

City of Newberg

City Council Meeting Minutes

December 1st, 2025

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

City Recorder Rachel Thomas confirmed the following councilors were present:

- Councilor McBride
- Councilor Wheatley
- Councilor Yarnell-Holloman
- Councilor Kilburg
- Mayor Rosacker
- Councilor Turgesen
- Councilor Carmon

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Executive Session Pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2)(e)

At 6:05 Council moved to executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(e) for the purpose of considering information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection. No decisions were made during this session. The Council returned to open session at 6:17.

City Manager Report

November Narrative

City Manager Will Worthey presented the November 2025 report highlighting:

- Community development activities, including TVF&R land use reviews
- Community engagement efforts, including emergency preparedness resources
- The water treatment plant clarifier stress test, which could potentially save the city \$7 million by avoiding construction of additional clarifiers
- Groundwater treatment plant filter cover progress
- Various public works projects and infrastructure maintenance
- Library activities and events

Public Comments

Ten individuals provided public comment, with eight speakers expressing concerns about ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) activities in the community, describing incidents of enforcement actions near schools and impacts on immigrant families. Speakers requested that the city provide clear

guidance to the police department regarding verification of ICE agent identities and urged support for the immigrant community. One speaker thanked the council for their service to the community. Another speaker provided comment on public comment policies and ADA accommodations.

Consent Calendar

AI Policy Resolution 2025-4002

Councilor McBride moved to accept the consent calendar as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wheatley. The motion passed unanimously.

- Councilor McBride-aye
- Councilor Wheatley-aye
- Councilor Yarnell-Holloman-aye
- Councilor Kilburg-aye
- Mayor Rosacker-aye
- Councilor Turgesen-aye
- Councilor Carmon-aye

New Business

Sister City Relationship

Allison Seiler presented a review of Newberg's sister city relationships with Poysdorf, Austria, and cities in Japan. Her analysis noted:

- The Japanese relationship has existed for over 40 years primarily as a student cultural exchange
- The Poysdorf relationship was established in 2007 and involves periodic trips between cities
- Maintaining these relationships costs approximately \$20,000 biennially if the city funds trips and visit costs
- Technological advances have changed the nature and necessity of such relationships

Several community members involved with the sister city program spoke in favor of continuing the relationship with Poysdorf, citing cultural benefits and educational opportunities. Brandon Slyter announced plans to form a 501(c)(3) organization to support and fundraise for both sister city relationships.

After discussion, Council decided to table the decision to a future work session and requested draft resolutions outlining options for maintaining the relationships while addressing ethical considerations regarding gift acceptance.

Yamhill County Transient Lodging Tax Proposal Discussion

Council discussed a proposal from Yamhill County to establish a transient lodging tax, including a potential overlay on cities that already have such taxes, like Newberg. City Manager Will Worthey expressed concerns that the proposal lacked input from hoteliers and would place the tax burden primarily on businesses within municipalities.

Mayor Rosacker moved to express to the county commissioners that the Council is not in favor of any tax overlay on properties within Newberg city limits. The motion was seconded by Councilor McBride. The motion passed. Councilors Turgesen and Yarnell-Holloman abstained, citing insufficient information to make an informed decision.



Public Hearing

Butler Property Sale

City Attorney James Walker presented Resolution 2025-4003 regarding the sale of the Butler property at 411 East First Street. The city has negotiated a sale to Heated Candle LLC for \$341,250. City Manager Will Worthey noted the sale proceeds would contribute to the city's debt reduction plan.

Councilor Kilburg moved to adopt Resolution 2025-4003 approving the sale of the Butler property. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wheatley. The motion passed unanimously.

- Councilor McBride-aye
- Councilor Wheatley-aye
- Councilor Yarnell-Holloman-aye
- Councilor Kilburg-aye
- Mayor Rosacker-aye
- Councilor Turgesen-aye
- Councilor Carmon-aye

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 pm.

Attested by:

Bill Rosacker, Mayor

Rachel Thomas, City Recorder