

New Plymouth City Council Meeting  
MONDAY  
May 5, 2025  
6:00 P.M.  
New Plymouth City Council Chambers

On the 5th of May 2025, the New Plymouth City Council meeting was called to order at 6:02 P.M.

Pledge of allegiance.

Roll call was taken with councilmembers Davis, Hughes, Evans, Martinez and Mayor Grace present.

Staff members in attendance were City Clerk Marianne Gatchell, Public Works Superintendent Beau Ziemer, City Engineer Andy Gehrke, and City Attorney Jill Holinka.

April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025, City Council Minutes- **(Action Item)**

**Councilmember Martinez made a motion to approve the minutes from April 21, 2025. Councilmember Evans seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion carried.**

Claim Approvals- **(Action Item)**

**Councilmember Evans made a motion to approve the claim approvals for May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Councilmember Davis seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion carried.**

Correspondence -

Citizen letter regarding concerns with fireworks permits- This is an issue that needs to be handled with Payette County.

Citizen Comments-

Penny Kovick- 4157 NW 1<sup>st</sup> Ave NP- Thanked the group of concerned citizens from New Plymouth for their hard work in helping to bring to light the misgivings that have occurred under the previous administration. She thanked the new council for their efforts thus far in bringing a positive change. She is deeply saddened by the news and the horrible acts committed against the city by the previous clerk. She is hopeful for a positive future for our city.

Ron Kovick- 4157 NW 1<sup>st</sup> Ave NP- Thanked all the people that worked tirelessly to bring about this change for the city of New Plymouth. He knows this is a hard job but is grateful to those that ran against the old administration and are in office now. He is hopeful for good things in the future.

Toni Blacketter-5187 SE 1<sup>st</sup> Ave NP- Thanked the new council and mayor for running and making a positive difference for our city. She encourages the community to work for grass roots idea of governing. We need to work together to shape the future of our community.

Mayor & Council Comments

Moved after Press Release

New Business-

- a. Letter of Resignation- Ellen Smith- **(Action Item)** Council and mayor expressed their gratitude for the work and efforts by Ellen. She has been an asset to our office and this city. She will be missed.  
**Councilmember Davis made a motion to accept the letter of resignation for Ellen Smith. Councilmember Martinez seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion carried.**
- b. Payette Soil & Water Conservation Donation Request- **(Action Item)** Jennifer Ricke- 6255 SE 10<sup>th</sup> Ave

Caldwell- representative from Payette Soil & Water brought the council handouts explaining what they do and what the donation goes toward. The donations received are matched by the state. They help find grants that help conserve the soil and water for our county. Asking for a donation of \$1000.00 for FY2025-26 and the check to be issued for FY2024-25 of \$1000.00 which was approved last budget year.

**Councilmember Martinez made a motion to approve the donation for Payette Soil & Water Conservation for FY2025-26 of \$1000.00 and the check for FY2024-25 of \$1000.00 which was approved last budget year.**

**Councilmember Davis seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Councilmember Davis, yes. Councilmember Hughes, yes. Councilmember Evans, yes. Councilmember Martinez, yes. Motion carried.**

- c. New Plymouth Senior Center Donation Request- Billie Clark- **(Action Item)** Billie Clark, representative for the NP Senior Center, came to ask for a donation from the city for their 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Chili Feed Fundraiser. The money raised helps to support their Home Delivery Meals. Which supports approximately 50 people that need healthy sustainable meals throughout New Plymouth, Fruitland and Payette.

\*No Motion Needed.

**Community at meeting made donation pledges to the senior center.** Beau Ziemer, Dax Pearson, Lox Salon, Michael Hughes, Ron Martinez, Lisa Grace. A total of \$1200.00 was pledged.

- d. Upload Student- Alison Parrott- Request for Lease Relief for Final 3 months of School Building Lease- **(Action Item)** Alison Parrott asked the council to consider allowing for forgiveness of the June, July, and August months of the building lease or a lessened amount. It's been difficult for her to keep her student numbers up as they are new to the area. She has some summer programs she is going to start as well as some fundraising to help pay the building lease. She will be doing a Drone Camp this summer. They are very involved with our community as they participate in the Tractor Parade, purchasing weekly lunches from Garbanzos, as well as membership at Get Fit Gym. She is hoping to have more students enrolled for the next school year with the help of the \$5000.00 tax credit for homeschooling families. The council discussion included the fact that the building has been empty for many years, the funds being received from the lease are going 100% to the library expansion and not actually being used in our budget. The council asked that the school plan more accordingly for the summer months.

**Councilmember Martinez made a motion to accept the lease forgiveness for the school building for June, July, and August. They will pay \$100.00 per month for June, July & August rent and 10% of the utilities each month. Councilmember Evans seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion carried.**

**\*Mayor Grace recuses herself from item e. on the agenda.**

- e. Final Plat Subdivision Pilgrims Cove- Sky Investments- Tim Davis/Rywest Homes- **(Action Item)** City Engineer Andy Gehrke has reviewed the final plat for Pilgrims Cove Subdivision, and it has met our city code. The concerns brought forth by the Planning and Zoning commission have been reviewed. It is recommended the city approve the final plat.

**Councilmember Davis made a motion to approve the Pilgrims Subdivision Final Plat. Councilmember Evans seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion carried.**

- f. Findings of fact- Good Lane East/Preliminary Plat/River Brook Custom Homes- **(Action Item)** City Attorney Jill Holinka reviewed all the details from this application and has created the Findings of Fact for the council's approval.

**Councilmember Davis made a motion to approve and accept the Findings of Fact for Good Lane East Preliminary Plat. Councilmember Hughes seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion carried.**

- g. Press Release- US Attorney's Office District of Idaho- Discussion Only

Mayor Grace read the press release: Former City Clerk/Treasurer Pleads Guilty to Stealing Over \$196,000 from the City of New Plymouth. Mayor Grace expanded on some of the details that can be shared at this time. She is asking for those that would like to write a victim impact statement please do so. The information for this is available in city hall and our website. She thanked Detective Jim Christensen with ISP for his diligence and perseverance with this case. It has been a long road with countless hours of work spent to bring us to this place. Lisa had a gut feeling that something wasn't right, and after being privy to the Black Canyon Irrigation embezzlement case, knew there was something to be found. She was sworn

into office on Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024. On January 25<sup>th</sup> we found the fraudulent charges on the city credit card by retrieving the statements from Zions Bank, (which were nowhere in the office). This was reported to our insurance ICRMP. We called the ISP. Once the fraud had been discovered, we started the Forensic Audit. Which was done by Eide Baily one of the top forensic audit companies available. We received our insurance claim check on 5/16/2024 from ICRMP for \$97,375.15. The cost of the forensic audit was \$23,602.88. We have worked hard to get to this place. We have now put new policies in place to ensure this type of activity will not happen again. Councilmember Martinez said that it is heartbreaking for our citizens to have to endure this type of betrayal. He is sorry that this has happened and has made a vow to give service to this community. He appreciates everyone that stepped up to run and to make a positive difference. We are now moving in the right direction. Councilmember Evans appreciated the comments made from our citizens. She ran for office to clear up the dishonesty that was happening. She wanted to mention that the personal attacks on social media against her need to stop. We are here to make this a better city and need to work together. Councilmember Davis said we are really trying to do our best please be patient as we are still all learning. Councilmember Hughes said there was no oversight with the previous administration. That won't be the case now, we will have the oversight in place. Mayor Grace concluded with changes are being made, things are happening, and they are improving every day. We have been through a lot this past year so please continue to be patient. Positive good is happening.

#### Adjournment

**Councilmember Martinez moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Evans seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 P.M.

Approve:

Attest:

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Lisa Grace, Mayor

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Marianne Gatchell, City Clerk