

City of Newberg

City Council Meeting Minutes

June 16, 2025

Call to Order

Mayor Bill Rosacker called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees.

Roll Call

City Recorder Rachel Thomas conducted the roll call. The following council members responded as present: Councilor McBride, Councilor Wheatley, Councilor Yarnell-Hollamon, Councilor Kilburg, and Councilor Turgesen. Mayor Bill Rosacker also confirmed his presence. Councilor Carmon was not in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

City Manager Report

City Manager Will Worthey presented the monthly statistics report for April. He highlighted:

- Planning decisions were low but expected to increase soon
- Building permits and inspections remained steady
- Community engagement through the website and social media was strong
- Public information requests were at 7, with a significant increase expected next month
- Accounts payable and payroll payments were consistent with recent months
- HR reported 3 hires, 3 separations, and various other employee issues
- IT resolved 406 service tickets and had 6 after-hours events
- The library had high circulation numbers of 32,000 and 6,103 visitors
- Public safety statistics were unavailable due to software issues
- Dispatch handled 7,299 911 calls and 2,683 non-emergency calls
- Water production was 49.8 million gallons
- Wastewater treatment handled 100.5 million gallons
- Public Works completed 879 work orders, which was lower than usual due to vacancies

Mayor Rosacker thanked Will for the comprehensive report.

Public Comments

Elaine Koskela

Elaine Koskela, a local resident, spoke about recent ICE activities in Newberg and Cottage Grove. She expressed concern about the impact on families and the community, describing specific incidents of ICE detaining individuals. Koskela urged the council to take action to protect all residents and create legal pathways to citizenship for workers needed in the community.

Rob Felton

Rob Felton from George Fox University expressed support for the Spark Newberg project, which aims to assist Newberg residents in achieving homeownership. He emphasized the project's benefits of affordable housing, down payment assistance, and educational programs to prepare participants for homeownership.

Nathan Wildfire

Nathan Wildfire, representing the Missing Middle Housing Fund, discussed the organization's work with Newberg's largest employers to address workforce housing challenges. He explained their efforts to use state funding to boost housing initiatives in the community. Wildfire expressed support for the Spark project, emphasizing the importance of addressing housing needs across all income levels.

Presentations

Asago Middle School Exchange Report

The delegates who traveled to Japan, presented on the sister city exchange program. They highlighted: The experience of visiting Japanese schools and interacting with students, cultural exchanges through games and sports, the importance of building connections with people across the world, and the impact of the program on creating a more connected world. Another delegate discussed the natural beauty of Japan, emphasizing the country's commitment to preserving nature and landscapes, the increase in tree cover over the last 200 years, and the integration of nature into architecture and daily life. Another delegate focused on Japanese architecture, noting the historical significance of structures like Osaka Castle, the preservation of ancient ruins like Takeda Castle, and the differences in architectural styles and time periods compared to the US. A different presenter highlighted Japanese cuisine, discussing the variety of sushi and ramen dishes, unique foods like okonomiyaki, and the differences between Japanese and American versions of similar dishes. Lastly, another participant covered Japanese culture, mentioning the prevalence of mascots representing cities and landmarks, traditional practices like tea ceremonies, and the experience of trying on kimonos.

The delegates presented a gift from the mayor of Asago City to Mayor Rosacker, symbolizing friendship and the deepening connection between the two cities.

Mayor Rosacker thanked the delegates for their presentation and expressed appreciation for the exchange program.

Consent

Approval of Landscaping Maintenance Services Contract

Councilor Yarnell Hollamon moved to approve the consent calendar. Councilor Kilburg seconded the motion.

The motion passed with the following votes:

- Councilor McBride: Yes
- Councilor Wheatley: Yes
- Councilor Yarnell-Hollamon: Yes
- Councilor Kilburg: Yes
- Mayor Rosacker: Yes
- Councilor Torgesen: Yes

Continued Business

Street Tree List and Replacement Policy Review

City staff presented an update on the proposed street tree list and associated code section. Key points included:

- The current list from 1992 is outdated and limited
- The new list offers more robust options and guidance on placement
- Proposed amendments to the code section related to tree removal and replacement
- Examples of common issues with street trees and successful replacements

Council members discussed the proposal, including concerns about root systems and the financial burden on homeowners.

Councilor Kilburg moved to approve the street tree list as proposed. Councilor Yarnell-Hollamon seconded the motion.

The motion passed with the following votes:

- Councilor McBride: Yes
- Councilor Wheatley: Yes
- Councilor Yarnell-Hollamon: Yes
- Councilor Kilburg: Yes

- Councilor Turgesen: Yes
- Mayor Rosacker: Yes

Mayor Rosacker noted that a work session would be scheduled to further discuss the tree code.

Robert Soppe, a local resident, expressed concerns about the tree replacement requirements and the process of addressing his previous requests to the council. He urged the council to remove the burden of tree replacement for homeowners who voluntarily planted trees.

New Business

CET Grants- Notice of Funding Availability Round 2 Awards

Mayor Rosacker declared a potential conflict of interest due to his involvement on the board of the SPARK project. He withdrew from the dias and Council President Yarnell-Hollamon chaired the rest of the meeting.

Assistant Planner, Leanne Wagener, presented the Affordable Housing Commission's recommendations for the Construction Excise Tax (CET) Fund awards. She provided background on the CET fund, eligibility criteria, and submitted applications.

Shannon from Habitat for Humanity presented their project proposal for a duplex on East Fifth Street. She outlined Habitat's history, homeownership program, and the specifics of the proposed project.

Doug Kane, Brian Naffin, and Mayor Bill Rosacker presented the Spark Newberg project, which aims to provide housing and financial education for working families in Newberg. They detailed the program structure, eligibility criteria, and funding needs.

Scott Parrish from ADEC and Tara Colton from Allison Inn and Spa spoke in support of the Spark project, emphasizing its potential impact on workforce housing challenges.

Council members engaged in extensive discussion and deliberation on the funding proposals.

Councilor McBride moved to grant \$380,615 to Habitat for Humanity and the remainder of the funds to Spark, contingent on legal review and Spark obtaining non-profit status. Councilor Wheatley seconded the motion.

The motion passed with a 4-1 vote, with Councilor Kilburg voting no. Councilor McBride, Councilor Wheatley, Councilor Yarnell-Hollamon, and Councilor Turgesen voted yes, and Mayor Rosacker abstained.

Supplemental Budget #3

Kady Strode presented the third supplemental budget for the fiscal year, detailing adjustments across various funds totaling \$345,364. She explained changes in the general fund, administrative services fund, wastewater fund, water fund, 911 fund, public safety fee fund, stormwater fund, and governmental capital projects fund.

Councilor Kilburg moved to adopt resolution 2025-3975 per Kady's recommendation. Councilor Wheatley seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously, with Councilor McBride, Councilor Wheatley, Councilor Yarnell-Hollamon, and Councilor Turgesen, and Councilor Kilburg voting yes.

Rate Review Appointments

Rachel Thomas, City Recorder shared the mayor's appointment of Raquel Peregrino de Brito and Roger Kuhlman to the Rate Review Commission for a term ending in 2027.

Councilor McBride moved to accept the recommended appointments as presented. Councilor Kilburg seconded the motion.

The motion passed with the following votes:

- Councilor McBride: Yes
- Councilor Wheatley: Yes
- Councilor Yarnell-Hollamon: Yes
- Councilor Kilburg: Yes
- Mayor Rosacker: Yes
- Councilor Turgesen: Yes

Media Recognition Review- Newsberg

City Manager Will Worthey recommended recognizing Newsberg as a media outlet based on the established criteria and scoring system.

Councilor Turgesen moved to approve Brandon with Newsberg for media recognition. Councilor McBride seconded the motion.

The motion passed with the following votes:

- Councilor McBride: Yes
- Councilor Wheatley: Yes
- Councilor Yarnell-Hollamon: Yes

- Councilor Kilburg: Yes
- Councilor Torgesen: Yes

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 PM.

Attested By:



Bill Rosacker, Mayor

Rachel Thomas, City Recorder