

MINUTES OF THE NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON
November 17, 2025

A meeting of the Newport City Council was held on November 17, 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 as written and the minutes from the November 03, 2025 Council Meeting; Councilmember Sears seconded. Motion carried.

City Administrator Comments was added to the Agenda. Councilmember Sears moved to approve the agenda as amended; Councilmember Spring seconded. Motion carried.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mayor Campbell congratulated the Newport Football Team and also congratulated the reelected and elected officials from the recent election.

Councilmember Zorica also congratulated the Newport Football Team and announced that they will be playing their next game at Eastern Washington University.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

The Newport Rodeo Association is working on having a new Mounted Shooting event that would be the weekend after the 4th of July. They are looking to expand events to bring more people to Newport.

The Creative District would like to possibly place a metal sculpture at TJ Kelly Park. They would be working with local artists, Kalispel Tribe, etc. They would like to do more murals on private property. If anything is placed on the sidewalks, it would need a City policy to allow it.

The City will officially switch to RMSA for insurance on December 1st with onboarding on December 5th.

Pend Oreille County Commissioners did set a meeting to discuss the EMS December 8th at 5:30 PM at the CAMAS Center in Cusick. Administrator Gribi will be attending.

The Port of Pend Oreille has been working with Merkle and now they have propane being hauled on the rail. The Port has also applied for a grant making the rail from the Kalispel Casino to Newport passenger safe.

The City has had great momentum working on the update to the Comprehensive Plan. Pend Oreille County has not yet selected a consultant. The first RFQ list was rejected and they are doing another one. Pend Oreille County Commissioner Rosencrantz stated that the Commissioners will be discussing the RFQ on Monday at 1:30 PM and will try to get through the process as quickly as they can.

NEW BUSINESS:

Layne Merritt, P.E. as well as Jake Dial, P.E. with J-U-B Engineers, Inc gave an update on what they have been working on with the Wastewater Treatment Plant and Collection System. It is estimated that the next steps will be Phase 1 - \$13 million and Phase 2 - \$21 million. It is expected that design will be completed in July.

Councilmember Sears moved to amend J-U-B Agreement dated 07/15/2024, Project Number 70-24-021 to add Task 500; South Collection System Reconstruction, and move funds from Task 900, Management Reserve, in the amount of \$253,900 to Task 500; Councilmember Longly seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Longly moved to approve Agreement NP2025-18 with J-U-B Engineers, Inc. for Professional Services to complete WWTP Phase 1 Design; Councilmember Spring seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Sears moved to approve Agreement NP2025-15 – Public Defender Agreement for 2026-2027; Councilmember Spring seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Zorica moved to approve Agreement NP2025-16 – Interlocal Agreement for Jail Services for 2026-2028 between the City of Newport, Washington and Pend Oreille County, Washington; Councilmember Longly seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Sears moved to approve Agreement NP2025-17 – Interlocal Agreement for Dispatch Communication Services between The City of Newport, Washington and Pend Oreille County January 01, 2026 – December 31, 2028; Councilmember Zorica seconded. Motion carried.

A public hearing to discuss revenue sources for the 2026 budget was opened at 6:56 PM. Clerk/Treasurer North reviewed proposed increases to water and sewer rates. She also asked that property tax revenue be changed back to 70% Current Expense and 30% Streets. The Street fund is doing well this year due to grant funding received. The proposed water rate increase is based

on RCAC recommendation of 3% which is also the COLA for the year. The proposed sewer rate increase is a 3% COLA as well as a \$5.00 increase to pay back the current Department of Ecology Loan by the due date as well as a \$3.00 increase to work towards being able to have the funds available to pay back the 2004 USDA sewer bonds by the due date. Clerk/Treasurer North also reviewed suggested changes to the current Fee Schedule which included updating language regarding business license threshold amounts, increasing the RV Park nightly rate to \$50.00, adding a nonrefundable reservation fee of \$5.00 as well as a cancellation fee less than 24 hours fee of \$5.00, increasing the sewer dump fee to \$20.00, increasing the water and sewer late fees to \$10.00 each, creating a meter diagnostic fee of \$40.00, increasing the standby water fee to \$10.00, increasing the City fire hydrant fee to \$15.00, increasing the privately owned unmetered fire hydrants to \$15.00, increasing the fecal coliform test to \$55.00, increasing the office rent for water and sewer space in City Hall by the COLA of 3%. Councilmember Zorica was concerned about another water and sewer increase. City Administrator Gribi stated that she never told Council that she would not be coming to them with proposed rate increases. The infrastructure has been neglected and needs to be updated and that will cost a great deal of money. Councilmember Sears stated that the citizens will need to be educated right away to plan for the higher bills. She also asked if there was some way to have a donation program or senior discount to help some of the citizens out. The hearing was closed at 7:28 PM. There was no public comment.

Councilmember Longly moved to approve Resolution 20251117 amending rates and charges for water and sewer utility services; establishing schedule and establishing effective date; Councilmember Smith seconded. Motion carried. Councilmember Zorica voted against this motion.

Councilmember Zorica moved to approve Resolution 20251118 revoking all prior fee resolutions and adopting a new fee schedule effective January 01, 2026; Councilmember Longly seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Zorica moved to approve Resolution 20251119 increasing the regular property tax levy to be collected in the 2026 tax year by 1% from the previous year; Councilmember Smith seconded. Motion carried. Councilmember Longly abstained from voting due to his employer being the County Assessor's Office.

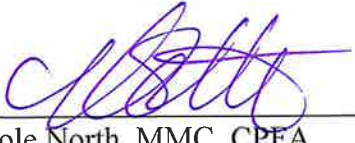
BILLS & PAYROLL:


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

2025 CLAIMS CHECKS 67210-67244	\$236,476.98
2025 CLAIMS EFT 2025 Nov 2 nd Meeting Run 1-14	\$59,562.58
2025 CLAIMS DIRECT PAY 2025 Nov 2 nd Meeting Run 1-10	\$41,391.28
PAYROLL EFT 2025 Nov 1 st PR 1-10; Direct Dep Run 11/05/2025	\$90,127.28

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Attest: 
Nickole North, MMC, CPFA
Clerk/Treasurer

By: 
Keith Campbell
Mayor