

New Plymouth City Council Meeting
TUESDAY
16 February 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 Tuesday 16 February 2010 at 7 pm.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Joe Cook. Roll call was taken with council members Mayer, Cline and Esplin present. Councilman York was absent. Staff members in attendance were Beau Ziemer, Beth Ann Christensen and Leon K. Jensen. Guests included Andy Gehrke of Holladay Engineering, Don Gillispie, Jim Shake, Harry Flock, Mike Hanigan, Mike Lambertsen, Kevin Coats, Kit Kamo and Jim Smith.

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, seconded by Councilwoman Mayer. The voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Old Business

Don Gillispie from Alternate Energy Holdings, Inc. gave an update regarding the proposal for a rezone to allow for a nuclear energy plant in Payette County. He came to the council meeting to stay in touch with us and to answer questions. He stated that he had an economic study completed. He also stated that he had a transportation study completed as well. He stated that about 20 % of the GDP of the state would be produced by this plant. He said that the jobs created would be high paying jobs, about 80K average. There was a site study done as well and it would be presented to the county commissioners at the upcoming hearing scheduled for the 22nd of February. New Plymouth City is the closest town to the proposed site. He discussed storage of spent fuel and that there is about 95% of the energy in spent fuel left still unused. He stated that the plant life would be 60 years and could be extended to 100 years if needed. He discussed finance, loan guarantees and that water for the area is being approved. He could not state how much water and from where due to confidentiality concerns but stated that there is plenty of water available for the facility. He stated that once the land is approved for construction of a nuclear plant, the land will be worth about 1.5 billion. The discussion continued for some time and covered in more detail areas which have been previously mentioned. Mr. Gillispie and others of his team invited anyone to contact them if they had questions about the plant or the development of it and that they would appreciate hearing them.

Jim Shake - Subject: Mill Road Crossing, Jim stated that the project was moving along and that the trees have been mostly removed. He asked if the city would be agreeable to paying part of the cost of a 36 inch by 40 foot culvert for a crossing. The cost of the culvert is about \$1400.00 and the city was asked for about one fourth of that cost. It was suggested that the city may help build the crossing at Good Lane and assist in the payment of the culvert. He also said that gravel may need hauled as well. The city may also opt to help with hauling stumps and/or gravel. Councilman Esplin favored helping with the project. He asked for more definite information of the needs prior to the city considering the request further. Councilman Cline agreed.

New Business

Jim Smith and others from the Snake River Economic Development Association (SREDA) presented information regarding business development in the city and surrounding areas. Mike Hanigan spoke and introduced other members of the team who were in attendance. He stated that they have put an organization in place, discussed the structure of the organization and the choosing of a board of directors made up of business leaders, etc. This area covers three counties, two states and has one vision. SREDA is looking for funding for a manager to help bring business to the valley, including our neighbors across the river in Oregon. This person would be assigned the responsibility to go out and market our area, invite business in and help them establish themselves in our valley. They are asking the three cities in Payette County for \$1.00 per citizen for the next three years. SREDA is approaching this as an investment in the community. The council was asked for a contribution of \$2000.00 per year for the next three years. Discussion followed including many questions and comments from the council and interaction with the applicant. Following more discussion regarding the city investing in such a venture and with Councilman Cline expressing his desire to think about the request before making a decision, **Councilman Esplin moved to look into opening the budget to give \$2000.00 to SREDA. Councilwoman Mayer seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 2-1 vote in favor. Councilman Cline voted in opposition.**

High water usage problem. Mike Lambertson stated that his water usage went from 14K gallons to 101K gallons in one month and he did not have an explanation as to why from a user point of view but did suggest that the meter went berserk causing the water bill to be wrong. The council determined that the unit be tracked for three months to verify a more normal usage and then a decision would be made on what to do with this situation.

Andy Gehrke - Holladay Engineering Status Report – No action was taken on this report. Councilman Esplin stated that the report looked really good.

Andy Gehrke – Holladay Engineering – Engineering Payment Application # 23 – **Councilman Esplin moved to approve the payment, seconded by Councilwoman Mayer. The voting was unanimous in favor.**

Solicitation Permit within the City – Tap Enterprises - **Councilman Esplin moved to approve the Solicitation Permit for Tap Enterprises, seconded by Councilwoman Mayer. The voting was unanimous in favor.**

Ordinances & Resolutions

Proclamation for Dating Violence Awareness & Prevention Month – Staff presented information received from a father of a young woman who was murdered by her x-boyfriend. This information was presented in the form of a resolution stating that the city was opposed to any violence of this nature and did support action for the safety of members of our community from violence. **Councilman Esplin moved to sign the resolution as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Cline. The voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

Open Forum

None

Mayor and Council Comments

Councilman Cline asked questions about the construction at the south end of town. Beau Ziemer explained the route and that the construction is for irrigation.

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 9 pm.

Joe Cook, Mayor

Leon K. Jensen, City Clerk/Treasurer