

New Plymouth City Council Meeting
TUESDAY
3 January 2012
7:00 p.m.
New Plymouth City Council Chambers (Library)

On the 3rd of January 2012 the city council meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Joe Cook. Roll call was taken with council members Mayer, York, and Esplin in attendance, Cline arrived at 7:02.

Staff members in attendance were Beau Ziemer, Amy Gibbons, Leon K. Jensen and Beth Ann Christensen. Guests included Barbara Stone, Janet Warnke, Bill Warnke, Lucky Pennington, Dale Williamson, Olivia Cline, Roxanna Cline, Donna Saba, and Andy Gehrke of Holladay Engineering.

Regular Agenda – **Councilman York moved to approve the agenda. Councilman Esplin seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

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

Old Business

New Plymouth Rural Fire Dept. C of O and plans for completion. Beau suspects that fire department will come in for an occupancy permit. Chad Brock, New Plymouth building official stated that structurally everything is finished. The water sewer and storm run off agreement is not completed. The agreement does not address the occupancy permit. Chad doesn't want to give them a permit but suggested a temporary occupancy permit. Councilman Esplin wants input from Chad Brock before the council makes a decision on the matter. Councilman York wanted to know how close the fire department was to completion. Mayor Cook said they couldn't pour concrete because of weather. Beau needed to inspect parts of the water sewer and storm run off agreement. Fire dept. may be short on the site plan. Developing a site plan may cost the Fire Dept. quite a bit of money. Councilman York and Esplin want to base their decisions on Chad and Beau recommendations. Councilman Esplin reminded Beau to make sure everything is done fairly for one public building as for any other public building. Beau will follow the agreement. Councilman Esplin stated that he wants Beau, Chad, and Dallas Hawker to confer and make sure the agreement is fulfilled before an occupancy permit will be granted. Councilman Esplin is concerned about item 18 in the agreement with the New Plymouth Rural Fire Department. **Councilman York moved to table this discussion until further information is available for the council. The motion was seconded by Councilman Esplin. The voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

Parking complaint (Hawthorne Ave – W Maple St.) U Haul vehicles have been parked on the city right of way. Deputy Moore reported that Mr. Jones has cleaned up the parking area. Everything that is parked on the right of way is licensed. Mr. Jones wants to know if what he's done meets their expectations. Councilman York wants to make sure that Mr. Jones' situation is checked on to ensure compliance. Deputy Moore brought to councils attentions that the COOP has a lean too in the right of way, there are garbage cans in the right of way and wants to treat everyone the same. Deputy Moore is hesitant to do anything without a formal complaint. A formal complaint was filed regarding Mr. Jones situation. That is why the city has moved forward with enforcement. Discussion continued about city right of way all over the city being used as parking areas and other Deputy wanted Council to write an ordinance violation so he could write a violation for anyone who is not in compliance. Councilman York expressed his desire for the city to be proactive with code enforcement. Deputy Moore suggested that the city paint parking spaces and place signs where parking is desired. Councilman Esplin asked that Deputy Moore deal only with actual filed complaints. Discussion continued regarding more clean up in the area in question. Dale Williamson was asked for his comment. He was adamant that the situation has not been resolved. He wants the material off the right of way. He stated that he almost had an accident because of not being able to see clearly down the right of way. That near accident prompted the complaint being filed by Mr. Williamson. Councilman Cline asked that encouragement be given to Mr. Jones to continue keeping any

vehicles or materials off the right of way. Deputy Moore asked the council if he should be proactive about other violations. Councilman Esplin stated that he would like to have a formal complaint filed prior to any enforcement action. The council generally believes that if there is a potential violation of the code then, without a formal complaint, the sheriff's department should take the initiative and visit with the land owner about the situation and try to get corrective action taken.

Erik Cline did not run for re-election to the city council. He was presented a plaque of appreciation from Mayor Cook and the city council. The Mayor and council expressed their appreciation for his dedicated service to the city of New Plymouth.

New Business

Swearing in the Newly Elected Officials - The city clerk asked the newly elected officials to fill out their oath of office. Two council members, Councilwoman Mayer, Councilman Warnke, Mayor Cook were sworn in to office by the city clerk, Leon K. Jensen. Certificates were prepared and given to the newly elected officials.

Election of Council members responsible for Claims Approval for the city - **Councilwoman Mayer and Councilman Warnke were nominated by Councilman Esplin to serve in this capacity. Councilman York seconded the nomination. Mayor Cook called for a vote. The vote was two in favor and none in opposition. The motion carried.**

Election of Council Chair – Mayor Cook recommended Councilman York to serve as chair. Councilwoman Mayer stated that she would be happy to serve as well. A coin was tossed to determine who of the two council members would serve in this capacity. Councilwoman Mayer won the coin toss. **Councilman York moved that Councilwoman Mayer be elected to serve as Council President. The motion was seconded by Councilman Esplin. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

Banking signature cards and information – Following a presentation of information by the city clerk and discussion by the council regarding having all council members be able to sign city checks, **Councilman York moved to maintain the current system of having only the Mayor and Council President sign checks as members of the council. The motion was seconded by Councilman Esplin. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

RC&D Council – Wendy Green Presentation – Ms Green did not attend the meeting and no report was given.

Water Bill Questions – Barbara Stone of Rebecca Lodge – Ms Stone requested consideration on the Lodge water bill due to very low water usage and low membership. She presented information regarding meetings and how much water is used. The council determined that one year would be a fair time frame to reduce the bill to about 50%. **Councilman Esplin moved to reduce the bill to half of the amount currently being charged (base charges currently being). Councilman York seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

Holladay Engineering – Andy Gehrke – Status Report – Mr. Gehrke reported that lagoon testing for the city has gone well. There is no seepage currently detected in the ponds. He also reported that the concept report for the E Idaho Holly project is in review by ITD (Idaho Transportation Department).

Library – Future Expansion plans – Amy Gibbons reported that the library is receiving more funding from library cards as projected. She reported that patrons are requesting more space for the library. She expressed her desire to expand into the area which will be vacated by the fire department upon their move to their new location. The council was interested in what the library plans are but stated they are not in a position to make any decision regarding what to do about moving into the space currently occupied by the New Plymouth Rural Fire Department equipment. Ms Gibbons also asked if the Council would be willing to match funding raised by the Library for expansion. The Council stated they are not in a position to

commit any funding at the present time and not until following future budget preparations. They would like to see some plans for the future and will not make any decisions till the fire department has been able to move from their current location.

Council Meeting schedule for 2012 – Mayor Cook stated that there are times that the council has cancelled meetings due to lack of quorum. Others commented that there has been lack of business thus being the cause of meeting cancellation. The council discussed the item further. **Councilman York moved that we keep the schedule as is, keeping the as much business as possible early in the month and allowing for the second meeting of the month to be cancelled if there is little or no business to be conducted. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mayer. The voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

Planning and Zoning Schedule for 2012 – Following the discussion by the council it was determined that the schedule in the past has been adequate. **Councilman Esplin moved that the Planning and Zoning Schedule of meeting on the 4th Monday of each month for 2012. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mayer. The voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

Open Forum – Donna Saba reported that she represents Friends of the Library. She spoke in support of expanding the library and helping to make it a better library. She also stated that there may be very generous donors in the area in support of the expansion of the library.

Mayor and Council comments – Councilwoman Mayer asked why the council has not formally appointed the city clerk and reaffirmed who the attorney, engineer, building official and audit firm, etc. The council expressed concern regarding the audit firm not having finished the audit for 08-09. Staff reported that we have provided them with the requested information and are currently waiting to hear from the auditor. The council asked that staff have information available to them regarding the possibility of employing another audit firm in the future.

Councilman Warnke asked about each of the council members having responsibility for each of the city operations.

Councilman York welcomed Bill Warnke as the new councilman.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15 pm.

Joe Cook, Mayor

Leon K. Jensen, City Clerk/Treasurer