

MINUTES OF THE NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON
September 02, 2025

A meeting of the Newport City Council was held on September 02, 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 (Absent)
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. Councilmember Sears moved to excuse Councilmember Spring's absence; Councilmember Longly seconded. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES:

The Pend Oreille Valley Relay for Life recap was moved to the first item under New Business. Councilmember Zorica moved to approve the agenda as amended and the minutes from the August 18, 2025 Council Meeting; Councilmember Longly seconded. Motion carried.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mayor Campbell reminded everyone in the audience that they will need to sign in on the form on the door to Council Chambers if they are not on the agenda and wish to speak moving forward unless they are attending via Zoom and they will be able to raise their hand to speak. He further stated that school has started and to watch out for the kiddos.

Councilmember Longly has been approached by many citizens that are thankful that the splash pad is still open. Bob's Car show was this past Monday and it had an excellent turnout. He thanked Public Works Director North for assisting with the bathrooms during the event.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

Lift station cleaning is tentatively scheduled for next week. Streets will be swept next week with the final chip seal later this week and the sweeping for those streets will occur two weeks after that. The Splash Pad will remain open until Monday unless there is a water shortage and it will be closed sooner. The EDAC meeting will be taking place permanently at the Usk Community Hall. Administrator Gribi has been emailing stakeholders regarding the Comprehensive Plan regarding capital improvements so that they can have more in depth meetings moving forward with the update to the plan. Councilmember Zorica asked if citizens would be notified of the upcoming

street projects. Administrator Gribi stated that it should not be an issue but if needed there would be door/vehicle notices and an outreach would be done.

NEW BUSINESS:

Terri Ivie, Pend Oreille Valley Relay for Life Co-Chair gave a recap of the 2025 Pend Oreille Valley Relay for Life event. This year was the 40th anniversary of Relay for Life and the 20th year that the event has taken place in Newport. Fifty cancer survivors were honored. Ms. Ivie was very thankful to the Newport Wrestling Team for helping them with the setup and take down of the event. They raised almost \$12,000 to support the Cancer Society.

Brian Smiley, Pend Oreille County Commissioner along with Jerad Anderson, Pend Oreille County Traffic Program Analyst presented having a county-wide Transportation Benefit District. All of the towns within the County are in favor of this and there was no opposition from the City Council either to move forward. This would be a .3% local sales tax increase that would be distributed by population to the County, City and Towns within the County. This would increase the County sales tax to 8%. They also spoke of a \$20 increase to the vehicle tabs that could be implemented without a vote that could be earmarked for street/road maintenance.

Councilmember Zorica moved to approve Ordinance 2141 amending Newport Municipal Code Section 5.05.060(J), Business Licenses and Regulations to increase threshold for out-of-city businesses; Councilmember Longly seconded. Motion carried.

BILLS & PAYROLL:

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

CLAIMS CHECKS 67082-67103 (67006 VOID)	\$98,462.63
CLAIMS EFT 2025 Sept 1 st Mtg; 1-3	\$2,388.13
CLAIMS DIR PAY 2025 Sept 1 st Mtg; 1-3	\$5,741.46
PAYROLL EFT 2025 August 2 nd PR: 1-9; Check 67081;	
Dir Deposit Run 08/19/2025	\$94,813.58

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 PM.

WORKSHOP:

The Council went into a workshop at 6:53 PM to discuss the draft Pend Oreille County Emergency Medical Services District No. 1 EMS District Bylaws.

A list of items to be inserted in the Bylaws was presented to the Council for review and feedback. Administrator Gribi asked the Council to review the list and at the next meeting workshop a final list would be compiled to present to the Pend Oreille County Commissioners. She asked for any additional items to be brought to her at the next workshop as well. It was made clear for the record

that the City of Newport does not agree with a county wide EMS District and does not want to move forward with this.

Councilmember Zorica asked Pend Oreille Commissioner Smiley where he stood on the matter after hearing from both Commissioner Gentle and Commissioner Rosencrantz. Commissioner Smiley stated that he had no appetite to shove this EMS District down anyone's throat. With that said, he does feel that the EMS District is a good idea. Right now, everything is functioning well but it might not be 10 -20 years from now because things could change within the fire districts. He has yet to see all of the fire districts work together for a long term solution. Everyone from the North part of the County is for the EMS District. After much discussion he agreed because things are working well now, it is currently not needed and he will take under consideration anything brought before him.

The workshop was adjourned at 7:27 PM.

Attest:



Nickole North
Clerk/Treasurer

By:



Keith Campbell
Mayor