

New Plymouth City Council Meeting
MONDAY
2 August 2010
7:00 p.m.
New Plymouth City Council Chambers (Library)

The council meeting was called to order by Mayor Joe Cook at about 7:00 pm. Roll call was taken with council members Mayer, York and Esplin in attendance. Councilman Cline was absent. Staff members in attendance were Leon K. Jensen and Public Works Director, Beau Ziemer. Guests included Andy Gehrke of Holladay Engineering, and Anne Esplin, who arrived at 7:30 pm.

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

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

Old Business

1. Water Rate review update – Public Works Department – Beau Ziemer stated that the information was put on the agenda for council review only and questions. He stated that he would have a recommendation at the upcoming public hearing.
2. Sewer Rate review update – Public Works Department – Beau Ziemer stated that the information was put on the agenda for council review only and questions. He stated that he would have a recommendation at the upcoming public hearing.

New Business:

1. Idaho Power Franchise fee discussion – Beau Ziemer reviewed some information regarding the agreement at 1.5% rate increase in the power bill of residents to be used to help pay the power bill for city lighting. The fees would be dedicated to a fund or project as decided upon by the city. Mr. Ziemer thought that it would work well to offset the streetlight bill. The city is putting in more street lights as time and cost permits. He also stated that the lights on main street go off at midnight and some adjustments could be made to save power and still give some lighting. It was determined that the franchise agreement would have to be amended and that the item is on the budget proposal for FY2010-2011. The council would like to see some options as part of the agreement. Beau discussed some of the monthly fee costs from Idaho Power for their services, have the Franchise agreement changed and bring it to the council at the budget hearing.
2. Alternate Energy Holding Rezone and Variance Information – **Councilwoman Mayer moved that the council send a letter of support for this request to the Payette County Planning and Zoning Commission. The motion was seconded by Councilman Esplin and the vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**
3. Holiday Engineering - Oil and Gas Well – Draft and verbal comments for consideration – Andy Gehrke presented a draft letter which may be considered by the council to present to the Payette County Planning and Zoning Commission at their upcoming public hearing on the 19th of August 2010.
 - The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has created a source water assessment which is the plan to protect the source water areas for the City of New Plymouth.
 - Mr. Ziemer stated that DEQ will not accept any water delineation area other than their delineation.
 - The Shoemaker well sits within the delineation area as proposed by DEQ.

- DEQ has stated that the design of the proposed well shows that the well would be constructed using the best technology and safety to the ground water as possible.
- DEQ has no regulation prohibiting the drilling of a well in their delineation area. They rely on the city and county officials to protect that assessment.

The city council is concerned that if they were to recommend approval to the County Planning and Zoning Commission for the drilling of this well that the door may be opened for the drilling of other wells, which in time could create contamination problems for the city water system. It was reported that the well drilling operation has stated that they would not train local personnel such as fire and police (emergency personnel) as stated in their conditional use permit. There are studies which have been reviewed and some contamination in some rural areas in Colorado has been found to exist. The council determined that the Mayor should take the city recommendation to the hearing and read the recommendation into the record. The hearing is scheduled for the 19th of August, 2010, to be held at the Payette County Courthouse. The council decided to wait on a final letter to be produced by Mr. Ziemer and Andy Gerhke of Holladay Engineering to be reviewed at the next council meeting. **Councilman Esplin moved to table this discussion until the next council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mayer. The voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

4. Holiday Engineering – Fire Station Street Improvement – Andy Gerhke presented information stating that the Fire Department has requested that the city enter into an agreement with Holladay Engineering along with the fire department to enter into a contract to share the payment of design expenditures. At some time past, discussions were held concerning sharing expenses in this manner. No decision has been made by the council regarding this matter. **Councilman Esplin moved to deny the request by the fire department. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mayer. The voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.**
5. Public Works – Beau Ziemer - Street Sweeper Purchase – Beau presented information regarding purchasing a used street sweeper from the city of Payette. The proposed purchase price is \$2500.00. He stated that renting a street sweeper to clean up after the fair would be more expensive than purchasing this particular street sweeper. **Councilman Esplin moved to grant Beau permission to inspect and approve the purchase of the street sweeper from the city of Payette at the purchase price of \$2500.00. The motion was seconded by Councilman York. The voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.**
6. Fund borrowing for projects – The question is one of borrowing from one fund or another for a project outside of that fund. The monies that would be borrowed are to be paid back within the year interest free. If the monies are not paid back by the end of one year then interest would be paid along with the amount of money borrowed. The interest rate and terms would be set by the city council.

Ordinances & Resolutions

Open Forum – No comment

Mayor and Council Comments

Councilwoman Mayer stated that the tri city breakfast is scheduled for the 6th of August. They are looking for one more volunteer to help with the breakfast. From 7:30 to 9 am at the Fruitland City Park. All three chambers will be supporting this activity. Councilman York encouraged all to support t the county fair and exhibits next week. Mayor Cook mentioned the memorial at Wilson Park this coming Thursday at noon to commemorate a plane accident in 1958. There will be a BBQ at noon for all to attend.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:45 pm.

Joe Cook, Mayor

Leon K. Jensen, City Clerk/Treasurer