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**City of Newberg  
City Council  
March 18, 2024**

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Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

Staff Present: City Manager Will Worthey, City Attorney James Walker, City Recorder Rachel Thomas, James Walker, Melissa Morris, Kady Strode, Jeff Kosmicki, Ian Rodriguez, Dan Keuler

**ROLL CALL**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:**

4a: City Manager report to the end of January 2024

City Manager Will Worthey delivered monthly statistics for the month of January 2024 including statistics about Planning, Community Engagement, City Recorder, Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology, Library, Public Safety, and Public Works.

Of the notable points, Worthey highlighted a slowdown in housing production around Newberg as indicated by the lack of housing permits, and zero building permits of other types. He also highlighted a spike in community engagement. He also said the city is fully staffed at this time.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Pamela Johnson, Newberg Resident

- Johnson raised concerns about the communications strategy surrounding the Memorial Park coastal redwood tree's removal.

Marlin Godfrey, 15-year Newberg Resident

- Godfrey said she hoped to save the redwood tree at Memorial Park, and asked the city to agree not to build a parking lot on the lot next to

importance to the community. She continued to say the work has been done, but was potentially not communicated well enough.

Councilor Kilburg asserted that the tree was not coming down to expand the Newberg Police Department Parking Lot, but the removal is only related to the stormwater pipe.

Councilor McBride said the city can't save everything but can protect and make decisions based on the betterment of the town. He said when he looked at the financials, the money would be better used around town.

Councilor Carmon asked if City Manager Worthey held a public forum already, to which Worthey replied that he had sent staffers to a forum meeting with the Sustainable Solutions group, where they listened and answered questions. Worthey said they had also met with the Sustainable Solutions group on three other occasions. Worthey said there have been no solutions brought forward that were workable. Councilor Carmon said that he sees this as a financial decision as well, and removing the tree appears to be the most financially responsible decision.

Mayor Rosacker expressed remorse for the removal of the redwood tree, but explained some of the alternative solutions and why they would be difficult to complete without causing further physical or financial damage. He finished by saying that he didn't see another option other than removing the tree.

City Manager Worthey said the tree would come down in the coming weeks.

## **REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

### 6A. Taste Newberg Report

Taste Newberg Executive Director Leigh Jensen provided an update on the agency's marketing efforts and performance.

Councilor Yarnell Hollamon requested Taste Newberg try to explore marketing outside of alcohol-related activities.

Councilor Olson commended Jensen on the success of the Truffle Trail event at the Cultural Center.

## **ACTION ITEMS- Consent Calendar**

1. a) Ratify the appointment of Bob Woodruff as Chair and Britta Mansfield as Vice-Chair of the Historic Preservation Commission.

Motion: Councilor Derek Carmon  
Second: Councilor Molly Olson  
Vote: 6 Yes, 1 No [McBride]

Closed hearing at:

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.



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Rachel Thomas, City Recorder

**ATTEST:**



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Bill Rosacker, Mayor