

MINUTES OF THE NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON MAY 18, 2026

A meeting of the Newport City Council was held on May 18, 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
Theresa Schoener	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 May 4, 2026, Council Meeting; Councilmember Longly seconded. Motion carried.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mayor Campbell commented on the successful yard waste cleanup day.

Councilmember Zorica addressed a complaint that he received regarding the Rodeo Grounds parking heavy equipment for their project in front of the baseball fields, restricting public parking.

Councilmember Zorica requested that the City keeps him informed when talking with WSDOT regarding reversing the couplet. A workshop providing data was suggested.

Councilmember Weathers addressed a complaint on Thomas Lane regarding clogged storm drains.

Councilmember Weathers discussed an issue at the Hospitality House, feeding the homeless and then having to lock them out afterwards.

Councilmember Longly thanked the City for sweeping the streets and suggested sweeping farther onto the side of the road on 4th Street.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Brandy Warren, residing 534 W 3rd, representing the Business Advisory Committee, asked the City to partner with them regarding reversing the couplet back to a two-way street to promote a stronger downtown.

Rachel Bright spoke about being evicted from Golden Spur.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

Administrator Gribi reported meeting with Carole Richardson, the new Public Works Director for the County.

Administrator Gribi, Wastewater Superintendent and one of the City's Maintenance Workers will be attending a Transportation Board training next week in Colville.

One of the City employees will be attending a training course next week on playground safety.

Administrator Gribi discussed the interviews for the Temporary Maintenance Worker positions that were completed last week.

The Newport Highschool Senior parade is scheduled for June 5th at 3:30pm this year.

Administrator Gribi talked about receiving a letter from Commerce reducing the funding for the Comprehensive Plan Grant.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Ray Hasen requested assistance with Hotel/Motel Tax approval and requested a variance for the noise ordinance during Rodeo weekend. He thanked the City employees for their help.

Councilmember Sears moved to approve the noise variance for Rodeo weekend, the Hotel/Motel Tax for the Rodeo June 25-27, 2026, and the Hotel/Motel Tax for the Rough Stock Rodeo, August 1, 2026. Councilmember Spring seconded. Motion Carried.

Councilmember Zorica moved to approve Resolution 20260518 declaring certain property owned by the City to be excess and surplus, with exception of speaking to the school about donating the tools for the students to use for educational purposes. Councilmember Longly seconded. Motion Carried.

Councilmember Weathers made a motion to approve the employment agreement with Theresa Schoener, as City Clerk/Treasurer for the City of Newport. Councilmember Spring seconded. Motion carried.

BILLS & PAYROLL:

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

CLAIMS CHECKS 67499-67509; 67511-67519; 67521-67530	\$172,068.00
CLAIMS EFT 2026 May 2 nd Mtg: 1-21	\$91,270.93
CLAIMS DIR PAY 2026 May 2 nd Mtg: 1-7	\$8,343.75
PAYROLL EFT PR 2026 May 1 st 1-10A; Dir Deposit Run 05/04/2026	\$86,249.30

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:36 PM.

Attest: *T. Schoener*
Theresa Schoener
Clerk/Treasurer

By: *K. Campbell*
Keith Campbell
Mayor

