
**City of Newberg
City Council
December 2, 2024**

Meeting called to order at 6:01 p.m.

Councilors Present: Mayor Bill Rosacker, Councilor Mike McBride, Councilor Robyn Wheatley, Councilor Elise Yarnell Hollamon, Councilor Peggy Kilburg, Councilor Glenn Cloyd, Councilor Derek Carmon

Staff Present: City Manager Will Worthey, City Attorney James Walker, City Recorder Rachel Thomas, Interim HR Manager Alison Seiler, Public Works Director Russ Thomas, Chief of Police Jeff Kosmicki, Finance Director Kady Strode, IT Manager Joseph Falbey

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

HOMETOWN BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARD

Mayor Rosacker commended the owners of Le Okay Juice Shop in recognition of their efforts in repainting their building, making downtown Newberg a more attractive place to live and work.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Will Worthey provided an overview of the monthly events from November.

Engineering: House Bill 2001 project continues to progress, with the first construction phases to be advertised in early 2025. The design phase is anticipated to continue through 2025 and possibly beyond for future construction phases. All is projected to be finalized in July 2029.

Public Safety: Newberg-Dundee Police Department responded to a house fire and rescued children who were stuck in the backyard. The NDPD Citizen Academy concluded this week.

Library: The Children’s Services team visited every Kindergarten in Newberg, Dundee, and St. Paul. The library also had a Native Innovations exhibit in November. The library hours were reduced temporarily while they focused on filling two recently opened positions.

Public Works: On November 9, Public Works hosted the County ARES Volunteer for the “Oregon Fall Set Drill.” Worthey then displayed a list of the work Public Works completed recently.

Finance: Finance continued work on Operation Quadratic to make changes to the budget document in preparation for the two-year budget cycle.

City Recorder: November was spent finalizing the committee recruitment for the city standing committees, and assisting in the move back to city hall. They’re also preparing to launch the website in February 2025.

IT: IT has largely been focused on the move back into City Hall. They’ve also improved their local storage system and entered into a security service agreement with the federal Cybersecurity Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA).

Planning: Planning and buildings are both under budget and expenses and ahead of schedule. They hosted two pre-application meetings for prospective projects. The “opening soon” sign is up at the Fairfield Inn.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

7.1 Budget Code Clean Up

Finance Director Kady Strode appeared before the council to recommend councilors adopt the proposed biannual budget structure code changes.

Action: Motion to waive the second reading of Ordinance 2024-2928

Motion: Councilor Carmon

Second: Councilor Yarnell-Hollamon

Vote: 7 Yes, 0 No

Action: Motion to approve Ordinance 2024-2928 by Title only.

Motion: Councilor Carmon
Second: Councilor Wheatley
Vote: 7 Yes, 0 No

NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Media Representatives for Executive Session

Discussion: Councilors discussed the possibility of recognizing Rebecca Wallis, Managing Editor of Yamhill County News, as a local news outlet, which would provide admission to the City Council Executive Session. City Manager Worthey said there are no clear rules for recognizing a media outlet, and it is up to the Council to debate and weigh the decision. City Attorney James Walker said they did request a decision from OGEC, and they declined to provide a position. Interim HR Manager Alison Seiler spoke before the council, raising concerns about media representatives attending Executive Sessions as they largely pertain to personnel matters. Allowing media representatives to be made aware of sensitive personnel matters could put the city at legal risk, she said. Rebecca Wallis appeared to provide public comment saying that the Newberg Graphic and the McMinnville News-Register have been attending Executive Session for years. Wallis cited the First Amendment, saying it's a matter of the freedom of the press at stake. City Attorney Walker referenced state law, saying this is not a matter of constitutional law. Freedom of the press does not include the media's ability to access confidential information. He questioned Yamhill County News's stated purpose and whether it fit the requirement to be determined as a news operation, alongside the regularity of publication. Councilor McBride asked Worthey if there was a process for potential media outlets to become recognized as a media organization. City Manager Worthey said this is uncharted water, and it would be challenging to write such a policy. Councilor McBride asked City Attorney Walker if it would be possible to revoke executive session access if a news outlet violated the agreement of respecting executive session; Walker said it would not be possible.

Action: Motion to recognize Rebecca Wallis as a member of the press and subsequently allow her access to executive sessions.

Motion: Councilor Yarnell-Hollamon

Second: Councilor Carmon

Continued Discussion: Councilor Carmon said he feels Wallis completed all necessary steps, and is recognized by other government organizations. Mayor Rosacker said he's worried about other online publications that want to use that as a door into executive session for more nefarious purposes. He continued to say that Wallis's lack of consistent publishing and short time in existence were reasons why he did not support the application. Councilor Kilburg echoed his opinion. They added that media businesses that have existed and published consistently for over a year could be considered as a way to ensure the media outlet is legitimate. City Attorney Walker discussed the legality of that statement.

Vote: 5 Yes, 2 No (Kilburg, Rosacker)

9. RECESS FOR NURA MEETING

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

10.1 Moved into executive session at 7:55 PM.
Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192-660 (2) (e). To conduct deliberations with
persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions and
(h) To consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with
regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.



Rachel Thomas, City Recorder

ATTEST:



Bill Rosacker, Mayor