

New Plymouth City Council Meeting
MONDAY
02 February 2015
7:00 pm
New Plymouth City Council Chambers (Library)

On the 2nd of February, 2015, 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 and Andy Gerhke.

Regular Agenda – **Councilman Mayer moved to approve regular agenda, with an amendment striking item c from new business. Councilman York seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

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

Old Business

None

New Business

Appoint City Attorney, City Engineer and Library Board Member Lucky Pennington - **Councilman Mayer moved to approve the appointment of City Attorney Bert Osborn, City Engineer Andy Gerhke and Library Board Member Lucky Pennington. Councilman Kurth seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

Appoint Council President - **Councilman York moved to approve the appointment of Bill Warnke as City Council President. Councilman Kurth seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

East Idaho Street Project –

Public Works Superintendent Beau Ziemer presented council with a letter from Al & Bev Blair, owners of Security Storage located at 315 E Idaho St. Mr. and Mrs. Blair's letter stated that they hadn't been notified of the upcoming street project that would affect the front of their property. The letter also stated that they had made costly improvements over several years that would now be disrupted by the project. Mr. and Mrs. Blair then requested that the new sidewalk installation be moved 2-4 ft. south to avoid having to relocate their existing structures and other improvements. Public Works Superintendent Ziemer commented that he had overlooked notifying the Blairs regarding the project and had apologized personally. He stated that he had suggested that they write this letter to the council presenting all their concerns. Councilman Kurth began discussion concerning the responsibility of their on-site manager in notifying the out of state owners and the location of the city right-of-way on the property. Public Works Superintendent Ziemer confirmed that the city would absorb the cost of relocating any structures, but as yet, he hadn't determined if any structures would need to be moved. He then stated that he would continue to work with the Blairs to address their concerns.

Public Works Superintendent Ziemer commented that the street project had been put out for bid and Warrington Construction had been chosen as the contractor. He requested council and mayor acceptance of the bid.

Councilman Mayer moved to accept the bid from Warrington Construction for the East Idaho Street Project. Councilman Warnke seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

New Plymouth Rural Fire District Annexation Discussion –

Wm. F. Gigray, III, counsel to the New Plymouth Rural Fire District, presented an informational letter to council outlining the intended actions of the Fire District Board of Commissioners. The letter also included a timeline of the necessary steps to potentially annex the city into the Fire District. Mr. Gigray informed the city that the Fire District Chairman of the Board had resigned and the vacancy would be filled according to their statutes. He then stated that the Fire District Board of Commissioners would seek another levy election in May 2015 and did not intend to annex the city until the levy was passed. Councilman Mayer commented that she was aware of significant support from city residents for the annexation, specifically to add their votes for the upcoming levy. Councilman Warnke echoed that statement but then added that he had heard of opposition from county residents to the annexation. Councilman Kurth stated that, in her interactions with several county residents, many were unaware of the previous levy elections. Council agreed that the lack of advertising and awareness had affected the election outcomes. Councilman York added that he felt that the negativity of previous Fire District Commissioners had also hampered the vote. After some discussion, council determined that, as annexation into the Fire District continued to be the goal, all efforts would be made to support and spread awareness for the upcoming levy election.

Ordinances and Resolutions

None

Mayor and Council Comments

Councilman Mayer mentioned the upcoming Annual Penguin Plunge supporting local Special Olympics athletes. She informed the council that it would be held Saturday, March 14th at Steve's Hometown Toyota in Ontario. She also requested volunteers for the plunge and donations for the costume contest. Councilman Mayer then reiterated her support and appreciation for the Fire District and the openness of communication from both parties. Mayor Cook agreed with her sentiment. Councilman Warnke mentioned the increase of logging trucks through town and expressed his concern for traffic and pedestrian safety. He also expressed his appreciation for the information presented by Mr. Gigray on behalf of the Fire District. Councilman York echoed his appreciation and support. He mentioned that he would like to see supportive letters to the editor to combat the negativity spread before the last levy election.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:56 pm.

Joe Cook, Mayor

Danielle Painter, City Clerk