

New Plymouth City Council Meeting  
MONDAY  
August 21, 2023  
6:00 P.M.  
New Plymouth City Council Chambers

On the 21st of August 2023, the New Plymouth City Council meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Mayor Rick York.

The pledge of allegiance was led by Bob Patterson.

Roll call was taken with council members Eileen Balcer, Cora Kurth, Bill Warnke, and Mayor York present. Heather Airoidi was absent.

Staff members in attendance were Deputy Clerk Marianne Gatchell, Public Works Superintendent Beau Ziemer, City Attorney Dan Chadwick, and City Engineer Andy Gehrke.

August 7, 2023, City Council Minutes- Action Item

**Councilwoman Balcer made a motion to approve the minutes from August 7, 2023. Councilwoman Kurth seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Claim Approvals- Action Item

**Councilwoman Kurth made a motion to approve the claim approvals totalling \$35,039.21. Councilwoman Balcer seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

New Business-

- a. Kristen Nieskens with SREDA & Jerry Miller with Idaho Commerce- Kristen let the council know that unfortunately Jerry Miller can't be here this evening. Kristen is with Snake River Economic Development Alliance. SREDA works for businesses in our area. We work on how we can fill our cities empty buildings. We can help already established businesses with grants. There is a program called the walk ability study, which is a free program that helps with the setup of the downtown city area. She can help us with GEM grants, and for larger grants they can facilitate with Idaho Dept of Commerce for assistance with grant writing. The council asked Kristen to forward the information via email on the programs they offer. The council will revisit after that.
- b. Michael Spencer & Cammie Bashon Fence Variance - (Action Item) Michael and Cammie have asked the council for reconsideration of their fence variance that was previously denied at city council. They have walked through town and found many properties with the same higher fence in the front yard. Cammie is a military veteran, and their dog is a service animal in training. The front fence keeps both the public and the dog safe. The New Plymouth VFW is in support of the fence variance for Cammie and her support animal. City Attorney Dan Chadwick advised the council to approve the fence variance as a hardship if there is a service animal residing at the property.  
**Councilman Warnke made a motion to accept the hardship for the fence variance if there is a service animal residing on the property. Councilwoman Balcer seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
- c. Pond No. 4 Lining Project Bids- (Action Item) – City Engineer Andy Gehrke said we received bids on 8/17/2023. We recommend that we go with the lower bid received from Idaho Site Works for \$762,500.00. Idaho Site Works has the correct public works license and we have checked their references. The city has also worked with their subcontractors on past projects. We have prepared a written letter of intent and notice of award for approval to DEQ.  
**Councilwoman Balcer made a motion to accept the Idaho Site Works bid of \$762,500.00 and allow**

**the mayor to sign the contract. Councilwoman Kurth seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Councilwoman Balcer, yes. Councilwoman Kurth, yes. Councilman Warnke, yes. 3 yeses. Motion carried.**

Department Reports

- a. Engineering Status Report-No Discussion
- b. Public Works Report- No Discussion
- c. Library Report-Summer reading program had a great turn out. They're doing a good job.
- d. Financial Report- Everything looks good, and we still have money.

Mayor & Council Comments

Councilwoman Balcer thanked Corey Evans from the Argus Observer for fixing his error that was printed in the paper regarding the wages for our city clerk. Councilman Warnke said that school is in session so let's pay attention to the littles that are walking around. Mayor York said that Sunny's Car Rally is coming up in October. If you can, come by and check it out. Our high school students make the trophies and they're really pretty good. It's a great event.

Adjournment

**Councilwoman Balcer moved to adjourn the council meeting. Councilman Warnke seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:27 P.M.

Approve:

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rick York, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Marianne Gatchell, Deputy Clerk