

New Plymouth City Council Meeting
MONDAY
5 April 2010
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 5 April 2010 at 7 pm.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Joe Cook at about 7:05 pm. Roll call was taken with council members Mayer, Cline and Esplin present. Councilman York had called earlier in the day and stated that he would not be able to attend due to water coming into the canal. Staff members in attendance were Beau Ziemer, Beth Ann Christensen and Leon K. Jensen. Andy Gehrke of Holladay Engineering was also in attendance.

Regular Agenda – **Council member Esplin moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Councilwoman Mayer. The voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

Consent Agenda – **Council member Esplin moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mayer. The voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

Old Business

Eldon Isaac (Assembly of God Church) re-zone development agreement. Mr. Isaac has requested that this item be tabled until the 19th of April, the next regularly scheduled council meeting. **Council member Cline moved to table this item until the 19th of April. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mayer. The voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

Water, Sewer and Storm Run Off Agreement with the Internet Truck Stop was discussed. No action was taken.

Public Hearing Schedule for Budget Line items for Irrigation scheduled for the 19th of April at 6:30 pm was discussed. **Councilman Esplin moved to accept the publication dates for the hearing scheduled for the 19th of April at 6:30 pm. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mayer. The voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

New Business:

The engineering status report was mentioned by Andy Gehrke but no action was taken by the council.

Andy Gehrke – Holladay Engineering – Payment Application # 3 for Eastern Oregon Construction. **Councilman Esplin moved to approve said payment application. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mayer. The voting was unanimous in favor**

Andy Gehrke – Holladay Engineering Payment application # 1 for Eastern Oregon Construction. **Councilman Esplin moved to approve said payment application. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mayer. The voting was unanimous in favor.**

Andy Gehrke – Holladay Engineering - Potential funding for street improvements for South Plymouth Avenue. Andy stated that no funds were available for the city at this time. They have been previously awarded. The Block Grant Program was discussed and it was determined that Holladay Engineering (Andy Gehrke) would research the possibility of the city applying for and possibly obtaining a grant. After some discussion the council determined that they would like some research done. **Councilman Esplin moved to have Andy Gehrke look into Block Grant funding. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mayer. The voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

IRWA Awards and Travel Reimbursement – Beau Ziemer requested reimbursement for travel for himself and Jeremy Howell to receive recognition as Water Operator of the year (Beau Ziemer) and Jeremy as Rookie Water Operator of the year. The airline tickets were the large items that were paid for by Beau Ziemer. Councilwoman Mayer moved to have the city pay for the travel expenses. The motion was seconded by Councilman Esplin. The voting was unanimous in favor of the motion. Mayor Joe Cook was very complimentary of the Public Works Department and their awards.

Highway 30 Design Options – Beau Ziemer presented some design views to the council. He has a preference for the example identified as A. Drainage, Pedestrian ramp, ADA access and the general overall look of the design was agreeable to the council. No formal action was taken but the council did encourage design options to move forward.

City Clean up dates – Councilman Esplin moved to set city cleanup dates from 15 April to 15 May 2010. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mayer. The voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Toni Cutts' request for water deposit refund – The council confirmed that when a patron has paid the water bill for which they are responsible and owe no more then the deposit should be returned.

Randy Frates' Water Usage History – The council thought that a 6 month time frame was normal but it was noted that we were to look at a 90 day time frame. **Councilman Cline moved to use the average of the last four months for water usage and adjust Randy's water bill. Councilman Esplin seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

City Budget Calendar for 2010 – **Councilwoman Mayer moved to set the 2010-2011 Budget Hearing on the 16th of August at 6pm. Councilman Esplin seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous in favor of the motion. Councilman Esplin moved to set the first workshop to work on the budget on 10 May 2010 at 7pm. Councilman Cline seconded the motion and the voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

Irrigation update, billing, maintenance, staff needs

- Staff reported that about \$7500.00 of the water maintenance fees have been received.
- We have hired Amy Hopkins of American Staffing to help us part time.
- Staff reported that the ditch rider's phone number has been given out for the public to reach him. Funding for his phone was discussed and questions were asked on how to get funding in place to operate.
- Staff stated that we would contact our legal counsel to determine the best course of action regarding a hearing for revenue and expenditures.

Update on Bond reserves – Investments, questions and update - Staff reported that interest rates have fallen drastically over the past 12 months. We are looking into possible investments which will increase revenue for the city. We will meet with Zion's Bank officials in a few days to discuss possible investment changes.

City water billing progress, credit card payments, etc – staff reported that credit card usage is increasing, water turn off's are happening as needed. There is some illness in the city and those people are concerned about having their water turned off. Staff is working with various families when such situations arise. There are also people who are going to work part time, school part time and raising families who constantly have problems meeting their obligations.

Ordinances and Resolutions

None

Open Forum

None

Mayor and Council Comments

- Councilwoman Mayer stated that there is a Republican Central Committee dinner is on 17 April 2010 at the Ontario Armory.
- Pot Holes being repaired and some complaints.
- The council would like to discuss the fire department issue.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned about 8 pm.

Joe Cook, Mayor

Leon K. Jensen, City Clerk/Treasurer