

New Plymouth City Council Meeting
MONDAY
16 August 2010
Immediately following the Public Hearing scheduled for 7:00 p.m.
New Plymouth City Council Chambers (Library)

The council meeting was called to order by Mayor Joe Cook at about 7:10 pm. Roll call was taken with council members Mayer, Cline, York and Esplin in attendance. Staff members in attendance were Leon K. Jensen and Public Works Director, Beau Ziemer. Guests included Andy Gehrke of Holladay Engineering, Greg Wiese, Debbie Rouwerhorst and Dale Williamson.

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

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

Old Business

1. Idaho Power Franchise fee discussion – It was determined that the latest information from Idaho Power and the Franchise agreement should be tabled. The information would be given to the council in their next packets. Councilman Esplin moved to table this item of business until the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman York. The voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.
2. Holiday Engineering – Oil and Gas Wells – A letter was to be written Andy (City Engineer) and then given to the Planning and Zoning Commission at their next hearing date. That letter was written and given to the council at the last council meeting. **Councilman York moved to approve the reading of the letter at the Planning and Zoning Hearing, upcoming. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mayer. The voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

New Business:

1. City Council discussion of the proposed budget for the City of New Plymouth for the fiscal year from October 1, 2010 to September 30, 2011. No testimony was offered during the public hearing. The council determined that another hearing would be required since the latest budget proposal is greater than the budget which was published. The council determined that the budget hearing should be held on the 8th of September 2010 at 6:45 pm, prior to the regular council meeting. Insurance rate increases were discussed and staff was directed to meet with the insurance agent as soon as possible. Insurance rates have gone up 31% with other carriers suggesting 300 to 400% increases in rates. Also within the budget, where money is being borrowed from other funds, documents have been prepared so that the loans from other funds can be made. A repayment schedule still needs created with appropriate interest rates.
2. City Council discussion of the proposed ordinance of the city of New Plymouth amending Title 3, Section 3-3-6 and 8(A) and Title VIII Section 8-5-2 and 8-5-3 to raise base water rates by 2% and raise water rates per 1000 gallons by 4.9% and, base sewer rates by 2.7% and sewer rates per 1000 gallons by 5.5%. No testimony will be taken regarding the possible rate increases. No additional testimony was taken and the council discussed these increases. It was mentioned that smaller rates more frequently are better than very large increases occasionally. Councilman Esplin moved to accept the rates
3. Debbie Rouwenhorst of Gem County Revitalization Committee – Possibility of making

- Highway 52 a scenic point. Debbie Rouwenhorst and Shawna Charters testified that they are seeking a Scenic Byway for a historic byway and in hopes to gather tourist dollars. The city of New Plymouth would be a side trip off the scenic byway. They are hoping for local support, uniqueness, to put up kiosks. They are putting in applications at present. There are grant dollars available at the rate of a 20% match. They would like to have points of interest identified in New Plymouth. The council thanked Debbie and her team for the information.
4. Application for Conditional Use Permit by Bridge Energy INC. for drilling, completion and production of an oil and gas well for property located north of 7248 Butte Road, new Plymouth, ID and owned by Robert and Carolyn Kniefel. Recommendation in writing should be made. Andy Gehrke of Holladay Engineering presented some information as to the location of the proposed well. The proposed well is outside of the well delineation zone used by the city. Beau Ziemer suggested that a letter be written stating that the city had no problems with this particular well. **Councilman York moved to approve a letter being sent regarding the Conditional Use Permit by Bridge Energy INC. Councilman Esplin seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.**
 5. Discussion regarding potential move by New Plymouth City Hall to new location. Staff presented information regarding phones. Computer hook ups and utility costs are still being sought from the utility companies. A large list of other questions was presented in the packets for the council. There has been interest from the community with regard to moving the library and city hall. The council determined that there is still a lot of information which needs gathered prior to any decision. Mayor Cook questioned what we would do with the existing building. Public Works would not move at this time. The Sheriff department would not move. **Councilman York moved that a staff member, Scott Moscrip of the Internet Truck Stop and Councilman Cline meet to discuss the matter.** Mayor Cook invited Dale Williamson to speak regarding the potential move of location by city hall. He stated that it appeared to be a pretty fair offer. Now he has concerns that it will cost the city a great deal of money to move. He stated that government needs to toe the line like everybody else. Councilman Cline stated that he thought we would just get into the building with the basic needs without any extensive remodeling and so forth. **Councilwoman seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

Ordinances & Resolutions

1. Ordinance 329 – FY 2010-2011 Annual Appropriation Ordinance – **Councilman York moved to table this ordinance until after the budget hearing is completed on the 8th of September 2010. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mayer. The voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.**
2. Ordinance 330 – Water Sewer Rate Increase – **Councilman Esplin moved to adopt Ordinance 330, seconded by Councilman York. The voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

Open Forum – Greg Wiese expressed his desire to see the city annex property to the west of New Plymouth and south of Highway 30. He would like to see a sign put in place with a water falls welcoming people to New Plymouth. He also presented the council with a map showing a potential route for more water lines. The mayor thanked him and asked the he come back to the city after he had acquired the property and had the plans finalized.

Dale Williamson asked that when developments are annexed to the city that they should pay double hook up rates for sewer and water.

Mayor and Council Comments

Councilman York asked that the mayor and city council send a letter of appreciation to the Chamber of Commerce for the good parade that went on this year. He would like to see a letter of appreciation sent to the maintenance department for getting the streets together and the same for the fair board and fair grounds. Mayor Joe Cook stated that the other cities and county were

very pleased with the fair this year. It was reported that the fair had record numbers and that the Kiwanis booth did record business. Councilman York moved that a letter of appreciation be sent from the Mayor and City Council. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mayer. The voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 pm.

Joe Cook, Mayor

Leon K. Jensen, City Clerk/Treasurer