

# City of Newberg

## City Council Meeting Minutes

### February 2, 2026

#### Call to Order

Mayor Rosacker called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

#### Roll Call

City Recorder Thomas conducted roll call. Present: Councilor McBride, Councilor Wheatley, Councilor Yarnell Holloman, Councilor Kilburg, Mayor Rosacker, Councilor Turgesen, and Councilor Carmon.

#### Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

#### City Manager Report

##### *Narrative for January 2026 Events*

City Manager Worthey presented the January 2026 events, highlighting the work of the STRIVE Committee which serves as an ethics watchdog, recognizes staff achievements through awards, and provides an independent reporting channel for harassment or ethics violations. The committee has contributed to the city's improved insurance loss record since 2021. City Manager Worthey also reported on recent developments including Hawaiian Brothers' opening on January 19th, engineering documents for Station 20, industrial building developments, and public engagement efforts. He noted that the public affairs officer has created new graphics for the street sweeper.

Mayor Rosacker announced that Newberg received an \$850,000 grant from Representative Andrea Salinas to help cover approximately 90% of the costs for the water treatment plant basin covers.

#### Public Comments

Four individuals provided general comments focused on the following content:

- Jim Talt: Suggested sidewalk repair options and recommended arranging for homeowners to access the city's preferred contractor for consistent repairs.
- Kriss Erwin: Expressed appreciation for the city council's fiscal management and city services.
- Jesse Phares Cunningham: Raised concerns about accessibility barriers in civic participation.
- Bill Cole: Emphasized the importance of maintaining decorum and focusing on city-related issues.

#### Presentations

##### *Northwest Accreditation Alliance*

Police Chief Kosmicki and Sergeant Ronning presented on the department's accreditation, which they've maintained since 2004. The accreditation ensures policies meet professional policing standards and

provides benefits including reduced civil liability exposure. Scott Hayes, Executive Director of the Northwest Accreditation Alliance, officially presented the accreditation award, noting that the department had adhered to 110 law enforcement standards.

### *Storm Water Masterplan Phase II*

City Manager Worthey presented the Stormwater Master Plan update, highlighting that Newberg maintains 67.9 miles of storm pipes, 3,287 catch basins, and 7.14 acres of swales and basins. The plan accounts for growth, includes hydraulic modeling, and informs the capital improvement list for the next 5-20 years. Based on engineering recommendations, staff proposed changing the update frequency from every 5 years to every 10 years due to Newberg's modest 1% growth rate.

## **New Business**

### *Storm Water Master Plan Approval*

City Manager Worthey requested approval to initiate and complete the stormwater master plan update. The fiscal impact for Phase 2 is expected to be \$237,000, which is less than the originally budgeted \$350,000 due to data gathering efficiencies.

Motion: Councilor Carmon moved to approve Resolution 2026-4006. Seconded by: Councilor McBride. Vote: Unanimous approval by all councilors.

Mayor Bill Rosacker-Yes

Councilor Jeri Turgesen-Yes

Councilor Elise Yarnell-Hollamon-Yes

Councilor Mike McBride-Yes

Councilor Robyn Wheatley -Yes

Councilor Peggy Kilburg-Yes

Council President Derek Carmon-Yes

### *Council Rules Changes to Public Comment for Safety and Decorum*

City Recorder Thomas presented proposed changes to council rules regarding public comment, explaining that staff had been asked to draft these changes due to concerns about meeting safety and decorum. The proposal included adding decorum standards to council rules and potentially eliminating general public comment. City Attorney provided legal guidance, clarifying that while the council is not required to allow general public comment at every meeting, there are limitations on restricting speech content if comments are received.

Nine citizens provided public comment, all opposing the elimination of general public comment. Many cited concerns about limiting civic participation, accessibility issues, and the importance of maintaining open communication between residents and elected officials. Several citizens were supportive of adding decorum standards.

After deliberation, the Council reached consensus to keep general public comment but add decorum standards to the Council rules. The Council directed staff to revise the proposed rules to remove references to eliminating general public comment and to refine the decorum standards. City Attorney will review the revised rules before they return to Council for approval.

City Recorder Thomas presented a project to review and update the city code, which has been created piecemeal over 135 years and contains many outdated provisions. She has identified over 100 potential

changes after reading the code line by line and consulting with the city prosecutor and police department. Thomas outlined a process to bring code updates to Council in batches, focusing first on items that simply need to be deleted. She noted several examples of outdated code references including dance halls, billiard parlors, spitting in public, and ice boxes. The Council was supportive of the project.

### **Adjournment**

Mayor Rosacker adjourned the meeting at 8:18 pm.

Attested by:

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Mayor Bill Rosacker

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City Recorder Rachel Thomas