

City of Newberg

City Council Meeting Minutes

March 2, 2026

Call to Order

Mayor Bill Rosacker called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM on March 2, 2026.

Roll Call

City Recorder Rachel Thomas conducted roll call. Present: Councilor McBride, Councilor Wheatley, Councilor Yarnell Hollamon, Councilor Kilburg, Mayor Rosacker, and Councilor Turgesen. Councilor Carmen was absent.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Bill Rosacker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

City Manager Report

Narrative Report on February 2026

City Manager Will Worthey presented the monthly report highlighting February activities. Key items included finance department work on rate review, library achievements with 249 new card sign-ups, cozy reading program participation, restroom remodel progress, community engagement activities, a successful records week, River Street engineering developments with three design alternatives, HR digitization completion, IT system upgrades including phone migration to Webex and virtual desktop implementation, water system maintenance including reservoir cleaning, public works ADA improvements, and planning commission activities including the HB 2001 program advancement.

Public Comments

Shelly Kolb commended the police department, mayor, and city council for Newberg ranking fifth in SafeWise's 2026 Oregon safest cities. She highlighted full staffing, rapid response times, technology adoption, transparency initiatives, community outreach, accreditation status, and declining crime rates.

Jim Talt shared a positive story about the police department's Valentine's Day gift delivery program to seniors, praising the community partnership with local businesses.

Continued Business

Safety Manual Approval

City Manager Will Worthey presented the 2026 safety manual update, explaining improvements made to workplace safety policies and procedures. The manual update addresses state and federal requirements and has resulted in approximately \$50,000 annual savings on insurance costs due to improved safety performance.

Motion: Councilor Peggy Kilburg moved to approve Resolution 2026-4012 adopting the 2026 Safety Manual. Councilor Mike McBride Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Vote Results:

- Councilor McBride: Aye
- Councilor Wheatley: Aye
- Councilor Yarnell-Hollamon: Aye
- Councilor Kilburg: Aye
- Councilor Turgesen: Aye
- Mayor Rosacker: Aye
- Councilor Carmon: Absent

Council Goals Update

City Manager Will Worthey presented updates to council goals, recognizing completed objectives including customer service standards implementation, new SRO contract, council rules completion, and STR rules. The update reorganizes remaining goals and acknowledges staff achievements.

Motion: Councilor Elise Yarnell-Hollamon moved to approve Resolution 2026-4017 updating the council goals. Seconded by Councilor Wheatley. Motion passed unanimously.

Vote Results:

- Councilor McBride: Aye
- Councilor Wheatley: Aye
- Councilor Yarnell-Hollamon: Aye
- Councilor Kilburg: Aye
- Councilor Turgesen: Aye
- Mayor Rosacker: Aye
- Council Carmon: Absent

Technology Responsibility Agreement

City Recorder Rachel Thomas presented an agreement for council and committee members receiving city technology devices. The agreement establishes responsibility for device care and provides options for using personal devices with appropriate liability considerations.

Motion: Councilor Robyn Wheatley moved to approve Resolution 2026-4014 directing staff to adopt the council and committee technology agreement. Seconded by Councilor Elise Yarnell-Hollamon. Motion passed unanimously.

Vote Results:

- Councilor McBride: Aye
- Councilor Wheatley: Aye
- Councilor Yarnell-Hollamon: Aye

- Councilor Kilburg: Aye
- Councilor Turgesen: Aye
- Mayor Rosacker: Aye
- Councilor Carmon: Absent

Council Rules Update

City Recorder Rachel Thomas presented updated council rules addressing public comment procedures and meeting decorum. The main change from the originally presented rules was the removal of the subjective term "rude" from prohibited behaviors. Council discussed public comment time limits, ultimately deciding to establish a three-minute standard instead of five minutes, with mayoral discretion to extend time when appropriate.

Motion: Councilor Peggy Kilburg moved to adopt Resolution 2026-4010 as amended, establishing a three-minute standard time for public comment. Seconded by Councilor Elise Yarnell-Hollamon. Motion passed unanimously.

Vote Results:

- Councilor McBride: Aye
- Councilor Wheatley: Aye
- Councilor Yarnell-Hollamon: Aye
- Councilor Kilburg: Aye
- Councilor Turgesen: Aye
- Mayor Rosacker: Aye
- Councilor Carmon: Absent

New Business

HB2001 Waterline Improvements and I-4 Alignment Project

City Manager Will Worthey presented a water infrastructure project to replace 854 linear feet of cast iron water main with modern ductile iron piping. The project supports HB 2001 requirements and must be completed before summer road resurfacing work. Pacific North Construction LLC submitted the winning bid at \$407,000, significantly lower than other bids ranging up to \$565,500.

Motion: Councilor Robyn Wheatley moved to adopt Resolution 2026-4016 authorizing the waterline improvement project contract. Seconded by Councilor Yarnell-Hollamon. Motion passed unanimously.

Vote Results:

- Councilor McBride: Aye
- Councilor Wheatley: Aye
- Councilor Yarnell-Hollamon: Aye

- Councilor Kilburg: Aye
- Councilor Turgesen: Aye
- Mayor Rosacker: Aye
- Councilor Carmon: Absent

Rate Review Recommendations

Consultant Deb Galardi from Galardi Rothstein Group presented the rate review committee's recommendations for utility rate adjustments. The presentation covered water (5% increase), sewer (4.1% increase), stormwater (4.5% increase), and transportation utility fee (4% increase). Key factors included infrastructure needs for HB 2001 projects, a \$32 million wastewater treatment plant project, and water treatment plant replacement planning. The committee emphasized using reserves and internal loans to minimize external borrowing while maintaining essential services. This item was presented for information only, with formal action scheduled for the next meeting.

Public Comment: Rate Review Committee Chair Ned Knight endorsed the recommendations, noting they maintain similar levels to the previous cycle.

Council Business

Interviews for Student Commission Positions

Two students were interviewed for commission positions. Elisa Simmons, a George Fox University elementary education major from Alaska, applied for the Library Advisory Board position, expressing interest in community involvement. Riley Wood, a George Fox University student working in the history and politics department, applied for the Historic Preservation Committee position, citing experience with museum work and desire to give back to the community. Both candidates answered questions about their backgrounds and interests. Final decisions will be made after interviewing remaining candidates at the next meeting.

ATTESTED BY:

Attested by:



Mayor Bill Rosacker



City Recorder Rachel Thomas