

MINUTES OF THE NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON
September 15, 2025

A meeting of the Newport City Council was held on September 15, 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:

Agreement NP2025-13 Interagency Agreement GMA Periodic Update Grant- RY 2026 was added to New Business. Councilmember Zorica moved to approve the agenda as amended and the minutes from the September 02, 2025 Council Meeting; Councilmember Longly seconded. Motion carried.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mayor Campbell was grateful to South Pend Oreille Fire & Rescue (SPOFR) for their assistance with a fallen firefighter recently.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

City Administrator Gribi has been working with the Washington Surveying & Rate Bureau (WSRB) on the City's fire rating. She has been working with SPOFR on this and hopes that the rate will go lower and maybe give some of the City homeowners some relief on their home insurance.

The Fall Cleanup has been scheduled for October 25th from 9:00 AM through 1:00 PM. The location will be announced soon.

A consultant has been selected for the hydrogeological study and the agreement for his services should be at the next meeting for approval.

Administrator Gribi will be attending the Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council (IACC) conference in Wenatchee October 7-9th. There is a mini tech team meeting scheduled with the

Public Works Board and Department of Ecology to discuss possible funding for the construction phase of the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The street work should be wrapped up within the next two weeks. A water leak on Spokane Avenue will be repaired and that section of road will also be chip sealed this year.

During the sewer cleaning efforts, it has become apparent that when certain alley and road vacations were done in the past sufficient easements were not recorded to allow the City to maintain their utilities. Administrator Gribi is working with Pend Oreille County GIS to get a map to show these areas. Some documents may need to be recorded in the future to allow the City access to their utilities.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Greg Richmond, residing at 514 N. Warren Avenue in Newport, asked when the street projects would be completed this year. He spoke with the Public Works Director previously and he assured him the dust would be taken care of. He has had to wash down his house multiple times. The dust and excess chips are an ongoing problem. Mayor Campbell assured him that the road project would be completed in the next two weeks and with the changing season of rain and snow the dust would be handled. He invited Mr. Richmond to come and look at Spokane Avenue after this Thursday. A seal coat will be put on that street that was chip sealed last year as the final step. The road will be black and sealed and this will give him an idea of what his road will look like next year.

NEW BUSINESS:

Madi Campbell, Greater Newport Area Chamber of Commerce President gave an update. She spoke of membership renewals and the new website that is more geared towards tourism. They have been very busy this Summer.

The Newport Water Rate Study was presented by Samuel Rodriguez, RCAC/Community & Environmental Services Small Utility Consultant. He reviewed what they look at during the study and went over what the City currently has in place for water rates. He complimented the City on being in good financial shape overall and gave accolades to Administrator Gribi, Accounting Clerk Schoener and Clerk/Treasurer North for their assistance gathering data during the process. He gave three suggestions of base rate and usage rate increases and how those increases could benefit the reserves for the City in the event of an emergency. The recommendations were either a 2.5%, 3% or 4% rate increase. Administrator Gribi will be coming back to Council at a later date with a recommendation.

Councilmember Longly moved to approve Agreement NP2025-13 Interagency Agreement with Washington State Department of Ecology for a GMA Periodic Update Grant FY 2026; Councilmember Sears seconded. Motion carried.

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

BILLS & PAYROLL:

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

2025 CLAIMS CHECKS 67105-67137	\$52,060.01
2025 CLAIMS EFT 2025 Sept 2 nd Meeting Run 1-14	\$33,169.21
2025 CLAIMS DIRECT PAY 2025 Sept 2 nd Meeting Run 1-7	\$4,096.93
PAYROLL EFT 2025 Sept 1 st PR 1-10; Direct Dep Run 09/03/2025	\$92,967.71

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 PM.

WORKSHOP:

The Council opened their Workshop to discuss the draft Pend Oreille County Emergency Medical Services District No. 1 EMS District Bylaws at 6:43 PM. Administrator Gribi reviewed a list of items that she would recommend becoming a part of the bylaws. She stated again for the record that this is being done under protest and that if forced into this should SPOFR be forced into the county wide EMS District this list would be her request on behalf of the City. Chief Stocking stated that their requests are similar to what Administrator Gribi is suggesting. They have been trying to get through their budget process and they have been very busy assisting with fires. Their board will review what they are requesting for the bylaws at their first meeting in October. The City Council felt that they had wasted enough time on this matter and were in agreement to move forward with the list that Administrator Gribi presented to them. She stated that she would get this put into letter format and sent to the County Commissioners by the end of the month. She again stated that if forced, this would be the City's request. The workshop was closed at 6:49 PM.

Attest: 
Nickole North, MMC, CPFA
Clerk/Treasurer

By: 
Keith Campbell
Mayor