

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

A meeting of the Newport City Council was held on April 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
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:

Councilmember Zorica moved to approve the amended agenda and the minutes from April 6, 2026, Council Meeting; Councilmember Weathers seconded. Motion carried.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mayor Campbell announced the retirement of the City Clerk/Treasurer, Nickole North and thanked her for 27 years of service to the City.

Mayor Campbell expects the final report from the third-party investigation on the fraudulent theft of funds in the next few weeks.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Kristen Yake, who resides at 1695 N. Shore Diamond Lake Rd, asked the Mayor for permission to shut down the alley behind My Sidewalk Café and 3rd Street between Union and Washington from approximately 5pm-9pm for a concert on Saturday July 11, 2026. The event is being organized by My Sidewalk Café and Newport Creative District. Mayor Campbell agreed to the road closures.

Rob Owen, proprietor of Owens Grocery at 337 S. Washington Ave, spoke about the Youth Basketball tournament in Newport on March 26-27. There were 20 teams and many found places to stay in and near Newport. Mr. Owen thanked the organizers.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

The Yard Waste Clean-up day is May 18th and will be located at a City property on Gun Club Road.

The City was able to hire a retired Clerk who has been contracted to prepare the City's annual report for the Washington State Auditor. On May 4th the report will be brought before Council for approval.

Deliverables for Department of Commerce Comprehensive Plan – Housing & Growth allocations.

Administrator Gribi attended interviews for a Lieutenant with South Pend Oreille Fire and Rescue last week.

Commissioner Zorica and Commissioner Longly asked questions about road work this summer.

STAFF COMMENTS:

WWTP/WTP Superintendent Howard - Plant and Public Works Update

Public Works:

Staff are cleaning and repairing park bathrooms. There has been vandalism over the winter.

The spray park is being prepared for opening in early June.

Wrong way signs have been installed on Washington Ave in the downtown corridor.

Stump removal and repair of the grate areas is continuing Washington Ave and Union.

Batteries have been replaced in the crosswalk sign at Union and 4th St.

A water meter and line has been installed at the ball field.

The Rodeo grounds has a water line that needs to be repaired. Staff are working to locate.

The first city wide meter reading of spring has been completed this month.

The Vac Truck has been fixed.

The City car brakes were repaired.

Wastewater:

The headwork maintenance has been completed. Now we have our own trailer we can do this maintenance whenever we want.

Annual maintenance on the digester has been completed.

The City has been working with JUB Engineers on a new disinfecting process. PAA has been used a lot in food production since the 1960's. It is more cost effective. The fecal testing has all been zeros.

The laboratory is almost dialed in. Parallel testing will continue to be done until they match.

The lift stations on the south side have issues and are being worked on.

Check valves and meters are being installed in the water wells.

A temporary summer maintenance worker will be hired due to staff shortages.

Chief Stocking - Fire Update

Thanks to the City for hosting the interviews and for the participation of Administrator Gribi.

Wildfire season will start early and will be aggressive this year due to lack of snowpack.

CPR classes are moving to a new model and will be free to the public.

CPR classes for the City staff are coming up soon.

OLD BUSINESS:

Councilmember Weathers: Continuation of accounts payable review process.

Councilmember Weathers spoke to the City attorney regarding the use of electronic documents for tracking comments and observations of Councilmember's review of City bills. A handwritten notebook may be a good option or oral reports. A suggestion was made that each council member review bills for a longer period. City Attorney Clark suggested that a policy be created for council approval.

Councilmember Sears will begin a three-month term for bill approval starting in May.

NEW BUSINESS:

Council member Sears moved to approve Agreement NP2026-03; a Joint resolution between Pend Oreille County, Towns of Cusick, Ione, Metaline, Metaline Falls and City of Newport adopting the 20-year population growth targets and allocations for the 2027 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update. Councilmember Springs seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Zorica moved to table Interlocal Agreement DOH GVL32383 for funding source water study until May 4, 2026. Councilmember Longly seconded. Motion carried.

BILLS & PAYROLL:

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

CLAIMS CHECKS 67455-67485	\$94,830.32
CLAIMS EFT 2026 April 2nd Mtg: 1-10	\$26,142.05
CLAIMS DIR PAY 2026 April 2nd Mtg: 1-7	\$7,252.00
PAYROLL EFT PR 2026 April 1st: 1-9; Direct Deposit Run 4/6/2026	\$92,219.86

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Executive Session to discuss with legal counsel litigation, potential litigation and/or legal risks, per RCW 42.30.110(1)(i); 7:07pm -7:22pm

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 PM.

Attest: Tiffany Hansen
Tiffany Hansen
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer

By: Keith Campbell
Keith Campbell
Mayor