

MINUTES OF THE NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON October 5, 2026

A meeting of the Newport City Council was held on October 5, 2026, at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers, City Hall, 200 S. Washington Avenue, Newport, Washington, with the following present:

Keith Campbell	Mayor (Absent)
Abby Gribi	City Administrator
Theresa Schoener	Clerk/Treasurer

Nathan Weathers	Councilmember
Elizabeth Spring	Councilmember
Jami Sears	Councilmember (Absent)
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 Weathers Moved to excuse Councilmember Sears. Councilmember Spring seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Weathers moved to approve the agenda and the amended minutes from September 21, 2026, Council Meeting correcting the title for Resolution 20260921C. Councilmember Spring seconded. Motion carried.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

John Connelly, with the Pend Oreille Playhouse, 236 S. Union, came to express Playhouse's concern over ongoing issues with vagrancy, drug use, and vandalism in their sheds, alleging a lack of police enforcement despite filed reports.

Mayor Pro Tem Zorica responded to the Playhouse's concern telling them that the City will follow up with the police.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

Administrator Gribi announced that a bid packet was being prepared by Department of Ecology for the Reservoir Rehab project that was approved.

Yard Waste cleanup day is scheduled for October 10th from 9AM – 1PM at the City’s property on Gun Club Rd.

The Clerk/Treasurer and herself will be out the week for the AWC Annual Conference in Chelan.

She will be heading to IACC the week of the 19th.

Just a reminder, the Better Together Event is Friday at 5PM at Quest Casino in Airway Heights.

OLD BUSINESS:

Councilmember Weathers moved to approve Resolution 20261921A Repeal of Superseded Resolutions. Councilmember Spring seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Collins moved to amend Resolution 20260921C Expressing Support for the POC Public Hospital District No. 1 to include changing “essential” to “extremely helpful” and “collective” to “majority”. Motion Carried.

Councilmember Collins moved to approve Resolution 20260921C Expressing Support for the POC Public Hospital District No. 1. Councilmember Spring seconded. Motion carried. With Councilmember Weathers abstaining.

NEW BUSINESS:

Comprehensive Plan – Chapters 1 & 2 Discussion

The Council discussed the desire for the comprehensive plan to more clearly express Newport’s cultural identity. Comments emphasized that the draft should better reflect the community’s character, including themes of homegrown growth and opportunities for local businesses and residents. Council noted that cultural or background information could be placed in an appendix or incorporated directly into the main document, depending on the Council’s preference. There was also a suggestion to include an introductory statement outlining the Council’s values, potentially to be developed during the upcoming budget retreat. Administration reminded the Council that specific guidance is needed in order to finalize the document. The importance of small, locally owned businesses and youth in shaping Newport’s identity was highlighted, and staff agreed that strengthening language around local ownership and community identity would enhance the plan.

Chapter 9 Discussion

Rachel explained that Chapter 9, while not required by the state, offers a useful prioritization framework for financial planning. Questions were raised about whether the City maintains an updated list of priorities, and some Councilmembers expressed a preference to wait for Planning Commission feedback before discussing the chapter further. Administrator Gribi asked whether this optional section should be included in the final plan. There was general support for the concept, but with the understanding that the

Planning Commission's position should be reviewed first. Rachel encouraged the Council to look over the "Top Ten Actions," as these priorities help guide future funding decisions and project planning.

BILLS & PAYROLL:

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

CLAIMS CHECKS 67719-67735	\$38,413.65
CLAIMS EFT 2026 Oct 1st Mtg: 1-3	\$1,741.57
CLAIMS DIR PAY 2026 Oct 1st Mtg:1-3	\$1,000.00
PAYROLL EFT PR 2026 Sept 2 nd 1-11: Direct Deposit Run 09/22/2026	\$95,138.93

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 PM.

Attest: Theresa Schoener
Theresa Schoener
Clerk/Treasurer

By: Keith Campbell
Keith Campbell
Mayor

*These minutes were prepared with the assistance of AI note taking tools to support accuracy and clarity.