MINUTES OF THE NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON June 15, 2026

A meeting of the Newport City Council was held on June 15, 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 Weathers moved to approve the amendment to the June 15, 2026 agenda. Councilmember Spring seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Sears moved to approve the agenda and the minutes from June 1, 2026, Council Meeting. Councilmember Zorica seconded. Motion carried.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mayor Campbell commented on the success of Newport Highschool Graduation and Parade.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Ernie Hood, who resides at 10329 Deer Valley Rd., introduced himself as a candidate for PUD Commissioner, District 2.

Linda Cassella, who resides at 147 Raylen Ln, came to let us know that the Creative District was awarded the grant for a sculpture at TJ Kelly Park. The Creative District / Kalispel Tribe have proposed a grizzly bear design. She asked Council for approval to move forward with planning. Administrator Gribi stated that she will forward the plans to Council. Linda requested suggestions for sculpture placement in the park, noting the Creative District is considering the corner of First and Washington. Councilmember Zorica inquired about installation costs and whether those expenses are included in the grant. Linda replied that they have not yet obtained a quote and do not know the total cost.

Kristen Yake, 300 S Washington, inquired about road closures beginning at 5PM for the July 11, 2026 concert. It was confirmed that the closure is approved. Chief Nelson reported no safety concerns with the setup.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

Administrator Gribi gave an update on the Spray Park. The City is working with the electrician to replace the system as the parts for the current system are no longer available. Councilmember Zorica requested that this be made a priority and that citizens receive weekly updates on progress.

Administrator Gribi and the City road crew met with TIB, and she reported the meeting was very educational. They discussed long-term road repair solutions.

Administrator Gribi announced that the City had been awarded a $10,000 Risk Management grant, which will be used for staff training and cyber security.

Administrator Gribi and Councilmember Weathers will be attending AWC's Annual Conference in the upcoming week.

Mayor Campbell and Administrator Gribi recently presented the City's Comprehensive Plan update to the County Commissioner, Port Commissioner's, and PUD Commissioners.

We are continuing sweeping and will be starting chip sealing on the roads in the next few weeks.

Administrator Gribi reported that the City is monitoring weather conditions for the upcoming Fourth of July weekend.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Chief Nelson recognized the City's Police Clerk Kathryn Bowman by reading a letter of appreciation to Council, commending her outstanding work for the Police Department.

Newport Hospital and Health Services presented a power point on the hospital's planned building expansion.

Tom Owens requested Hotel/Motel funds for the Pend Oreille County Historical Society's restroom water/sewer maintenance for the 2026 season. Councilmember Sears moved to approve the funding. Councilmember Spring seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Zorica moved to table Resolution 20260615 authorizing investment of City monies in the LGIP until the next regular meeting. Councilmember Weather seconded. Motion carried.

BILLS & PAYROLL:

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

CLAIMS CHECKS 67546-67577	$68,689.25
CLAIMS EFT 2026 June 2nd Mtg: 1-18	$44,772.45
CLAIMS DIR PAY 2026 June 2nd Mtg: 1-6	$7,177.00
PAYROLL EFT PR 2026 June 1st 1-10; Dir Deposit Run 06/03/2026	$92,278.33

Additional Comments:

Councilmember Longly announced his resignation from City Council effective immediately, stating that his family is moving outside city limits. He shared that he has enjoyed his time on Council and will continue to be involved in the community. Councilmember Zorica requested that the position be posted immediately.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Attest: _____
Theresa Schoener
Clerk/Treasurer

By: _____
Keith Campbell
Mayor