

New Plymouth City Council Meeting
MONDAY
16 November 2009
7:00 p.m.
New Plymouth City Council Chambers (Library)

The regular meeting of the New Plymouth City Council was held at the New Plymouth City Hall on Monday, 16 November 2009 at approximately 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Joe Cook.

Roll call was taken with council members Mayer, Cline, York and Esplin present. Staff members in attendance were Beau Ziemer, Beth Ann Christensen and Leon K. Jensen. Anne Esplin, Beth Earls, Randy Frates, Micah Gosney, Don Gillispie and Andy Gerhke were also present.

Regular Agenda - **Councilman Esplin moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Councilwoman Mayer. The voting was unanimous in favor.**

Consent Agenda - **Councilman Esplin moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Councilwoman Mayer. The voting was unanimous in favor.**

Old Business

Fee schedule for Sewer / Water Service Ordinance Update - Staff presented a copy of the ordinance to the Council for their review. Councilwoman Mayer had some questions:

- Are we going to have these rates if there is one water hookup but yet the property has multiple lots?
- What if it an abandoned lot?
- How are we going to define the property?
- A lot of vacant lots have no water or utilities, are we going to include them as property?
- Staff stated that property needed hook ups and Councilwoman Mayer stated that we then need to define those as property so as to avoid confusion at some future time.
- Councilwoman did not like the language "may be delivered". She believes that that could be interpreted in the future to mean something other than what it was intended.
- The word metered should be defined and there should be a statement that the water is being delivered. The statement, "services may be delivered through a water meter" was also discussed. Perhaps use the statement "existing meter".

Councilman Esplin moved to table the discussion until the attorney responds. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mayer and the voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Audit Firm information / discussion – Staff was unable to contact other references. The council determined that more information is needed. **Councilman York moved to table the discussion until further information is available. The motion was seconded by Councilman Cline. The voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

New Plymouth Water Users Association discussion

Councilman York presented information that the annual water user meeting was to be held on Thursday at 7pm at the Senior Citizens Home. A proposed budget is to be presented and he is optimistic that it will be adopted. The water users have moved to proceed with the city taking over the irrigation system and enlarge the user's part of the system. City Attorney Bert Osborn has a copy of the bylaws to the water users as was presented about six (6) weeks ago to him. There is no opinion from the attorney yet on the bylaws to Councilman York's knowledge.

If the water user's votes on Thursday to have the city take over the water users association, is the city willing to accept responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the association and system? The council determined that they had on two different occasions given the answer to that question.

Public Works Director Beau Ziemer stated that the budget accepted by the association could be used by the city this year. The city would have to work with the system and get a feel for what needed done as the year progresses. There may be some unknown costs, such as audit expense. The proper budget process is unknown at this time, and after a year of operation we will have a better appreciation of what will be needed to operate the system. Councilman York thought that we may have to open the city budget and accept the water user's budget as a line item.

Beau thought that the city could use existing water personnel to operate the system and that they would not necessarily be fulltime employees of the city, rather seasonal employees. **Councilman Esplin moved for a favorable recommendation to assume control of the New Plymouth Water Users Association. The motion was seconded by Councilman Cline.** Councilman York abstained from the voting. **Council members Mayer, Cline and Esplin voted in favor of the motion.**

New Business:

Andy Gerhke – Holladay Engineering - Water Project – Generator Procurement – Northwest Electrical Payment Application No. 2 (Final). **Councilman Esplin moved to approve the request for funding at the rate of 5% (\$5,429.40). The motion was seconded by Councilman York. The voting was unanimous in favor.**

Andy Gerhke – Holladay Engineering Water Project – Engineering Payment Application No. 20. **Councilwoman Mayer moved to approve the request, seconded by Councilman Esplin. The voting was unanimous in favor.**

Presentation on proposal for power plant proposal – Don Gillespie, CEO of Alternate Energy Holders presented information of his beginning the process with Payette County for a Nuclear Energy site. He presented his background to the council including his experience and education as well as various projects around the work that he has been working with. He is going to various cities and agencies in Payette County to explain his company and what they do. He has made presentations in Owyhee and Elmore counties. Payette is the third county he has made presentations in.

He mentioned Micah Gosney being here with him. He operates a company called Energy Neutral. He builds energy efficient offices and homes. Mr. Gillespie stated that the toughest part of this process is speaking to the public and explaining that this process is safe and good and convincing them of that..

He addressed the safety of the system. Safety, waste (spent fuel) and water are the three things that people like to talk about. He stated that there are many in the country and that many people live around these sites, including New York City. Reprocessing spent fuel is now done, thus virtually eliminating waste. Water is key and is recycled.

The system is very reliable, over 90% reliable. Plant has a life time of 60 years. About 5000 jobs will

be available at the height of construction. Many of the jobs to operate the system will be very high paying jobs. Cities will benefit because of the need for fire departments, police departments, some medical facilities. These will need upgraded and in some cases built.

He stated that there will be a hearing at the County later this week regarding this request.

Collaboration with the local schools was discussed as well as scholarships and the need for locally educated people to help run the system.

The council thought that it would be a good idea for the city to submit a letter of support for this development from the city to the county.

Randy Frates – discussion of water bill – Mr. Frates explained that his water bill has been abnormally high for the last several months and that he can find no leaks. He has had the city look at the meter and check for leaks and has spoken with the renters and determined that usage has not been high, yet the meter registers high usage. The council listened and determined that the meter should be changed and then we should track usage for two or three months and then re-evaluate the billing for Mr. Frates.

Ordinances & Resolutions

Idaho Power Franchise Agreement – **Councilwoman Mayer moved to approve the signing of the agreement. The motion was seconded by Councilman Esplin and the voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

Open Forum

Beth Earles wanted to know about the smelly water. The Public Works Director explained why the water has such an odor and what is being done to solve the odor problem.

Mayor and Council Comments

Leon K. Jensen thanked the council for the gift of flowers given his family at the passing of his sister. Councilwoman Mayer mentioned that Mary Meja is retiring from Payette County on the 30th of November. Questions were asked about the Eagle Project which was underway. It was reported that the project was completed. Councilman Esplin mentioned the Friends of Scouting contribution opportunity going on at the present time.

Adjournment

Councilman Esplin moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Mayer. The voting was unanimous in favor.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 pm.

Joe Cook, Mayor

Leon K. Jensen, City Clerk/Treasurer