. Councilman Warnke agreed that our city streets were much better maintained than other places he had driven in the valley recently. Councilman Mayer asked about the date of the city Christmas tree lighting this year and City Clerk Painter requested council input to decide. Following brief discussion, the date and time was set for Wednesday, December 3rd @ 6:00 pm. Councilman Mayer also stated that she was concerned about the build-up of snow and ice on the sidewalks downtown and felt that the applicable city ordinance was not being followed by several business owners. She expressed appreciation to the city crew for assisting as much as possible, but reiterated that it was ultimately the property owner's responsibility to keep the sidewalks safe. Councilman York suggested that perhaps a reminder could be placed in the city newspaper to alert the owners.

Adjournment

Councilman Warnke moved to adjourn the council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Mayer. The voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:43 pm.

Joe Cook, Mayor

Danielle Painter, City Clerk