

MINUTES OF THE NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2026

A meeting of the Newport City Council was held on September 21, 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 Collins moved to amend the agenda to include Resolution 20260921C Expressing support for Pend Oreille County Public Hospital District NO. 1. Motion was tabled.

Councilmember Zorica moved to approve the agenda as is and the amended minutes from September 8, 2026, Council Meeting. Councilmember Spring seconded. Motion carried.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Roger Shawgo, who resides at 125 Foxwood Dr. has lived in the area for 47 years. He expressed concern about the current speed limit when entering town. He feel the posted limit is too high as vehicles approach the residential and business areas, creating a potential safety hazard for pedestrians, cyclists, and other drivers. Additionally, visitors and tourists entering town often stop at the main stop sign and the lack of clear directional signage contributes to confusion and could increase traffic congestion or unsafe driving behaviors. The resident suggests that additional wayfinding signs would help guide travelers more safely and efficiently through town.

Rob Owen, who resides at 74 N Milwaukee, expressed curiosity about the regulations for parking on side streets within the city. He noted that vehicles are often parked in multiple directions or positioned inconsistently. He also requested follow-up information regarding vendor licensing. Specifically, he wanted to know whether vendors participating in recent events held at the City Park were properly licensed through the City.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

Administrator Gribi let Council know that the City is submitting a funding request to the Department of Ecology for two collection system reconstruction areas, totaling approximately 3.5–4 million dollars. If the request is successful, it will be brought before the City Council for consideration.

The City's Quality Assurance and Project Plan (QAPP) has been submitted to the EPA and is currently under their review.

The Department of Health is conducting its final review of the City's 900k tank's reservoir rehabilitation project. Once this review is complete, the project can be put out to bid for construction.

Road cleanup efforts are in their final stages. Staff is currently inspecting all manholes throughout the City, a process that can be time-consuming.

The Better Together event will take place on October 8. RSVPs are due by this Friday.

Monday, September 28 is the joint Planning Workshop with the City Council to review the Comprehensive Plan's goals and policies.

City Hall will be closed on October 12th as staff will be participating in the County's annual training day.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion to approve Resolution 20260921A Repeal of Superseded Resolutions was tabled. Councilmember Weathers would like more time to review current and past resolutions. Councilmember Collins pointed out that it could be a legal issue if we have multiple resolutions contradicting each other. Councilmember Weathers motioned to table Resolution 20260921A. Councilmember Spring seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Spring motioned to approve Resolution 20260921B Adopting and Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy. Councilmember Weathers seconded. Motion carried.

Council decided that at the next special meeting on Tuesday, September 29, the Council will begin working on the City's Financial Policy. During this meeting, staff will also share the progress that has been made on the Cyber Security Policy and provide an overview of the work currently underway.

Councilmember Collins opened the discussion regarding the Hospital bond, noting that the Hospital building is approximately 70 years old and in need of upgrades to meet current economic and community needs. He emphasized that the construction alone could generate an estimated \$600,000.00 dollars in sales tax revenue, which could then be directed toward other city projects.

Councilmember Weathers stated that he feels caught between a rock and a hard place and is not yet ready to say that supporting the bond is a collective decision of the council. He pointed out that the threshold for income-based exemptions is being raised, allowing more residents to qualify for exemption, which in turn reduces the number of taxpayers contributing to the bond.

Councilmember Zorica added that the updated exemption thresholds will take effect on January 1, 2027.

Councilmember Zorica motioned to table the decision. Councilmember Weathers seconded.

The public hearing regarding the budget amendment opened at 6:34. Clerk/Treasurer Schoener informed the Council that there were currently two amendments that needed to be made. The first amendment was an increase of \$187,052.00 dollars to the Water Fund for the Washington State Department of Health's funding for the Hydrogeological Source Study. The second amendment was for the Sewer Fund, reflecting an increase of \$60,000.00 dollars in funding for the Wastewater Treatment Facility Riverbank Stabilization design.

Councilmember Collins moved to approve Ordinance No. 2148 Amending the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget. Councilmember Spring seconded. Motion carried.

The Public Hearing closed at 6:35.

BILLS & PAYROLL:

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

CLAIMS CHECKS 67693-67718	\$92,282.11
CLAIMS EFT 2026 Sept 2 nd Mtg: 1-8	\$51,168.04
CLAIMS DIR PAY 2026 Sept 2 nd Mtg: 1-5	\$7,152.00
PAYROLL EFT PR 2026 Sept 1 st 1-10: Direct Deposit Run 09/03/2026	\$100,067.73

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:36 PM.

Attest:


Theresa Schoener
Clerk/Treasurer

By


Keith Campbell
Mayor

