

MINUTES OF THE NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON
November 03, 2025

A meeting of the Newport City Council was held on November 03, 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:

Councilmember Zorica moved to approve the agenda and the minutes from the October 20, 2025 Council Meeting; Councilmember Longly seconded. Motion carried.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mayor Campbell reminded everyone to vote tomorrow!

Councilmember Longly stated that the Trick or Treat event was lots of fun! He thanked SPOFR for helping out at the crosswalks and the police presence for keeping the kids safe. He also thanked the businesses that participated, it shows that they care and love our community.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

There have been stakeholder meetings regarding the comprehensive plan update started with great feedback so far.

Public Utility District is asking for a letter of support for a Washington State Department of Commerce GRID Resilience Grant they are applying for. Councilmember Zorica moved to write a letter of support for the Public Utility District to receive the grant; Councilmember Longly seconded. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Police Chief Nelson gave a law enforcement update. There have been no serious felonies in quite some time. A few malicious mischief calls have been going on. The department has averaged

around 20 calls for service in the past few months. The Police Officers have been proactive with around 250 contacts which in return is making crime numbers go down. Chief Nelson reminded everyone that the 3rd Thursday of each month is Coffee with a Cop. The Department gave out 1200 stickers at the Halloween event.

Police Chief Nelson requested a FLOCK Safety System – license plate reader be budgeted in the 2026 budget. This will be helpful with the drug problem within town and it is estimated to reduce crime by 56%. He is asking for two cameras to start. The cost will be \$7,000 per year and will be around \$22,000 for a 3 year contract.

SPOFR Fire Chief Stocking stated that they remain against the proposed EMS District. WSRB ratings are complete and should have results in 4-5 weeks. They are nearing an all-time high for volunteer numbers and recruitment. Their model of career/volunteer constant staffing has been recognized regionally. There was a hazardous material spill at Safran on October 3rd. A major hospital fire/evac drill is planned for November 18th. SPOFR deployed on state-led mobilizations for over 90 days in 2025, all while keeping constant staffing levels in district. SPOFR has completed all fire safety month activities at Stratton Elementary and has taken over the advisory role for Newport High School's fire science program. They have no position with the possible District 2/District 4 merger. They are concerned about the overuse of SPOFR for mutual aid incidents in District 4 (particularly fire), as SPOFR is the closest staffed professional fire service agency. He has a very good budget plan for 2026 with his board. He also stated that the Halloween event was even more people than previous years and he was honored to be able to provide traffic control for the event.

Public Works Director North stated that the cross lights are up, the street project is done and his crew is working on fixing lights downtown.

Director North requested for the 2026 budget, deicer to pretreat the roads to keep them from building up. This would be a cost of around \$12,000 per year. The product is good to zero and there is another available for 25 below, however in that case sand would probably be used. He asked that there be \$30,000 budgeted to fence in the RV Park per the previous Park Host's recommendation. He also asked that \$8,000 be budget to repair some of the Newport Park fence and install a gate into the splash park for easier access for maintenance. In the Water fund Mr. North asked that the J well pump be replaced and that around \$30,000 be budgeted annually to aqua freed treat wells D, E & C. Councilmember Sears asked if grant funding might be available from Public Utility District or another source to help with fencing in the RV Park. Administrator Gribi stated that she could look into funding opportunities.

Plant Superintendent Howard stated that the collection system has all been cleaned with the exception of a couple of small sections. The Pleggers Lift Station will be maintained next year due to the vac truck always being broke down and Bryce is out for the next three weeks, due to the birth of his new baby girl. The Wastewater Treatment Plant has been spending a lot of money to kill bugs. The processes are working. The plant did violate twice last month and he has been working with the Department of Ecology to change their way of testing.

Superintendent Howard is asking for a used bio-solids trailer in the 2026 budget so they are not at the mercy of always waiting for the company to pick up and drop off a trailer. This would allow

a steady flow and not shocking the system. This would also create no bulk wasting. This trailer would be \$40,000. He is also asking for another service truck, preferably a used one off of the DES website. He would prefer a F450 with a crane, service box and crew cab. He is asking for \$85,000 for this purchase.

Clerk/Treasurer North gave a financial report for the third quarter. Cash and investments were \$5.8 million at the end of September. Sales tax in the 3rd quarter was up around \$15,000 from last year and property tax in the 3rd quarter was down around \$3,200. Delinquent accounts increased by two in the third quarter with an increased delinquent amount of around \$6,000. Five of these have liens files, one lien warning letter was mailed out and later paid. There were two door notices delivered and paid. One current payment plan is in place. Two have made a payment and set up payment arrangements. The finance staff are currently working on updating the purchasing policy, completing an accident prevention plan and grant/loan management for TIB, Commerce, DWSRF and DOE. Second notice backflow letters have been mailed out for compliance. Six more building permits in the third quarter, equaling fifteen for the year so far, have been issued. The RV Park is now closed for the season. The kickoff of the update to the Comprehensive Plan and Climate Plan outreach has also begun.

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

BILLS & PAYROLL:

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

CLAIMS CHECKS 67196-67209 (68815 VOID)	\$48,943.57
CLAIMS EFT 2025 Nov 1 st Mtg: 1-4	\$50,913.92
CLAIMS DIR PAY 2025 Nov 1 st Mtg: 1	\$31,500.00
PAYROLL EFT 2025 Oct 2 nd PR: 1-10; Dir Deposit Run 10/17/2025	\$88,108.61

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:36 PM.

Attest: 

Nickole North
Clerk/Treasurer

By: 

Keith Campbell
Mayor