

New Plymouth City Council Meeting
MONDAY
06 October 2014
7:00 pm
New Plymouth City Council Chambers (Library)

On the 6th of October, 2014, the New Plymouth city council meeting was called to order at approximately 7 pm by Mayor Joe Cook. Roll call was taken with council members Warnke, Mayer and Kurth in attendance. Councilman York was not in attendance.

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

Regular Agenda – **Councilman Warnke 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

None

New Business

Reconnection Fees & Late Fees – City Clerk Painter opened the discussion concerning possible fee increases for water service reconnection and late payment charges. She stated that the number of water service disconnections and reconnections each month had become a concern and inconvenience to the city, especially the Public Works crew. City Clerk Painter explained that each disconnect/reconnect took time and manpower away from other city projects and created tension for employees, as well as residents. She recommended increasing reconnection fees from the current \$20.00 to \$100.00. She felt that this would decrease the amount of monthly disconnections and motivate residents to pay their city services bill in a timely manner. She also recommended increasing late payment charges from the current \$10.00 to \$25.00. Councilman Kurth asked if any type of reminder was given before disconnection and City Clerk Painter responded that door hangers and mailing used in the past had not been very effective and, again, had taken time and manpower. She commented that a reminder was printed on each monthly bill. Councilman Mayer wondered if a “robo-call” system could be implemented to notify residents of a past-due balance. City Clerk Painter replied that she could definitely look into the costs for that type of notification service, but also expressed concern that many phone numbers in the system were disconnected or incorrect. Councilman Warnke asked what the turnaround time was between payment received and reconnection. Deputy City Clerk Christensen responded that the turnaround time was quite an issue, with many residents expecting immediate reconnection and becoming increasingly angry as they waited. City Clerk Painter stated that the city crew attempted to reconnect services quickly, but had to work around their other projects. She then commented that Councilman York had previously suggested that the crew not make reconnections such a priority. Councilman Warnke agreed and suggested informing residents that service would be reconnected within 24 hours of payment. City Clerk Painter stated that she felt that approach would lead to more tension and possible safety concerns for city employees. Councilman Mayer wondered what other cities in Idaho charged for these fees. City Clerk Painter responded that many charged higher fees of \$150.00 or more. Councilman Mayer suggested approving the fee increases and implementing them in January to ensure adequate time to notify residents of the changes. City Clerk Painter agreed with the timeline and commented that an ordinance would need to be drafted and approved before any change could take place.

Councilman Mayer moved to approve fee increases for water service reconnection to \$100.00 and late payment charges to \$25.00, to take effect 1 January 2015. Councilman Warnke seconded the

motion. The voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

SREDA Membership – City Clerk Danielle Painter stated that she felt that continued membership in the Snake River Economic Development Alliance was not financially beneficial at this time. She felt that those funds might be better spent in more productive ways. She added that Councilman York had recommended that the city remain a member but perhaps find a more convenient meeting time for all members. Councilman Mayer commented that she felt SREDA was created with admirable goals for our communities, but execution of those goals for our city has not been productive. She also agreed that the current early morning meetings were difficult to attend. Councilman Mayer expressed that she would like to see our money go toward something more feasible for our city. Mayor Cook wondered whether our attendance at past meetings would have made a difference in the impact on our city, and stated that he felt that it would not have. He agreed with Councilman Mayer that not much has been achieved through our membership with SREDA. Suggestions were made to use the funds for student-created marketing, possible interns and to support the Chamber of Commerce. After continued discussion, it was recommended to draft a letter to discontinue membership.

Councilman Mayer moved to discontinue membership with SREDA. Councilman Kurth seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

City Tour – Councilman York was not in attendance to present this item.

Councilman Mayer moved to table discussion of item c. Councilman Warnke seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Conditional Use Permit for 4303 Hwy 30 S – City Clerk Painter informed the council that Payette County Planning & Zoning had requested that the council review and comment on a Conditional Use Permit application received by the county. Following a review and discussion, the council recommended approval of the CUP.

Councilman Warnke moved to recommend approval of a Conditional Use Permit for 4303 Hwy 30 S. Councilman Mayer seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Ordinances and Resolutions

None

Mayor and Council Comments

Councilman Mayer reminded all of the upcoming fall clean-up from October 15th to November 15th. She also mentioned that she knew the clean-up assistance was greatly appreciated by many residents. Councilman Warnke commented that he had heard several comments about how nice the parks were looking this year. Mayor Cook stated that over the past weeks the community had lost some outstanding members and he wanted to honor and remember them.

Adjournment

Councilman Mayer 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 7:25 pm.

Joe Cook, Mayor

Danielle Painter, City Clerk