

New Plymouth City Council Meeting  
MONDAY  
May 20, 2024  
6:00 P.M.  
New Plymouth City Council Chambers

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of May 2024, the New Plymouth City Council meeting was called to order at 6:01 P.M. by Council President Eileen Balcer.

Public Hearing Technically Approved Wastewater Facilities Master Plan  
Councilwoman Balcer made a motion to open the public hearing for the Technically Approved Wastewater Facilities Master Plan Water. Councilwoman Ziemer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Open Public Hearing at 6:02 p.m.

Opening Statement by City Engineer Andy Gehrke and Robert Almanza from Heco. City Engineer, Andy Gehrke, and Robert Almanza presented a summary of the Technically Approved Wastewater Facilities Master Plan, which was technically approved by Idaho DEQ. The City of New Plymouth has prepared a master planning document detailing potential wastewater facilities improvements that may be required to accommodate regulatory requirements and future community growth. Verbal and written comments were requested during the public comment period regarding the alternatives under consideration in the Wastewater Facilities Master

Water System Master Plan. Public Testimony: NONE

Closing Statement by City Engineer Andy Gehrke. Andy will get the minutes and sign in sheet from the meeting and send them to DEQ.

Councilwoman Balcer made a motion to close the public hearing for the Water System Master Plan. Councilwoman Evans seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Close Public Hearing at 6:29 p.m.

The pledge of allegiance.

Roll call was taken with council members Josh Davis, Suzanne Evans, Eileen Balcer, and Mayor Lisa Binggeli present. Councilwoman Ziemer was absent.

Staff members in attendance were City Clerk Marianne Gatchell, City Superintendent Beau Ziemer, and City Engineer Andy Gehrke.

April 15, 2024, City Council Meeting Minutes- Action Item  
**Councilwoman Balcer made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 15, 2024, council meeting. Councilman Davis seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Claim Approvals- Action Item

**Councilwoman Evans made a motion to approve the claim approvals for \$145,901.31. Councilman Davis seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Mayor Binggeli informed the public that the city had a forensic audit completed, and the fee is included in this month's claim approvals. Councilwoman Balcer asked if we can request a building inspection report from city of Fruitland.

Message from the Mayor:

The new city sign is at the shop awaiting the metal for the bracket to install. This should be ready in the next coming weeks. We are in a good rhythm and things are moving forward smoothly. We are all working together as a great team.

Citizen Comments:

Penny Kovick wanted to thank the council for the opportunity to speak in the meetings during the comments portion. This is something that wasn't welcome in the past. She thanked the council for doing such a good job.

New Business-

a. Mayor Binggeli Proclamation of New Plymouth's Military Caregivers- (Action Item) Mayor Binggeli read aloud the Proclamation of New Plymouth's Military Caregivers. The mayor presented a signed copy to the Idaho State Society, Daughters of the American Revolution representative, Brenda Olsen.

b. Special Events Permit-4H Fundraiser- (Action Item) Samantha Tate from High Desert Herdsmen 4H Club explained the fundraiser event. They will be providing a \$500,000.00 liability insurance. They will have a food handlers permit for the food being providing, which will be a donation based of hot dogs, chips & drinks. There will be a live band as well.

**Councilwoman Balcer made a motion to approve the Special Events Permit for 4H Fundraiser. Councilwoman Evans seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

c. FY2023 Audit Report-Quest CPAs- Kurt Folke- (Action Item) Kurt Folke from Quest CPAs presented the council with the FY2023 Audit Report. He thanked City Clerk Marianne Gatchell and Bobbie Black for their help with all the reporting in preparation for the audit. He stated that the general fund stayed in budget and has a little less than a 12-month operating reserve. The streets has an approximate 11-month operating reserve. The library has an approximate 18-month operating reserve. Parks has a 2-3-year operating reserve, The takeaway is that the governmental funds are doing fine. The city received the official FY2023 report in hard copy as well as a digital copy.

**Councilwoman Balcer made a motion to accept the FY2023 Audit Report- Quest CPAs. Councilman Davis seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

d. Accept Letter of Resignation Dan Chadwick City Attorney- (Action Item) Mayor Binggeli mentioned it is with great sadness that we have received Dan's letter of resignation. The city was deeply saddened by the passing of Dan Chadwick. He will be missed.

**Councilwoman Balcer made a motion to accept the Letter of Resignation Dan Chadwick City Attorney. Councilwoman Evans seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

- e. Appointment New City Attorney- Jill Holinka- Holinka Law P.C.- (Action Item) Mayor Binggeli invited Jill Holinka to introduce herself to the council and patrons. Jill said she grew up on a dairy farm in Kuna. She's been practicing law for 22 years. Her background is land use and public-school districts, fire districts, highway districts as well as cities. The last 4 years she is primarily been working with school districts. She looks forward to working with the city. Councilwoman Evans noted that the billable rate is very reasonable. Councilman Davis asked about litigation and prosecution. Jill said that we have ICRMP as well as the county prosecutor. She would be able to represent us in land use but that would be in addition to her regular retainer.

**Councilwoman Evans made a motion to approve the appointment of Jill Holinka of Holinka Law P.C. as the city attorney. Councilwoman Balcer seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

- f. Hardin Sanitation Rate Increase- (Action Item) Travis Williams site manager of Payette Hardin brought before the council the 4% rate increase based on the Consumer Price Index for the State of Idaho. This will cover one new truck as well as maintaining quality employees. Mr. Williams made note that the rate was not increased last year due to asking after the budget was set. Discussion between the council and Mr. Williams. The council brought up the option of asking for a lower rate increase to help with our patrons and the high cost of living.

**Councilwoman Balcer made a motion to table this item to negotiate the rate with Hardin. Councilman Davis seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

- g. Horseshoe Pathway State & Local PSA- (Action Item) This is a grant funded 7% match. This design is for the pathway along SW Ave. The design drawings have been approved. **Councilman Davis made a motion to approve the Horseshoe Pathway State & Local PSA and allow the mayor to sign the contract. Councilwoman Balcer seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

- h. Water System Master Plan Approval- (Action Item) Public hearing for Water System Master Plan. City Engineer Andy Gehrke and City Superintendent Beau Ziemer recommend approval.

**Councilwoman Balcer made a motion that the city accepts the Water System Master Plan including the recommended water system improvement project alternatives. Councilwoman Evans seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

- i. Joseph Wyatt NP Fire Town Warning System- (Action Item) NP Fire Chief Joseph Wyatt asked the council's approval to the start the process of activating the city's alarm system. The current system is set up at the old city hall. This would alert the city to any major fire danger, or other dangers. Operating times would be 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**Councilwoman Balcer made a motion to approve the NP Fire exploration of activating the city alarm system. Councilman Davis seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Department Reports

- a. Library Report-March- Librarian Melaine Cope said the library drop box in place. The Book Sale brought in between \$500-\$600 and it was a great turn out. The leftover books will be stored in boxes ready for next year's sale.
- b. Payette County Sheriff Report- February & March- No comment
- c. Public Works Report- February- No comment
- d. Engineering Status Report- Andy Gehrke said Tank 9 recoating has been approved by DEQ. SW Blvd Sewer Extension project is in design phase. E Idaho project underway.

Mayor & Council Comments

None

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

Approve:

Attest:

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Lisa Binggeli, Mayor

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Marianne Gatchell, City Clerk