MINUTES OF THE NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON July 06, 2026

A meeting of the Newport City Council was held on July 06, 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
(vacant)	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 June 15, 2026, Council Meeting. Councilmember Sears seconded. Motion carried.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mayor Campbell, didn't have any comments at the moment but hoped that everyone had a nice 4th of July.

Councilmember Zorica thanked the City for getting the spray park up and running and making it a priority.

Councilmember Zorica inquired about the Little People's Parks grass. Administrator Gribi let him know that there had been vandalism in the park and the sprinkler heads were broken but the City is working on getting quotes for replacement. Councilmember Zorica suggested placing cameras at the park as we have spent a lot of money and we want to keep it nice.

Councilmember Weathers commented on the road crew is doing a great job with the streets and fixing potholes.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Rob Owen, 337 S Washington, inquired about the vendor licenses for the Rodeo and asked how many that the City had acquired during their event. He stated that it was not fair that the vendors do not have licenses like the businesses in town. He also asked whether or not they were paying sales tax. Administrator Gribi stated that she would look into it. Councilmember Zorica asked who was in charge of policing the vendor licenses. Administrator Gribi said that she would follow up with the Rodeo.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

Administrator Gribi gave an update on the spray park letting Council know that currently it has a temporary fix and they are working on a permanent solution.

The State Auditors are set to come on July 27, 2026.

Administrator Gribi announced the City has hired a new Accounting Clerk and she will be starting on July 13, 2026.

The roadcrews will start fog sealing the roads this week.

Administrator Gribi and Councilmember Weathers attended the conference at AWC this last week. She was reappointed to the RMSA operating committee.

Interviews for the vacant Council seat will be at the next Council meeting on July 20, 2026.

Administrator Gribi introduced the sketch the Creative District provided for the proposed statue at TJ Kelly Park.

Administrator Gribi, announced a workshop with the Planning Commission and Council regarding the Comprehensive plan on September 28, 2026 Councilmember Zorica inquired about a WSDOT workshop prior to the Comprehensive plan workshop. Mayor Campbell let him know that he had not heard back yet from WSDOT but they are still working on it.

We believe the reduction in funding from the Department of Commerce will only be about $900.00. We currently do not have another agreement from the Department of Commerce. We will be reaching out to them.

OLD BUSINESS:

Councilmember Weathers moved to approve the Resolution 20260615 authorizing Investment of City monies in the LGIP. Councilmember Spring seconded. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

A public hearing to discuss the six year transportation plan was opened at 6:37 PM. Administrator Gribi went over the list for upcoming projects including couplet redesign for 2 way streets and identifying ADA parking spots. Councilmember Zorica asked about finding a remedy for the flash flooding that happens in front of Kelly's during large rain storms. Administrator Gribi responded that she is looking into engineering of stormwater. It was decided that we would add storm and road grade redesign/engineering to 4th St at the south end of the couplet as number 11 on the list. Having these projects on the plans helps with obtaining grant funding for these projects. There was no public comment. The public hearing was closed at 6:37 PM.

Councilmember Sears moved to approve Resolution 20260706 adopting the Six Year Transportation Program with the addition of priority #11 which will be forwarded to the State Highway Commission and Urban Arterial Board for review and comments; Councilmember Zorica seconded. Motion carried.

Terri Ivie requested assistance with Hotel/Motel funds for advertising the upcoming Relay for Life Event. Councilmember Zorica moved to approve the funding. Councilmember Spring seconded. Motion carried.

Micheal Huntley requested assistance with Hotel/Motel funds for advertising the Newport Stand Down Event. Councilmember Sears moved to approve the funding. Councilmember Weathers seconded. Motion carried.

BILLS & PAYROLL:

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

CLAIMS CHECKS 67578-67594	$67,349.53
CLAIMS EFT 2026 July 1str Mtg: 1-4	$2,728.16
CLAIMS DIR PAY 2026 July 1st Mtg: 1	$2,683.00
PAYROLL EFT PR 2026 June 2nd 1-10; Dir Deposit Run 06/22/2026	$97,567.10

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Attest: T Schoener
Theresa Schoener
Clerk/Treasurer

By: K. W. Campbell
Keith Campbell
Mayor