

New Plymouth City Council Workshop  
MONDAY  
03 February 2014  
6:30 pm  
New Plymouth City Council Chambers (Library)

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February, 2014, the New Plymouth city council workshop was called to order at approximately 6:30 pm by Mayor Joe Cook. Roll call was taken with council members Warnke, York and Kurth in attendance. Councilman Mayer was not present for the meeting.

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

New Plymouth Rural Fire Department Contract/Annexation Update – Councilman York presented an update to council regarding the ad hoc committee formed to make recommendations to the New Plymouth Rural Fire Department. He stated that the committee had been researching the levy rates for both Payette County and the City of New Plymouth and would be able to make recommendations about future contract or tax rates from that information. He also provided a rate table for each council member to review. Councilman York then mentioned that the committee would recommend an increased contract rate for the Sand Hollow District and had also determined that a one-time payment increase of \$6,000 from the city was advisable to create a workable budget. He urged the mayor and council to consider approving the increase for the 2014-2015 contract, contingent on being annexed into the fire district before that date. After some discussion, Councilman Warnke stated that he felt that it would behove the city to approve the increase to ensure the success of the fire district and continued fire protection for its residents. Councilman York agreed and acknowledged that past leadership had gotten the fire district into its current financial dilemma, but he felt that increased levy rates for the entire district and a one-time payment increase from the city would help immensely. Mayor Cook expressed concern that the city would be “kicking the can down the road” without having some sort of resolution. He also mentioned that he was impressed with the time and work that the ad hoc committee had put into the issue thus far. Following more discussion, it was agreed upon to motion to adjourn.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:03 pm.

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Joe Cook, Mayor

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Danielle Painter, City Clerk

New Plymouth City Council Meeting  
MONDAY  
03 February 2014  
7:00 pm  
New Plymouth City Council Chambers (Library)

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February, 2014, the New Plymouth city council meeting was called to order at approximately 7:04 pm by Mayor Joe Cook. Roll call was taken with council members Warnke, York and Kurth in attendance. Councilman Mayer was not present for the meeting.

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

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

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

#### Old Business

Fire Department Site Plan – Public Works Superintendent Ziemer presented the council with a letter addressed to the New Plymouth Rural Fire Department concerning approval of their final site plan. He asked the council for their approval of the site plan to move forward with the project, stating that he had worked with City Engineer Andy Gerhke and City Attorney Bert Osborn to revise the letter.

**Councilman York moved to approve the New Plymouth Rural Fire Department site plan. Councilman Warnke seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

#### New Business

Special Olympics – Kristi Kraft – County resident Kristi Kraft informed the council of two upcoming projects with which she would appreciate city involvement; she produced the “R Word” disability awareness video last year and she is also currently heading up a fundraiser for local Special Olympics athletes. City employees, including the mayor, were part of her previous awareness campaign and she stated that she’d like to involve more employees this year. Ms. Kraft then requested the participation of the mayor in an upcoming “Penguin Plunge” to benefit eight Special Olympics athletes from the New Plymouth area. If he accepted the request, Mayor Cook would be joining Police Chief Moore in jumping into an outside pool in early February temperatures. The mayor cautiously agreed to participate!

SREDA Update – Kit Kamo – Snake River Economic Development Alliance Executive Director Kit Kamo presented an update on the work being done to attract businesses to the area. Ms. Kamo provided examples of leads the Alliance was pursuing and marketing strategies in place. She then mentioned a potential opportunity for the city involving a professional “site selector” coming to the area in the last part of February. Ms. Kamo encouraged the city to put a plan together to participate in a mock site selection, as she felt that it would be very beneficial for our economic future. After some discussion, the council agreed to participate and decided to focus on the Williamson Roofing parcel of land in the north industrial zone. Ms. Kamo also mentioned an economic breakfast meeting on February 27<sup>th</sup> to review the findings and possibilities. The council expressed interest in attending.

III-A Group Insurance Update – City Clerk Painter reported on recent issues with the Idaho Independent Intergovernmental Authority, which provides health insurance for city employees. She stated that some other cities had withdrawn from the group, causing doubts about future stability and viability. City Clerk Painter then provided the council with emails and reports regarding the issue and stated that Fruitland

City Clerk Rick Watkins, a member of the III-A board, would be willing to answer any questions the council may have. She also presented comparison quotes from other insurance providers for the council's consideration. Following some discussion, the council decided to table the item pending more information.

**Councilman York moved to table any decisions concerning II-A Group Insurance. Councilman Kurth seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

New Plymouth Rural Fire Department Contract/Annexation – City Clerk Painter reminded the council that they could choose to make a decision on the one-time rate increase for the New Plymouth Rural Fire Department contract. Mayor Cook and the other members of council briefly discussed the decision.

**Councilman Warnke moved to instruct the ad hoc committee representative from the city council, Councilman York, that the city would like to follow the proposal for the one-time rate increase of \$6,000, contingent on the results of the May election for annexation. Councilman Kurth seconded the motion. Councilman York abstained from the vote citing conflict of interest. The motion passed in the affirmative.**

Ordinances and Resolutions

None

Open Forum

Bruce Chenoweth – City resident Bruce Chenoweth commented that he was hoping to enhance the communication system in the city. He stated that he had been stunned when the New Plymouth News newspaper was discontinued and felt as though he could fill that void. Mr. Chenoweth then introduced his online newspaper located at the website [www.newplymouthid.com](http://www.newplymouthid.com) and mentioned that he would be publishing a paper “Tidbits and Teasers” version as well. He stated that his main goal was to improve commerce in the city through increased communication. Mr. Chenoweth also offered to take over maintenance of the city's website as a service to the community. City Clerk Painter responded that she would need to place that proposal on an upcoming city council agenda for consideration. Mayor Cook and other council member thanked him for his efforts.

Kristi Kraft – Mayor Cook requested Ms. Kraft provide more information regarding her upcoming projects presented earlier. Ms. Kraft elaborated on the “R Word” awareness video and stated that she was hoping to create a much larger campaign this year to bring awareness of how hurtful words, specifically in reference to disabled people, can be. She then mentioned her involvement in raising funds to benefit the Special Olympics and provided examples of what the money goes toward for the athletes. She also re-confirmed Mayor Cook's participation in the upcoming “Penguin Plunge” fundraiser.

Bensley Letter – City Clerk Painter raised the issue of the Officer Wade Feldner vigil that had been discussed at the last city council meeting. She stated that she had assigned Deputy Clerk Gina Christensen to draft a response to the email the city had received accusing the council of disregarding the vigil. City Clerk Painter mentioned that she felt that Deputy Clerk Christensen had done a fantastic job of writing the letter in just the right tone for the situation. Mayor Cook and the other council members agreed and expressed their appreciation for such a considerate response. The council then approved and signed the letter to be sent to Mr. Bensley.

Mayor and Council Comments

Councilman Kurth requested more information about a possible walkway linking the city parks. City

Engineer Andy Gerhke responded that a walkway had been proposed in a recent grant application to Community Choices for Idaho, but the city had been turned down before and he was unsure if the current application would be approved. He then gave a brief description of the proposal for the council's information. Councilman Warnke complimented Councilman York on the effort he had put into serving on the ad hoc committee for the Rural Fire Department and expressed appreciation for his hard work. Mayor Cook added his appreciation as well.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:05 pm.

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Joe Cook, Mayor

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Danielle Painter, City Clerk