

MINUTES OF THE NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON
January 20, 2026

A meeting of the Newport City Council was held on January 20, 2026, 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 (Absent)
	Nickole North	Clerk/Treasurer
Nathan Weathers		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:

Pend Oreille County Historical Society update was changed to Centennial Plaza update under New Business. Councilmember Zorica moved to approve the agenda as amended and the minutes from the December 15, 2025 Council Meeting; Councilmember Sears seconded. Motion carried.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mayor Campbell welcomed new Councilmember Weathers to the Council. He stated that he is going to miss Ken Smith and that Councilmember Weathers has some big shoes to fill!

Mayor Campbell read to the audience a press release put out last week by South Pend Oreille Fire & Rescue announcing that they will awarding a Lifesaving Medal to Firefighter/Paramedic Nick Wahlman for assisting while off duty and on vacation in saving a drowning man's life.

Councilmember Longly thanked the public works guys and school district employees for putting out ice melt.

Councilmember Zorica stated that the lights that were put up at the crosswalks are outstanding! He is excited about them and hopeful that Washington State Department of Transportation will hook us up with a couple more.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Commissioner Robert Rosencrantz, residing at 717 N. Union Avenue, Newport, WA 99156, was present and thanked Public Works Director Dave North for helping the County with an overturned truck in Usk recently.

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilmember Longly moved to retain Councilmember Zorica as Mayor Pro Tem for 2026-2027; Councilmember Weathers seconded. Motion carried.

Sue Mauro gave an update on the Centennial Plaza. The cupola was repaired and painted last year. PUD assists with changing out the flag that flies above the gazebo and there always a new flag on hand at City Hall. The parking lot was seal-coated this past summer. The Christmas Tree lighting event was well organized in partnership with the Chamber and the Museum. Next year there will be more lights. Also, for Halloween, several hundreds of trick or treaters used the gazebo area to cross to the museum. The new safety crosswalk lights were heavily used during both events and she loves them! With the Chamber’s Visitor Center closed for several months, there was a huge increase in the amount of foot traffic across Centennial Plaza to the Museum. Gardners, Candi Stipe and Dorothy Bernard are amazing and really keep the Centennial Plaza beautiful.

Clerk/Treasurer North spoke of a reimbursement request from the Pend Oreille County Historical Society. She was unable to find documentation in writing why this is paid each year. Sue Mauro had some great history documents that shed some light on the matter. The Council directed Clerk/Treasurer North to bring a resolution back to the next meeting for approval so that there is clear documentation on paying out these funds.

Councilmember Sears moved to Amend Agreement NP2023-10 (NP-2023-10A) to extend the interlocal agreement for sharing manpower and equipment between Pend Oreille County and the City of Newport to December 31, 2027 and to update equipment rental costs for each party; Councilmember Longly seconded. Motion carried.

BILLS & PAYROLL:

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


2025 1 ST OPEN PERIOD CLAIMS CHECKS 67292-67309	\$58,984.86
2025 1 ST OPEN PERIOD CLAIMS EFT 2025 Dec 1 ST Open Mtg: Run 1-2	\$1,703.65
2025 1 ST OPEN PERIOD CLAIMS DIRECT PAY 2025 Dec 1 ST Mtg: Run 1-2	\$5,458.00
2025 2 ND OPEN PERIOD CLAIMS CHECKS 67310-67332	\$14,716.27
2025 2 ND OPEN PERIOD CLAIMS EFT 2025 Dec 2 ND Open Mtg: Run 1-10	\$26,158.22
2025 2 ND OPEN PERIOD CLAIMS DIRECT PAY 2025 Dec 2 ND Mtg: Run 1	\$16.20
2026 CLAIMS EFT 2026 Jan 1 st Mtg: Run 1-2	\$1,079.33
2026 CLAIMS DIRECT PAY 2026 Jan 1 st Mtg: Run 1	\$6,972.50
2026 CLAIMS CHECKS 2026 Jan 2 nd Mtg 67333-67342	\$27,534.39
2026 CLAIMS EFT 2026 Jan 2 ND Mtg: Run 1-2	\$620.66
2026 CLAIMS DIRECT PAY 2026 Jan 2 ND Mtg: Run 1-7	\$7,252.00
PAYROLL EFT 2025 Dec 2 nd PR 1-9; Dir Deposit Run 12/19/2025	\$89,837.31
PAYROLL EFT 2026 Jan 1 st PR 1-9; Dir Deposit Run 01/05/2026	\$91,421.69

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:26 PM.

Attest: 

Nickole North, MMC, CPFA
Clerk/Treasurer

By: 

Keith Campbell
Mayor