

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY
5 July 2011
6:25 pm
New Plymouth City Hall (Library)

On the 5 July 2011 the city council meeting was called to order at approximately 6:25 pm by Mayor Cook. Roll call was taken with council members Mayer, Cline, and York in attendance. Councilman Esplin was out of town. Staff members in attendance were Amy Gibbons, Beau Ziemer, Leon K. Jensen and Beth Ann Christensen. Dale Miller, Michael Dolton, Travis and Tina Fisher, Chris Knutsen, Faye and D. DyKema, Stephanie, Dan, and Diane Baldocchi, were in attendance.

The City Clerk stated that some changes have been made on the agenda. The Library Report was added. Under the open forum portion of the agenda information on Hydro Plant Public hearing from the county about Bridge Energy will be presented and the city received an email from Susan Steppe which she requested be read into the record. There will be more information about Bridge Energy and their upcoming public hearing that will be reported tonight. Councilman Cline asked for clarification, item e. in the consent agenda, open form – Continuation of information on Bridge Energy and an email from Susan Steppe for open forum.

Regular Agenda – **Councilman Cline moved to approve the agenda as amended. Councilwoman Mayer seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

Consent Agenda – **Councilman Cline moved to approve the consent agenda as amended. Councilwoman Mayer seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

Old Business:

Mike Dalton – discussed the Dehydrating facility or gas refinery and his concerns about this refinery. He reported updated information about the dehydrating facility. Mr. Dalton wants them to put the refinery out in the desert away from the cities somewhere along the pipeline. He stated that these drilling companies are exempt from any regulatory laws. He stated that there is dirty water now in two wells and it has been reported that there are now four wells which appear contaminated with foreign material. Additional information can be obtained from their website at www.nogasprocessor.com.

Nuisance Ordinance violations update – Toby (Sheriff Deputy) emailed Beau Ziemer about potential violations. Beau gave an update to City Council regarding addresses and what needed to be done for each potential violation. Beau will talk with Sheriff Chad Huff about certain homes that need to be condemned and / or have their lawns mowed. Sheriff Huff and the New Plymouth City building inspector need to look at 118 W. Linden due to water damage. Mayor Cook asked about a city resident who has many lawn movers at his residence. The Sheriff has had problems contacting this resident. He's located on Park St. Toby and Chief Moore are looking into it. Weeds located on sidewalks need attention. Councilwoman Mayer discussed sidewalk weeds in front of local businesses. She suggested that perhaps a letter could be sent by the chamber to let the local business owners know that they need to take care of the sidewalks in front of their businesses.

New Business:

Farmers Mutual Telephone Company agreement review – Beau compared the city agreement to other cell phone companies who have systems on water towers. It was determined that New

Plymouth rate is low. The City maintains the tower. Well 7 is not active and doesn't run more than 52 days a year. Beau's recommendation was \$750.00 but he didn't know if that was reasonable. The Council wanted a recommendation and Beau stated he would like to negotiate. Councilwoman Mayer suggested \$1000.00 to start for negotiation. Councilman York suggested Beau negotiate, and try to get them to move out to well 9. Beau will start negotiations.

New Plymouth Heights Homeowners Association Irrigation proposal – New Plymouth Homeowners would like City to take over their pump for the Association according to President Shelly Caldwell. Some of the homeowners are in favor of having the City take over their pump. Councilman Cline was concerned about right of ways and access. Beau will throw it back in their ball park saying that City will look into taking care of it if an agreement can be reached regarding an access agreement to the pump and lines. There may also be liability issues on private property. Beau would like to have more business to help get caught up on the old water system. Wayne Wheeler is taking over as the Homeowners Association President. The Homeowner's organization is not set up to deny access to anyone. They all use the water and some do not pay their fees. The City has more muscle to get people to pay verses having the homeowners collecting fees. This is an opportunity to acquire more users and will help the city maintain the old and new system. Councilman York wants Beau to go to the Homeowner's council meeting to talk to them more about taking over their pump.

Ordinances & Resolutions

None

Open Forum

Travis Fisher gave an update on Bridge Energy and his concerns. A Methane contaminate study has been completed by Duke University in upstate New York and North eastern Pennsylvania. Methane was found in many drinking water wells. Concentration was substantially higher closer to natural gas wells. The City of New Plymouth is down wind of natural gas building site. Mr. Fisher gave a list of emitted chemicals that come from these wells. Symptoms/illnesses may be caused from the chemicals. Mr. Fisher asked for Councils support on this issue.

Tina Fisher did research on Bridge Energy and voiced her concerns about their oil wells. She stated that they want to come in and take money and jobs from our community. Any spill on the site would flow into that pond.

Mayor Joe Cook asked how they determined that the Bridge Energy pond was not lined. They responded that they were in the notes from the meeting. Beau said the state temporary rules were only going to deal with fracking. The county has to make a land use decision and not the state. Any public health and safety issues are taken care of by the county. The State of Idaho only wants to deal with the drilling. We told them no ponds.

Dan Dykema – has a beauty salon and they are down wind from this plant. He voiced his concern about natural gas smell, noise, and safety.

Sherry Knutzen – Bridge Energy presentation has come off as being very peachy keen. She believes that Bridge Energy should have given the whole truth initially. They have waited until people have started asking questions. Payette County needs to know what the people represent

and they need to represent the people.

Stephanie Baldocchi – This land is farmland and cattle country, why do we want a refinery in our small town?

Allen Blevins stated that we do not have the equipment to manage such a fire, if there was a fire. Caldwell would be the closest hazmat team. He suggested that the city council go to the planning and zoning meeting and testify in opposition regarding this issue.

Dale Williamson – He's not for or against it, but he thinks there should be rules and regulations set up by the state before we allow something like this to come into our communities.

Dan Baldocchi – voiced his concerns.

Susan Steppe Letter – The council stated that they had all read the letter and the Mayor asked that it be entered into the minutes.

Mayor and Council Comments – Councilman York stated that he appreciated all the folks that came to express their opinions about the issues. York likes the idea of having the site out in the desert away from our town, our water, and wells. Mayor Cook will be representing the city at this time on this issue. York stated that the Planning and Zoning Commission wants the good hard facts.

Adjournment – Councilwoman Mayer moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman York. The voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30 pm.

Joe Cook, Mayor

Leon K. Jensen, City Clerk/Treasurer