

City of Newberg

City Council Meeting Minutes

August 17, 2026, 6:00 PM-8:35 PM

1. Call to Order

Mayor Bill Rosacker called the meeting to order.

2. Roll Call

Present: Councilor McBride, Councilor Wheatley, Councilor Yarnell-Hollamon, Councilor Kilburg, Mayor Bill Rosacker, Councilor Torgesen **Absent:** Councilor Carmon

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Bill Rosacker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Newberg Animal Shelter Presentation

The President of the Board of Directors for Newberg Animal Shelter Friends presented an update on shelter operations. Key points included the organization's 26-year history, the adoption of nearly 9,000 animals since taking over operations, and ongoing community programs including pet food donations to YCAP and FISH, and free vaccine and microchip clinics. The shelter declined to renew its agreement with Yamhill County due to capacity limitations, reaffirming its primary commitment to Newberg and Dundee. The presentation included a request for an increase in the daily kennel usage rate and consideration of adding a second reserve kennel, given the overflow kennel's approximately 60% utilization rate. Council expressed appreciation for the shelter's work and service to the community.

5. Public Comments

Mayor Bill Rosacker noted that all registered public comments pertained to the flagpole memorial agenda item and closed the general public comment period.

6. Proclamation

a. Proclamation for Sister City Poysdorf

Mayor Bill Rosacker read and issued a proclamation commemorating the 20-year sister city partnership between Newberg, Oregon and Poysdorf, Austria, established September 8, 2006.

The proclamation recognized ongoing collaboration and noted that a Newberg delegation would visit Poysdorf in September 2026.

7. Presentations

b. Newberg Downtown Coalition

Nicole Drew, Board President, and Libby Boyce, Operations Director, presented the Newberg Downtown Coalition's annual report organized around three pillars: Beautiful, Eventful, and Thriving. Highlights included the Public Art Council's recent installations, the Newberg Light Project, monthly downtown cleanups totaling over 1,000 volunteer hours, wine barrel beautification partnerships with the City and CPRD, a full calendar of community events including First Friday Art Walk and Wednesday Market, a 58% increase in membership since July 2025, and the launch of Spark Grants awarding small grants (averaging \$500–\$750) to downtown member businesses for improvements and beautification. Council commended the Coalition's progress and visible impact on downtown.

c. NDC Marketing & Events Plan 2026 June-Dec

Presented as part of the Newberg Downtown Coalition's report. The events calendar for the remainder of 2026 was distributed and noted for the record.

d. Chehalem Valley Chamber of Commerce

Scott (Chamber President) and Kate (Director of Operations) presented the Chamber's annual report. Highlights included expansion of the Stable Table collaborative to include CPRD, the Cultural Center, the wine industry, and the library; addition of two new Chamber awards selected by the Downtown Coalition and Taste Newberg respectively; visitor center activity including workshops, art exhibitions, and community use of the conference room; a 60% increase in social media visibility since July 2025; launch of a community events calendar in partnership with the City; and a commitment to buying locally for Chamber services. Council acknowledged significant improvement from the prior year's report.

e. Council One-Page 2025-2026

a. Joint Report of TLT Receiving Entities

The joint industry survey conducted collectively by the Newberg Downtown Coalition, Chehalem Valley Chamber of Commerce, and Taste Newberg was briefly summarized. The survey was sent to 71 stakeholders, with 30 responses received. Results were included in the distributed materials. Representatives noted that the collaborative approach reflected the strengthened partnership among the three organizations.

f. Taste Newberg

Phillip Kaja, Board President of Taste Newberg, announced the upcoming departure of Executive Director Leigh Jensen, effective August 31, 2026, after four years of service. Katie McFall was announced as Interim Executive Director, with a search underway for a permanent replacement. Leigh Jensen and Katie McFall then presented Taste Newberg's annual marketing report, highlighting 8.9 million advertising impressions, over 165,000 generated users, an estimated \$8 million in economic impact, and a return on ad spend (ROAS) of \$198 for every \$1 invested. Additional accomplishments included completion of website rebranding, launch of a TikTok channel, a large-scale Yamhill County Chardonnay celebration press trip funded through external grants, influencer media campaigns, Recreation Ready Phase 2 grant work with Travel Oregon (\$100,000 awarded), and a reprint of the Yamhill County recreation map distributed statewide.

g. City Presentation Survey Results

Results of the joint industry survey were distributed and made part of the record. The survey was noted as blind, with no individual responses attributable. Representatives offered to respond to further questions outside the meeting.

8. New Business

a. Discussion of Flagpole Memorials

The discussion was brought to council at the request of Mayor Bill Rosacker and Councilor Wheatley following a letter received from a community member. Mayor Rosacker stated that the current memorial would be allowed for 30 days and called for community members to respect memorials in place.

Acting City Manager Rachel Thomas presented the history of the City's memorial policy at the flagpole location, noting that a 30-day allowance was established in September 2025, consistent with ODOT and other agency practices. Since that time, multiple memorials have been placed and removed, generating significant public correspondence, staff time, and safety concerns related to the high-traffic location.

Public comments were received from Brittany Rowles, Sonda Martin, Tracie Moon (reading a statement on behalf of Elaine Koskela), Shelly Kolb, Shane Condie. Comments addressed the perceived disparate treatment of memorials for different groups, concerns about vandalism and destruction of ICE victim memorials, the importance of equal protection of First Amendment expression, expressed displeasure with members of the council, and a request that the Council publicly condemn the destruction of memorials regardless of political affiliation.

Council discussion addressed three questions: (1) whether temporary memorials should be allowed at the flagpole or other city property; (2) whether a designated location should be established; and (3) whether the 30-day timeline should be modified.

Councilor McBride expressed a preference that the flagpole, as the gateway to downtown, remain clear of permanent memorial installations, suggesting that vigils and protests be allowed but that participants remove all materials upon departure.

Councilor Wheatley stated that the issue was not about content but about preventing ongoing community conflict and staff burden. She noted she was unaware of the extent of the vandalism and condemned it. She expressed support for the simplest solution: allowing vigils with full cleanup upon departure.

Councilor Yarnell-Hollamon expressed concern about the pace of the agenda item's addition, questioned the equity of enforcement, and formally condemned the desecration of any memorial regardless of political affiliation. She indicated she would not support changing the policy in a manner that appeared targeted at a specific group, supported aligning the time limit with ODOT's standard, and called for a broader discussion on conduct and community representation.

Councilor Kilburg expressed that while she did not condone the destruction of any memorial, a shorter time frame—such as 7 to 14 days—may be more practical, and that any policy change should take effect prospectively and not impact the current memorial.

Councilor Turgesen expressed sadness at the divisiveness and condemned vandalism. She asked about equitable enforcement.

Councilor Yarnell-Hollamon and Councilor Kilburg both supported the idea that any policy change take effect on January 1, 2027, to avoid any appearance of targeting the current memorial.

Acting City Manager Rachel Thomas clarified that the 30-day policy had been a staff decision made by City Manager Will Worthey, not a council vote, and that council had not previously had formal opportunity to weigh in.

Mayor Bill Rosacker stated that his motivation in raising the issue was to prevent conflict following the receipt of a letter containing language he interpreted as potentially threatening. He affirmed his support for free speech and stated he did not personally oppose any memorial, but questioned whether the flagpole was the appropriate location given its shared public nature.

No formal vote was taken. This item was designated a discussion only.

d. Janitorial Services Contract

Danette Hilton, Engineering Project Manager, presented an informational update on the City's in-progress Invitation to Bid (ITB) for janitorial services. The bid covers 9 of the City's occupied buildings totaling approximately 51,000–60,000 square feet of serviced space, including City Hall, the Library Annex, the Public Safety Building, and select facilities at the maintenance yard, wastewater treatment plant, and water treatment plant. The ITB was set to close August 24,

2026, with a contract award recommendation anticipated for the September 21, 2026 council meeting. The proposed c2026,act term is five years, aligned with the City's biennial budget cycle. Cost analysis was reserved pending close of the bid period. No formal action was taken.

h. Exemptions to Competitive Bidding for Wastewater Treatment Plant

Ahmad Qayoumi Public Works Director presented an informational and brief overview of the proposed oxidation ditch project at the Newberg Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The project is anticipated to use a Construction Manager/General Contractor (CMGC) alternative project delivery method, subject to council approval of findings at a future meeting. Formal findings, design contract award, and subsequent CMGC procurement will each require separate council action. Staff indicated a minimum of three future council touchpoints are anticipated. No formal action was taken at this meeting, and the formal presentation was postponed to a future meeting.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mayor Bill Rosacker adjourned the meeting.

Prepared by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Melissa Morris".

Melissa Morris, Interim Deputy City Recorder, City of Newberg

Attested By:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Rosacker".

Bill Rosacker, Mayor, City of Newberg