

**MINUTES OF THE NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON**  
**February 17, 2026**

A meeting of the Newport City Council was held on February 17, 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 |
|                  | 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:**

Councilmember Zorica moved to approve the agenda and the minutes from the February 02, 2026 Council Meeting; Councilmember Longly seconded. Motion carried.

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

There was discussion regarding event coordination among Councilmembers. It was agreed that those that are helping with events currently will bring back a snapshot of what they do to the next meeting to let the other Councilmembers know what it consists of and if they would like to shadow and take over the event. Mayor Campbell currently helps out with National Night Out and would like to continue with that event.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

Linda Cassella, residing at 147 Raylen Road, Newport, WA spoke to the Council about the proposed vendor fee. She felt that \$10 was too high for artists to pay. They are trying to get more people to attend events in Newport and she feels that this fee may deter them from coming. She felt that it is not a good business decision. The Council explained that this is giving the smaller mom and pop people or hobbyists at events a cheaper option than purchasing a Washington State Business License and city endorsement. In the long run the City will collect enough to cover taxes that would have been paid but will save the vendors the cost of getting a license and endorsement.

### **CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:**

Administrator Gribi reminded the Council that Coffee with a Cop will be this Thursday at 10AM at My Sidewalk Café. Councilmember Longly and Councilmember Weathers stated that they will be attending. Mayor Campbell will also be attending if work allows.

The bid documents for the water line replacement project were sent to the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund for review and approval.

A GIS services agreement will be brought to the Council at the next meeting to allow the Pend Oreille County GIS Department to provide work for the City.

The City is currently at the halfway point with the agreement with South Pend Oreille Fire and Rescue and discussion regarding annexation should be started if it will be on the upcoming ballot. Councilmember Weathers and Councilmember Zorica volunteered to meet with two of the SPOFR Commissioners to speak about this.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Rachel Granrath, City Contracted Planner gave an update on the comprehensive plan that she is working on. There will be another update in a few months. In September – November a workshop will be scheduled with the Planning Commission and Council to go over the updates to the plan. This is a lengthy process and Ms. Granrath is hoping to bring it back before Council for approval in February - March of 2027 with final adoption June of 2027.

She outlined where the process is currently and also provided a brief summary on the state requirement for the comprehensive plan as it relates to Growth Management and the Department of Commerce, highlighting this is a long range planning tool requiring updates every 10 years. There are many components to the plan including transportation, land use, housing, infrastructure, services, employment growth, community health, climate change and resiliency. All these components make for a great city.

Optional elements Newport identified for inclusion are economic development, parks and recreation and shoreline management. Further there will be a chapter dedicated to goals and policies.

Priorities and implementation are also a major component of a well-rounded Comprehensive plan and Planner Granrath has been pleased with the community engagement and response. A website and call in line have been established, the survey garnered 250 responses, mailers went out in utility bills, students also reached out. Feedback was organized into aspirational values; the surrounding areas and schools are working together, demonstrating an economically strong and fiscally strong community interested in revitalization, identifying areas of opportunity, recognizing home businesses and cottage industries, analyzing how the comprehensive plan can help to achieve a healthy, welcoming and beautiful city. A 'Medium Projected' population was used in calculations. Future land use and zoning maps were shared, both of which allow for flexibility.

The question to be answered is “What is realistically achievable in the next 10 years for infrastructure?” Newport has the capacity and the ability to grow. Newport strives for a 5-10 minute walk (1/4 mile) to public park spaces.

Councilmember Sears moved to approve Resolution 20260217 surplusng a 1987 Ford fire Engine Serial #1FDYD80U6HVA01107 and selling it to Pend Oreille County Fire District 5 in the amount of \$500.00; Councilmember Spring seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Zorica moved to add a vendor fee of \$10.00 to the current fee schedule Resolution 20251118; Councilmember Longly seconded. There was discussion initiated by Councilmember Sears asking what the Council thought of a \$10.00 fee for the first day of an event and a lesser charge each day after for events that take place for several days. After a great deal of discussion, it was agreed that most events within the City don’t last longer than two days and so a \$10.00 fee would be fair and adequate. Motion carried.


**BILLS & PAYROLL:**


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

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| CLAIMS CHECKS 67362-67384   | \$126,217.64 |
| CLAIMS EFT 2026 Feb 2 <sup>ND</sup> Mtg: Run 1-14                       | \$ 48,011.55 |
| CLAIMS DIRECT PAY Feb 2 <sup>ND</sup> Mtg: Run 1-8                      | \$ 7,261.45  |
| PAYROLL EFT 2026 Feb 1 <sup>st</sup> PR 1-9; Dir Deposit Run 02/03/2026 | \$ 97,012.95 |

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 PM.

Attest:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nickole North, MMC, CPFA  
Clerk/Treasurer

By:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Keith Campbell  
Mayor