

MINUTES OF THE NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON
October 06, 2025

A meeting of the Newport City Council was held on October 06, 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
	Tiffany Hansen	Deputy 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:

Councilmember Zorica moved to approve the agenda and the minutes from the September 15, 2025 Council Meeting; Councilmember Sears seconded. Motion carried.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilmember Sears moved to approve the confirmation of appointment of Dana Rivera to Planning Commission Position #4 for an unexpired term to expire January 02, 2027; Councilmember Spring seconded. Motion carried.

Mayor Campbell mentioned that there was great progress on the streets and that the recent rain helped to settle the dust. The yard cleanup day has been scheduled for October 25th from 9am-1pm in the same place as last year.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

The crosswalk signs that are being installed on Washington Ave should be completed by the end of the week.

Fencing quotes are being obtained for the pickle ball courts.

Quonset hut improvements have been ongoing and should be completed in the next 4-6 weeks.

Next Thursday, October 14th, there are nine stakeholder meetings scheduled regarding the Comprehensive Plan.

There was a hazmat spill last Friday at Safran, which also spread into Idaho. SPOFR was on scene very quickly and Bonner County assisted.

Administrator Gribi will be out the rest of the week attending the Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council (IACC) conference in Wenatchee. 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.

At the last council meeting Samuel Rodriguez, RCAC consultant, presented the water rate study and gave three options for rate increases. Administrator Gribi recommends 3%, unless it doesn't meet CPI.

A map was provided to Council showing a parcel of land on N. State Ave and W. 1st Street which Merkel would like to lease to build a structure to house an incoming fiber trunk line. Councilmember Zorica asked if they would be responsible for all expenses related to building the structure. Administrator Gribi indicated they would. Councilmember Sears mentioned that it would be great to have an income for what is currently a vacant lot.

A letter from non-profit group Asveig, was provided to council members in which a request was made to allow "Let's Vike It" event vendors to obtain a temporary permit rather than a Washington State business license and City endorsement. Administrator Gribi suggested amending code for exemption for event vendors who will only be doing business in Washington for a couple of days, with limited revenue, which could be brought to Council by February 2026.

Bathrooms in TJ Kelly and Veterans Park will be open for the Halloween event October 31st.

The RV park will be closed on October 15th.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Dick Boehmuhl addressed Council regarding the many attempts of possible lessors of his properties to be permitted to open a marijuana retail location. He said that all were denied due to the setback requirements.

NEW BUSINESS:

Cory Hubert addressed Council with a request to reduce the setback requirement from 1000' to 400' for a marijuana retail store at 204 W. Walnut. Mr. Hubert gave a history of his company and a timeline of the master land use application process undergone so far. A description of the economic benefits to the community, including employment and sales tax revenue, was also provided. Council members were provided with a packet of information by Mr. Hubert for further review.

Council member Zorica moved to approve Agreement NP2025-14 Professional Services Agreement with Water & Natural Resource Group, Inc. (WNR Group) to Provide Consultant Services Regarding Hydrogeologic Studies and Water Right Compliance. Councilmember Longly seconded. Motion carried.

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

BILLS & PAYROLL:

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

CLAIMS CHECKS 67138-67161 (67077 VOID)	\$48,332.23
CLAIMS EFT 2025 Oct 1 st Mtg: 1-5	\$5,817.16
CLAIMS DIR PAY 2025 Oct 1 st Mtg: 1-2	\$2,984.71
PAYROLL EFT 2025 Sept 2 nd PR: 1-10; Dir Deposit Run 09/18/2025	\$94,233.15

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:39 PM.

Attest: T. Hansen
Tiffany Hansen
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer

By: Keith Campbell
Mayor Mark Zorica
PO Tem