

# City of Newberg

## City Council Meeting Minutes

### March 16, 2026

#### Call to Order

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

#### Roll Call

Interim Deputy City Recorder Melissa Morris conducted roll call. Present: Councilor Mike McBride, Councilor Robyn Wheatley, Councilor Elise Yarnell-Hollamon, Councilor Kilburg, Mayor Bill Rosacker, Councilor Jeri Turgesen, and Councilor Carmen.

#### Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Bill Rosacker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### Presentation

##### D.A.R.E. Speech

Police Chief Jeff Kosmicki introduced fifth-grader Sunny Johnson, who delivered a presentation about her experience in the DARE program taught by Officer Sterns. Johnson described how the program helped her handle stressful situations, including basketball games and conflicts with family members, using the DARE decision-making model. She emphasized how the program taught her that all choices, big or small, matter and expressed gratitude for the opportunity.

Officer Sterns explained that the current DARE program is a 10-week curriculum for fifth graders across all elementary schools in the district, focusing on social emotional learning, communication skills, peer pressure, bullying prevention, and decision-making. The program has graduated over 936 students in three years and differs significantly from earlier versions by emphasizing relationship-building between officers and students.

#### City Manager Report

##### Statistical Report on 2022-2025

City Manager Will Worthey presented a comprehensive four-year statistical analysis covering multiple city departments and services. Key findings included:

**Water Production:** Summer production patterns show potential capacity concerns, with the highest daily production reaching 4.1 million gallons. The analysis revealed the need for additional examination of daily summer water production data to better predict future water plant needs.

**Construction Activity:** Building permits, inspections, and planning decisions have declined from peak years 2021-2022 to current sustainable levels, indicating no immediate need for additional staffing in these areas.

**Public Safety:** DUII arrests have significantly decreased due to focused enforcement efforts, while 911 calls remain steady despite population growth. Traffic stops show marginal increases in safety interventions.

**Public Engagement:** Social media engagement has grown steadily, particularly following Instagram implementation in November 2023, while non-emergency calls have declined. Public information requests have increased substantially.

**Infrastructure:** Wastewater processing shows moderate improvement from infiltration and inflow efforts, though challenges remain. Public works work order completion has declined, prompting organizational restructuring to improve productivity.

**Staffing:** Payroll expenses have increased 9% annually primarily due to health insurance costs. The city has maintained stable staffing levels while managing various recruitment challenges.

Worthey concluded that the data collection efforts over four years provide valuable insights for staffing decisions, budget planning, and operational improvements. He noted plans to analyze daily summer water production data and examine the correlation between social media growth and reduced non-emergency calls.

## Public Comments

Penny Raider commended the council for community engagement efforts, including Monday public meetings and the mayor's post-meeting discussions with citizens. She praised the improved atmosphere in Newberg and expressed appreciation for council efforts to address citizen concerns, including those related to ICE matters outside city jurisdiction.

## New Business

### City Hall Roof Replacement

City Engineering Project Manager Danette Hilton presented the city hall roof replacement project necessitated by the 2024 flood that resulted from lack of insulation and open barometric shafts. The flood caused approximately 4,000 gallons of pressurized water to flow from the roof to the basement.

The project addresses two of three identified problems: inadequate insulation (currently R-5, upgrading to R-30) and open barometric shafts. Window replacement will be addressed in future phases. Three bids were received, with ABC Roofing's bid of \$321,175 being the lowest responsive bid, slightly below the anticipated cost.

FEMA funding will reimburse the full project cost. The project includes a 300-page specification manual prepared by the architectural firm. Construction timeline targets completion before weather concerns, with council approval scheduled for April 20th.

### New Business Cont.

Mayor Bill Rosacker and City Manager Will Worthey announced the formation of an ad hoc committee for the River Street project, consisting of five citizens including two River Street residents. Councilor Jeri Turgesen will chair the committee.

## Public Hearing

### Adoption of Rates for 2027

Mayor Bill Rosacker opened the legislative hearing for rate adoption. Finance Director Kady Strode presented the rate review committee's recommendations for two-year rate increases: 5% for water, 4.1% for wastewater, 4.5% for storm water, and 4% for transportation utility fees for 2027 and 2028.

City Manager Will Worthey noted that removal of the communication line item will result in an effective first-year increase of approximately 2.8%. The increases represent minimum levels needed to maintain current staffing and reduced capital improvement projects.

Motion: Councilor Derek Carmon moved to adopt Resolution 2026-4018. Councilor Robyn Wheatley seconded.

Vote:

Councilor Mike McBride - Aye

Councilor Robyn Wheatley - Aye

Councilor Elise Yarnell-Hollamon - Aye

Councilor Kilburg - Aye

Mayor Bill Rosacker - Aye

Councilor Jeri Turgesen - Aye

Councilor Carmen - Aye.

Motion passed unanimously.

City Manager Will Worthey thanked Councilor Kilburg for prompting staff to remove non-essential projects from the capital improvement plan, resulting in lower rate increases than initially proposed.

The meeting was called to a close at 7:10 pm.

Attested by:



Mayor Bill Rosacker



Interim Deputy City Recorder Melissa Morris