

NEW PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2024 – 6:00 PM
New Plymouth City Council Chambers
215 N Plymouth Avenue

1. Meeting called to Order at 6:00PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call - Councilwoman Balcer, Councilman Davis, Councilwoman Evans and Councilman Martinez were present. Mayor Binggeli was absent.

Staff in attendance – City Attorney Jill Holinka, City Clerk Marianne Gatchell, Deputy Clerk Suzanna Culpepper and Public Works Superintendent Beau Ziemer

4. Approval of Minutes – November 4, 2024 (**Action Item**)
Motion to approve by Councilmember Davis, seconded by Councilmember Martinez. All In Favor – Motion Carried.
5. Approval of Payables (**Action Item**)
Motion to approve payables of \$250,315.18 by Councilmember Evans, seconded by Councilmember Martinez. All In Favor – Motion Carried
6. Mayor & Council Comments - Council Member Davis emphasized the importance of civility and cooperation among council members and the community. Council Member Martinez echoed this sentiment, advocating for kindness and understanding in discussions, especially during disagreements.
7. Citizen Comments – Shelly Wilson of 4470 SW 2nd Ave. expressed regret for a previous outburst during a meeting and criticized the mayor's absence and behavior. Concerns were raised regarding the appointment process for a new council member, emphasizing the need for transparency and communication about applicants. Another citizen, Greg Evans of 224 SW Blvd. reiterated the need for the mayor to provide information on applicants to ensure informed decisions by the council. Councilman Martinez responded by agreeing and understands input is important, mentioned a recent visit with elementary students and asked that we can learn from them and work on being kinder and more considerate. Virginia Barton of 205 W. Canal presented laminated maps to the council members.

8. New Business –

- a. Councilmember Eileen Balcer Resignation Letter– (**Action Item**)

Eileen Balcer announced her resignation from the city council and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve and acknowledged the challenges faced by the council and the community. Balcer reflected on the importance of maintaining focus and communication within the council and emphasized the need for kindness and understanding among members. She noted that her decision to resign was influenced by the ongoing frustrations within the city and her desire to step

back and allow others to bring their perspectives forward. She received appreciation from the council for her contributions and dedication during her tenure.

Motion to accept the resignation letter for Eileen Balcer by Councilmember Evans, seconded by Councilmember Davis.

All In Favor – Motion Carried

- b. Council President Appointment – (Action Item)

Motion to table by Councilmember Davis, seconded by Councilmember Martinez.

All In Favor to defer to the next meeting – Motion Carried

- c. Ordinance No. 429 Publication by Summary Approval - (Action Item)

Motion to approve by Councilmember Balcer, seconded by Councilmember Davis.

All In Favor – Motion Carried.

- d. Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Decision on Reconsideration (Biggeli)– (Action Item)

Motion to accept by Councilmember Evans, seconded by Councilmember Balcer.

All In Favor – Motion Carried

- e. City Staff \$100.00/ P&Z & Library Board Ham/Turkey- (Action Item)

Motion to approve \$100 for holiday staff appreciation and Ham/Turkey for P&Z

and Library Board by Councilmember Martinez, seconded by Councilmember Davis. All In Favor – Motion Carried

- f. Schedule of Fees Resolution Discussion Only

The council agreed to allow the administrators at City Hall to review fees adopted by neighboring cities and other cities with comparable population and cost to conduct city business. City Attorney will consolidate schedule of fees and animal ordinance and review later.

9. Department Reports

- a. Payette County Sheriff Report
No significant issues reported.

- b. Library Report
The library reported successful community engagement activities and the installation of an ADA-compliant door opener.

- c. Sunny's Car Rally Thank You Letter
A thank you letter was shared, highlighting the event's success and its positive impact on the community.

- d. EPA Lead Letter/Beau Ziemer

Mr. Ziemer explained that the EPA has mandated that the city must prepare to keep an inventory of all WSL (water service lines) and notify residents about any potential presence of lead in their water supply. Citizens who have private properties/homes with unknown materials in their WSL received a letter informing them of the potential risks associated with lead. There was discussion about the costs associated with testing for lead in water and how it will impact the city's budget. Mr. Ziemer explained that the city has previously conducted tests without issues, indicating that the water quality has been safe. The city service lines do not contain lead. However, the purpose of the letter was to inform residents that the materials used in water service lines that run from the city meter to homes/buildings are unknown. Residents wishing to have their water tested at this time may do so at their own expense. The city is expected to receive assistance with future costs associated with the identification and potential replacement of lead service lines as funding and resources allow. Overall, the discussion emphasized the city's commitment to public health and the importance of clear communication with residents regarding water safety and lead exposure risks.

- 10. Adjournment – **(Action Item)**
Meeting adjourned at 7:00PM
Motion to adjourn by Councilmember Balcer, seconded by Councilmember Martinez.
All In Favor – Motion carried.

Approve:

Attest:
