

MINUTES OF THE NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON MARCH 2, 2026

A meeting of the Newport City Council was held on March 2, 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
Tiffany Hansen	Deputy Clerk/Treasurer
Megan Clark	City Attorney

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.

AMENDMENTS & APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES:

The executive session was changed to the beginning of the meeting from the end of the meeting. Councilmember Longly moved to approve the agenda as amended and the minutes from the February 17, 2026, Council Meeting; Councilmember Spring seconded. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

City Attorney Megan Clark had the executive session read into the minutes. Executive Session to discuss with legal counsel litigation, potential litigation and/or legal risks, per RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) 6:02pm -6:38pm

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilmember Sears moved to approve the confirmation of appointment of Elizabeth Nelson to Planning Commission Position #5 for an unexpired term to expire January 2, 2031. Councilmember Zorica seconded. Motion carried.

Council members gave a summary of the annual events they volunteer for and what is involved. Councilmember Spring offered to volunteer for Halloween and Councilmember Weathers offered to volunteer for Easter, and help with National night out and the Christmas Tree lighting.

National night out remains with Mayor Campbell and Christmas Tree lighting with Councilmember Zorica.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Mayor Campbell read a statement regarding the loss of public funds in which it was reiterated that the matter is under investigation and that the City takes its fiduciary responsibility seriously. Once that is concluded, more details will be released.

Councilmember Zorica commented that it is a sad day for the City of Newport. Every penny we have we need and we will move forward and improve.

Councilmember Longly commented that the City wants to be open and transparent and that it will happen, but the integrity of the investigation can not be comprised. He believes steps that are and will be taken will be for the betterment of the City.

Councilmember Sears commented that technology is moving fast and the City needs to look at policies that are in place.

Kristen Yake residing at 1695 N Shore Diamond Lake Rd, had questions about the recent loss of public funds, and asked specific questions about policy, safeguards, what actions the city is taking and who will be investigating.

Chris Johnson, residing at 617 S State Ave, commented that Councilmember Sears mentioned safeguards in the future, but asked about what safeguards are in place currently to prevent this type of transaction.

City Attorney Megan Clark commented that this is currently under investigation and that this is not time for questions and answers, but that it is public comment.

Leslie Maki residing at 818 W 2nd St asked if the city has insurance.

An unidentified audience member asked if the City has an IT person.

Councilmember Longly spoke about how the Council recently voted to lower the proposed rate increase to lower the financial impact on residents.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

Administrator Gribi spoke about the review of climate vulnerabilities section of the comprehensive plan.

The plans for the water reservoir rehabilitation have been submitted to DWSRF for review so that the City can put it out to bid.

The riverbank stabilization engineering project has been submitted to the PWB for the funding request.

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilmember Zorica moved to approved Agreement NP2026-01 for engineering and land surveying services between the City of Newport and James A. Sewell & Associates, LLC; Councilmember Longly seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Sears moved to approve Ordinance 2147 relating to the City’s Planning Commission, amending Newport Municipal Code Sections 2.16.010; 2.16.020; 2.16.040 and Ordinance 2018 (2015) and Ordinance 2098 (2022); Councilmember Longly seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Weathers moved to approve Agreement NP2026-02 GIS agreement with Pend Oreille County; Councilmember Zorica seconded. Motion carried.

BILLS & PAYROLL:

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

CLAIMS CHECKS 67386-67401	\$55,963.59
CLAIMS EFT 2026 March 1 st Mtg: 1-2	\$1,623.54
CLAIMS DIR PAY 2026 March 1 st Mtg: 1-2	\$4,701.50
PAYROLL EFT 2026 Feb 2 nd PR: 1-9; Dir Deposit Run 02/18/2026	\$91,769.81

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Attest: T. Hansen
Tiffany Hansen
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer

By: K. Campbell
Keith Campbell
Mayor