

City of Newberg

City Council Meeting Minutes

April 7th, 2025

Call to Order

Mayor Rosacker called the meeting to order at 6 PM.

Roll Call

The City Recorder conducted roll call. All council members were present.

Councilor McBride, Councilor Wheatley, Councilor Yarnell-Hollamon, Councilor Kilburg, Councilor Turgesen, Councilor Carmon, Mayor Rosacker.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Rosacker invited members of the Boy Scouts to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Proclamations

Child Abuse Prevention Month- Juliette's House

Mayor Rosacker read a proclamation declaring April 2025 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Newberg, Oregon. The proclamation highlighted the serious nature of child abuse, its prevalence, and the city's commitment to prevention efforts. It emphasized the importance of community involvement, partnerships, and education in addressing this issue. The mayor officially set his hand and caused the seal of the city of Newberg to be affixed on April 7, 2025.

Deb Bridges, a program coordinator at Juliette's House, thanked the council and distributed pins to wear for the month, encouraging everyone to wear blue on Fridays in support of child abuse prevention.

City Manager Report

City Manager Worthey presented the monthly events report for March 2025. He highlighted several departmental activities:

Community Development: The department implemented OpenGov software for permits, with some initial challenges that were resolved. They also worked on vacation rentals policy updates and received CET grant applications.

Public Safety: Officers supported a high school orchestra fundraiser, assisted the county sheriff with a search warrant, and helped a stray dog. The city manager showed photos of these activities, including the use of an MRAP vehicle during the warrant service.

Finance: The department focused on budget preparation, including a 4-year financial forecast showing the city's funds as solvent and secure. They also worked on utility billing customer service, attended public meetings law updates, and reviewed a new red light camera proposal.

Human Resources: The department attended conferences, participated in recruitment efforts, and processed claims.

Library: Improvements were made to lighting and accessibility. The library offered various activities for different age groups during spring break. Water damage in the meeting room was being addressed.

City Recorder: Work began on new council rules, and a successful records week was held with all staff participating in records management activities.

Community Engagement: The department focused on resolving technical issues with the website launch and began producing video content about city employees.

Public Works: The city manager provided an overview of maintenance activities, including pipe inspections, street sweeping, and equipment repairs.

Councilor Kilburg inquired about the use of the armored vehicle during the warrant service. Chief Kosmicki explained it was used due to anticipated troubles and its effectiveness in opening gates.

Councilor McBride asked about the Visit Newberg tourism distribution amount, which appeared to be incorrect. The city manager acknowledged the error and promised to provide the correct figure.

In response to Mayor Rosacker's query about sewer line cleaning, Public Works Director Russ explained the process using high-pressure water jets and vacuum equipment. He also mentioned the potential risks involved, such as accidental toilet blow-ups.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Consent Calendar

Councilor McBride moved to accept the consent calendar as presented, which included passing Resolution 2025-3966 authorizing a renewal of Roger's Landing Lease. Councilor Kilburg seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Councilor McBride-Yes

Councilor Wheatley-Yes

Councilor Yarnell-Hollamon-Yes

Councilor Kilburg-Yes

Councilor Turgesen-Yes

Councilor Carmon-Yes

Mayor Rosacker-Yes

New Business

Resolution 2025-3968 Potential Sunset of Fund 14 for Economic Development

Finance Director Kady presented the proposal to sunset Fund 14, which originally hosted CET funds and business license fees for economic development. With CET funds no longer coming in, the proposal was

to move the small amount of economic development money from business licenses to the general fund. This would allow Fund 14 to be closed after the next budget cycle.

Councilor Kilburg moved to adopt Resolution number 2025-3968. Councilor McBride seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Councilor McBride-Yes

Councilor Wheatley-Yes

Councilor Yarnell-Hollamon-Yes

Councilor Kilburg-Yes

Councilor Turgesen-Yes

Councilor Carmon-Yes

Mayor Rosacker-Yes

Approval of a Semi-permanent Street Closure at the Junction of E. Illinois and Main Street

City Manager Worthey presented a proposal for a semi-permanent street closure at the junction of East Illinois and Main Street. He explained the history of traffic safety concerns at this intersection and the challenges of navigating it. The proposal aimed to simplify the traffic pattern by closing off East Illinois at its intersection with Main Street.

Worthey reported on community engagement efforts, including surveys and an open house. The majority of residents surveyed were in favor of the closure. He also mentioned that the only industrial operation on the street, PPM Technologies, supported the closure as it aligned with their safe driving policy.

Council members discussed the proposal, with Councilor Kilburg inquiring about potential impacts on emergency response times. Chief Kosmicki stated that the police department did not have concerns and could adapt to the change.

Councilor Wheatley moved that staff are granted permission to work on a semi-permanent street closure at East Illinois and Main Street in the interest of traffic safety. Councilor Yarnell-Hollamon seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Councilor McBride-Yes

Councilor Wheatley-Yes

Councilor Yarnell-Hollamon-Yes

Councilor Kilburg-Yes

Councilor Turgesen-Yes

Councilor Carmon-Yes

Mayor Rosacker-Yes

River Street Discussion

City Manager Worthey provided an informational update on the Newberg Urban Renewal Area (NURA) Community Advisory Committee's (CAC) recommendations for River Street improvements. The CAC recommended focusing on the northern sections, particularly from 11th Street northbound to 3rd Street. They also suggested no further public engagement was necessary beyond what had already been done.

Council members discussed the recommendation, with Councilor Turgesen expressing support for the northern focus unless the railroad company was willing to contribute to crossing improvements. Mayor Rosacker agreed with the CAC's recommendation but noted he had initially envisioned working from north to south.

Public Works Director Russ explained that the section between 11th and 3rd Streets had the most damage and would benefit most from reconstruction.

The council gave informal approval for staff to begin drafting an intergovernmental agreement to codify the relationship for generating revenue for this project.

Council Rules Discussion: Chapters 1-3

City Recorder Rachel Thomas presented the first three chapters of the revised council rules. She explained that the revision process involved starting with the League of Oregon Cities model rules, incorporating elements from the old council rules, and ensuring congruence with state law, city code, and the charter. The new rules were designed to work for both the council and committees/commissions.

After discussion, the council decided to review the entire document individually and provide feedback to Rachel before the next meeting. They agreed to discuss the feedback and any changes at the following council session.

Council Business

Historic Preservation Commission Work Plan

Bob Woodruff, chair of the Historic Preservation Commission, presented a six-year work plan for the commission. The plan focused on two primary goals: preserving historic structures and preserving human histories. Woodruff outlined specific objectives within these goals, including updating the historic inventory, collaborating with local organizations, exploring historic downtown designation, and developing an awards program.

The work plan also included a proposed six-year certified local government grant cycle, detailing activities for each year, such as preparing for grant applications, conducting a full historic property inventory, and pursuing historic downtown designation.

Council members expressed appreciation for the comprehensive plan and showed particular interest in the idea of establishing a museum to showcase Newberg's history.

Councilor McBride moved to approve the 6-year work plan that the Historic Preservation Commission presented. Councilor Carmon seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Councilor McBride-Yes

Councilor Wheatley-Yes

Councilor Yarnell-Hollamon-Yes

Councilor Kilburg-Yes

Councilor Turgesen-Yes

Councilor Carmon-Yes

Mayor Rosacker-Yes

Councilors provided brief updates on their committee work:

Councilor Yarnell-Holloman reported on the Chamber of Commerce's recent gala and strategic planning efforts. She also mentioned positive developments with the Downtown Coalition and Public Arts Committee.

Mayor Rosacker discussed the Wine Industry Committee meetings, noting a shift towards making it an industry-led group. Councilors Yarnell-Holloman and McBride added that efforts were being made to involve winery representatives in city committees and improve communication between the wine industry and the city.

City Manager Worthey suggested the idea of incorporating wine-themed artwork or signage throughout the city, similar to what is done in Poysdorff, Austria. Councilors expressed interest in this concept and requested more information or examples.

The meeting was then adjourned at 7:23 PM

Attested By:



Bill Rosacker, Mayor



Rachel Thomas, City Recorder