

**City of Newberg
City Council Minutes
February 20, 2024
Hybrid Meeting Format**

BUSINESS SESSION –

Meeting called to order at 6:01 pm.

Councilors Present: Mayor Bill Rosacker, Councilors Mike McBride, Peggy Kilburg, Molly Olson, Robyn Wheatley, Derek Carmon, and Elise Yarnell Hollamon

Staff Present: City Manager Will Worthey, City Attorney James Walker, City Recorder Rachel Thomas, IT Manager Ian Rodriguez, Public Works Maintenance Preston Langeliers, Human Resources Manager Alison Seiler, and Records Management Clerical Assistant Melissa Morris

EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to ORS192.660(2)(e) and ORS192.660(2)(f)

Mayor Rosacker stated the Executive Session had been cancelled.

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

The current Service Teamwork Responsibility Integrity Value Equity (STRIVE) Policy had been sent to Councilors along with a copy of the policy with updates and enhancements suggested by City Attorney Walker, Human Resources Director Allison Seiler, and several Councilors.

CM Worthey stated the STRIVE Committee had been founded with the purpose to receive any allegations that questioned the moral turpitude of any senior Staff member, including Department heads, the City Manager, City Attorney, and the City Judge. The STRIVE Committee also selected employees nominated for their work ethic or integrity to receive the STRIVE Award.

There was no way to submit a complaint anonymously. If someone registered an allegation against a Staff member, they must be willing to put their name behind it so the investigation could proceed properly and transparently. STRIVE would communicate these issues to the Council confidentially. Lesser complaints could be directed to the Councilors, the City Attorney, or the City Manager.

The Council discussed:

- The benefits of having a mechanism to make complaints anonymously, especially in sensitive situations, including those involving sexual misconduct.

- In cases of sexual misconduct, it was important to immediately escalate the issue to the proper source, and not try to solve any issues.
- The culture of fear created by anonymous complaint systems and the feeling of jobs being on the line was not conducive to getting work done. Those with concerns could come forward to any manager about sexual harassment. Allegations without a source were very difficult to investigate.
- The importance of having an open and trusting work environment that took allegations seriously, had many avenues for receiving complaints, and enforced a non-retaliation policy.
- If STRIVE reported an issue to the Council, it would then be the Council's duty to take action.

CM statistics to the end of December 2023.pptx

CM Worthey reported the statistics for December 2023.

He confirmed that an IT Manager could not work remotely from a long distance, and a new IT Manager would need to be recruited.

The Engineering Department regularly used a camera truck to look for broken or cracked water pipes throughout the City. A plan was in place to eventually replace the main water lines, but it was difficult to repair lateral water lines. The City could explore programs that helped residents fix lateral water lines going to their homes. The City had their own camera trucks, but also used contractors when focusing on main water lines. In Korea, autonomous robots were used inside the water pipes to find and repair cracks by filling them with plastic. CM Worthey would explore the costs and availability of robotic equipment.

Councilor Yarnell Hollamon requested an update on the new School Resource Officer (SRO).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Blaine Street Trees Presentation

Blaine Street Trees1.pptx

Public Works Maintenance Langeliers gave a PowerPoint presentation on several trees on Blaine St that needed to be removed. The presentation included details of a redwood tree damaging water lines, an oak tree damaged by a lightning strike, and an oak tree that had grown into the redwood. Staff recommended options for addressing the damaged water lines and an arborists report was made available to the Councilors. PWM Langeliers would coordinate with the Chehalem Parks and Recreation District (CPRD) to plant five new memorial trees in the area, and five more new trees to be planted in other parks. One of the new

trees would be dedicated in the summer to Newberg's sister city, Poysdorf, Austria.

Council and Staff discussed the following points:

- Selecting native tree varieties with downward root habits to avoid damaging sprinklers.
- Bryan Stewart, an arborist from CPRD, would determine the tree varieties to be planted and would select trees with a taproot structure that would create shade and facilitate easy landscaping.
- Those who had given public comments at the previous Council meeting in opposition to removing the trees had been shown the same presentation, and they were now satisfied with the plan for planting the new trees.
- The City could potentially write an article to share facts and dispel rumors about the removal of the trees, and could also post on social media about new trees being planted in many areas of Newberg
- A letter of notice had been sent to residents who lived within 1000 feet of the trees to be removed.
- Newberg had a tree planting plan.
- Requirements in the Public Works Design Standards were being revised by the Planning and Building Departments as some of the tree varieties selected by previous planners were not a good choice due to shallow root systems. New varieties would be selected by root structure.

Public Comment: Joni Zimmerman stated she and her colleagues from Sustainable Solutions had spoken against removing the redwood tree and gazebo at the February 6, 2024. CM Worthey and Public Works Director Thomas met with those concerned after the meeting to share the project background and options for moving forward. Ms. Zimmerman and her colleagues acknowledged the limited options and left the meeting feeling confident that removing the tree was the only choice. Ms. Zimmerman was later filled with grief for the tree wondering if there were other options. The arborist report stated the tree did not need to be removed unless road work was undertaken, and Ms. Zimmerman was uncertain what "road work" referred to. Ms. Zimmerman still strongly opposed removal of the tree to create car infrastructure, and stated other solutions could be considered for storm drains. Sustainable Solutions had ideas for alternatives, and Ms. Zimmerman urged the Council to grant more time to consider alternatives and get community input. Ms. Zimmerman hoped the City would hold public forums or meetings to present the problems and recommendations and provide an open forum for public input. Ms. Zimmerman urged the Council to consider alternatives for the Police parking lot, reasons and alternative options for removing the tree and gazebo, and a plan for rebuilding. Staff had previously noted the gazebo may not be rebuilt without volunteer effort. The original gazebo had been built by volunteer effort and donated to the City, and the City could consider partially funding the gazebo. Ms. Zimmerman urged the Council to prioritize saving trees.

Mayor Rosacker remembered the redwood tree from when he was young, and stated he would miss the tree, but it had been planted in the wrong place where it could cause damage. Removing the tree was not a great option but was better than spending half a million dollars of the citizen's money to do something different.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Resolution 2024-3921 Purchase of four (4) Vehicle, equipment, and truck attachments to replace aging equipment per fleet replacement program of \$466,438.97

RCA JD M2 Leaf Vac 2-8-24.docx

Action: To approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

Motion: Councilor Olson

Second: Councilor McBride

Vote: 7 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

PUBLIC HEARING

Ordinance 2024-2922: To make changes to System Development Charges
RCA Ordinance 2024-2922 amending the City of Newberg's Municipal Code regarding System Development Charges 1.docx
Ordinance 2024-2922 Attachment A Preamble and SDC Models.pdf
Ordinance 2024-2922 Attachment B NMC SDC Revisions.pdf

Mayor Rosacker opened the legislative hearing and asked for the declaration of any conflicts of interest or abstentions. There were none.

CM Worthey provided background information on the City's SDC rates and efforts to address issues with the current model. He presented the Staff report on the proposed changes and noted the following key points:

- The exact fiscal impact was not known, but the new more accurate SDC models developed by the SDC Taskforce were of high value.
- Under the new models, some SDC charges would be reduced, and some rates would be moderately increased to ensure enough revenue for current and future City infrastructure was being recovered.
- The net effect was a reduction of SDC rates, balanced by the removal of completed projects from the Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) list.
- The proposed SDC reform was in alignment with Council Goal 6 to implement careful, prudent fiscal policy, specifically meeting Objective 3 to lower SDC charges.

City Attorney Walker stated the Ordinance would go into effect on April 1, 2024.

CM Worthey clarified that the new rates would apply to permit applications received after April 1, 2024, which tied in with the publication of a new Master Fee Schedule for the City.

Public Testimony: None.

Mayor Rosacker closed the public hearing.

Staff recommended that the Council adopt Ordinance 2024-2922 amending Newberg’s Municipal Code on SDC charges as read by title only.

Action:	To adopt Ordinance 2024-2922 amending Newberg’s Municipal Code on SDC charges as read by title only.
Motion:	Councilor Olson
Second:	Councilor Kilburg
Vote:	7 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

COUNCIL BUSINESS

There was discussion on the summary of what the City had done over the last year, which was recently shared with the public. Mayor Rosacker encouraged Councilors to submit ideas for things that they would like to have included in the publication. Staff provided details about how the publication would be drafted and what information could be included. The publication could be produced quarterly, or as the Council directed going forward.

There was discussion on pedestrian safety 1st St and College St, which was under State jurisdiction, and the State’s refusal to do any safety enhancements at the intersection. Councilor McBride urged the Council to write an official letter to send to the highway department several times a year until something was done. A suggestion was made to install a turn light on College St.

Councilor Wheatley reported that Yamhill Community Action Partnership (YCAP) was working on getting staffed and resolving plumbing and HVAC issues before opening the shelter.


ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:07 pm.

ATTEST



Bill Rosacker, Mayor



City Recorder, Rachel Thomas