

MINUTES OF THE NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON August 3, 2026

A meeting of the Newport City Council was held on August 3, 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
Mark Collins	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 July 20, 2026, Council Meeting. Councilmember Collins seconded. Motion carried.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mayor Campbell spoke about the fires in Spokane, noting the profound loss many families are experiencing. Our hearts are heavy, and we extend our deepest support to those who have lost homes and property. He emphasized that the community of Newport stands ready to help in any way we can. He then requested a moment of silence.

Councilmember Zorica noted that the fires felt especially close to home and expressed his gratitude for the fire departments and all those who work to keep our community safe.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

Administrator Gribi updated the Council on the ongoing road work, explaining that crews are currently applying dirty chip as a base layer so that the clean chip will properly adhere to it.

She has received the initial draft for the Comprehensive Plan.

Administrator Gribi, met with different members from County, State and Federal Agencies to talk about the Riverbank Stabilization project. She wanted to thank Andy Huddleston for his coordination of the site visit.

The finance department is currently gathering information for the upcoming Audit.

Administrator Gribi, informed the Council that we have received a source-well water violation due to missed testing in 2025. She stated that it was not our current water operator. The City will be notifying the public, and the required tests will be completed promptly.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Andy Meyer, talked about the successful Newport Stand Down event, noting that they were able to secure housing for two veterans. The food bank also contributed to the effort. He then shared a slideshow they had prepared for Council regarding the event.

Councilmember Weathers opened the discussion on the Fire/EMS district, reporting that he and Councilmember Zorica had met with both Fire District 2 and SPOFR. He noted that both agencies were excellent and shared his thoughts on the strengths and weaknesses of each. Councilmember Zorica followed with his own observations, stating that it would be a difficult decision for the community because both districts were strong options.

Councilmember Weathers moved to establish a committee of two councilmembers that would meet annually with each of the Fire Districts to touch base and review their status. Councilmember Zorica seconded the motion. Motion carried.

BILLS & PAYROLL:

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

CLAIMS CHECKS 67629-67641	\$18,417.24
CLAIMS EFT 2026 Aug 1 st Mtg 1-4	\$2,249.60
CLAIMS DIR PAY 2026 Aug 1st : 1-2	\$30,500.25
PAYROLL EFT PR 2026 July 2 nd 1-10; Dir Deposit Run 07/17/2026	\$95,104.94

WORKSHOP

At 6:44 PM the workshop was opened.

Councilmember Weathers opened the workshop by explaining that the purpose behind establishing the Councilmember Review of Accounts Payable policy was to provide a way for the Council to monitor trends and spending when reviewing bills and payroll. He stated that the goal of the workshop was to discuss what has been working and what has not been working.

Councilmember Sears stated that maintaining records in the ledger could provide better oversight of City spending and clarify how funds are being used.

Councilmember Zorica stated that, as a business owner, he tracks every penny. Without intending to micromanage, he emphasized that he simply wants to ensure purchases are made thoughtfully. He also asked how Councilmembers can get their questions answered

Administrator Gribi stated that staff are available to answer any questions Councilmembers may have. While they may not always know the immediate reason for a department's purchase, they can research the matter and follow up. She clarified that staff do not monitor the Council's ledger; they simply serve as its keeper. She emphasized that they are not reviewing or responding to questions written directly in the ledger

Clerk/Treasurer Schoener suggested that email may be the best method for asking questions, as it provides a clear paper trail for future reference. It was agreed that email would be the best way to answer any questions that council may have regarding bills and payroll.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 PM.

Attest: 
Theresa Schoener
Clerk/Treasurer

By: 
 Keith Campbell
Mayor