

MINUTES OF THE NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON
August 04, 2025

A meeting of the Newport City Council was held on August 04, 2025, at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers, City Hall, 200 S. Washington Avenue, Newport, Washington, with the following present:

	Keith Campbell	Mayor
	Abby Gribi	City Administrator
	Nickole North	Clerk/Treasurer
Kenneth Smith		Councilmember
Elizabeth Spring		Councilmember
Jami Sears		Councilmember
Mark Zorica		Mayor Pro Tem
Nathan Longly		Councilmember

At 6:00 PM, Mayor Campbell called the meeting to order followed by roll call and the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES:

Chamber of Commerce update was removed from the agenda. Councilmember Longly moved to approve the agenda as amended and the minutes from the July 21, 2025, Council Meeting; Councilmember Zorica seconded. Motion carried.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mayor Campbell stated that crews are in the middle of road work and there will be gravel and dust but the end result will be good.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

An RFQ for a hydrogeologist consultant is out and due back by August 28th. This will help frame and scope the work for the water study.

National Night Out is tomorrow and she hopes to see everyone there.

August 26th Administrator Gribi will be meeting with Representative Abell to tour the Wastewater Treatment Plant to see why the upgrade is necessary and so that he will be an advocate for funding.

The splash pad is up and running.

A draft for a curfew code has been prepared by the City Attorney and is currently being reviewed by Chief Nelson. The intent is to have it before Council at the next meeting for approval.

Administrator Gribi has been named a Liaison for the Town of Metaline to help them with their water and sewer plans and comprehensive plan update.

Pend Oreille County Commissioner Smiley will be at the next meeting to give a presentation on a Transportation Benefit District.

NEW BUSINESS:

A public hearing to discuss the six year transportation plan was opened at 6:04 PM. Administrator Gribi reviewed the projects on the plan. She also spoke of the City putting down a fog seal on Spokane Avenue this year with City funds as a test. Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) likes for a chip seal to sit one year prior to fog sealing. Spokane Avenue was chip sealed last year with TIB funding. There was no public comment. The public hearing was closed at 6:10 PM.

Councilmember Zorica moved to accept the 2025-2027 Climate Planning Grant from Washington State Department of Commerce in the amount of \$100,000; Councilmember Sears seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Longly moved to approve Agreement NP2025-12 with Big Sky Industrial Services to clean and CCTV 4 sewer lift stations and CCTV intersecting sewer lines; Councilmember Spring seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Sears moved to approve Ordinance 2139 amending sections 17.01 and 17.03 of the Newport Municipal Code; Councilmember Longly seconded. Motion carried.

A financial report was given to the Council for their review.

BILLS & PAYROLL:

Councilmember Zorica moved to approve the bills and payroll; Councilmember Longly seconded. Motion carried.

CLAIMS CHECKS 67022-67043 (67021 & 67044 VOID)	\$40,854.76
CLAIMS EFT 2025 August 1 st Mtg; 1-2	\$1,422.54
CLAIMS DIR PAY 2025 August 1 st Mtg; 1-2	\$2,870.65
PAYROLL EFT 2025 July 2 nd PR: 1-9; Dir Deposit Run 07/18/2025	\$89,447.45

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:18 PM.

WORKSHOP:

The Council went into a workshop at 6:18 PM to discuss the draft Pend Oreille County Emergency Medical Services District No. 1 EMS District Bylaws. South Pend Oreille Fire & Rescue Chief Stocking stated that his board has not met regarding this yet but he has reviewed them. He stated

that speaking for himself; there were no glaring issues but there were some contradictions. He did say that SPOFR is with the City of Newport and is against the formation of a District.

Councilmember Zorica asked where the funding is coming from to fund this District. This is not addressed in the bylaws. Article 7 speaks about district insurance and he is wondering who is paying for that and how funds are being funneled to the District.

Councilmember Sears stated that the formation of the District does not seem positive. It would be forcing membership into the District, but passing on having to go to the voters for tax increases to each member. All decisions must be unanimous which could stalemate and get nothing accomplished. She further asked Commissioner Rosencrantz why as the City's representative he is not passing on their decision to not have a district. He is not representing what the City is asking for. Commissioner Rosencrantz stated that he represents the City as well as the County as a whole. He believes that everything is running smoothly now, but what about when something were to happen and it is not running smoothly. That is why this District is necessary. He further stated that all decisions must be unanimous so no one will be forced to do anything they don't want to.

Councilmember Longly stated that this District is just another layer of government that is unnecessary. Three of the five entities within the County are not in favor of this District. The Council came out of the workshop at 7:15 PM.

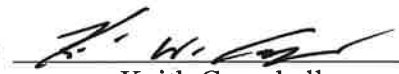
Administrator Gribi expressed how much time and money has been wasted on this topic for the past two years.

Attest:



Nickole North
Clerk/Treasurer

By:



Keith Campbell
Mayor