

# NEWBERG

## CITY COUNCIL UPDATE

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April 2024 Recap | Newberg, Oregon

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### NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

The City Council approved the 2023-24 NOFA (Notice of Funding Availability) for CET (Construction Excise Tax) funds and directed city staff to proceed with notification and publication of the NOFA. *The council put forth the goal of setting aside \$1 million of CET funds toward a “legacy project” which will potentially change destinies for Newberg families who earn less than 80% of the area median income by helping them to identify and remove barriers to home ownership and enabling them to save for a down payment. The mayor has recently begun meeting with a group of civic leaders to develop a program around these parameters.*

### FLOODING & RECOVERY IN CITY HALL

Following a report on the extensive flooding damage to all three floors of City Hall on Jan. 15, the City Council approved a resolution declaring a local state of emergency for 60 days (which was later extended for an additional 3 months). More information can be found at [bit.ly/cityhallfloodupdates](https://bit.ly/cityhallfloodupdates), including a report on the progress made to date.

### DCI

The council extended DCI’s emergency occupation of the former Rite Aid building in Springbrook Plaza for an additional four years by which time they will have constructed a new facility.

**Planning Division’s Proposed 2024 Work Plan** was approved. More information can be found at [www.newbergoregon.gov/planning](https://www.newbergoregon.gov/planning)

**Sequential Urban Growth Boundary Process** was approved. More information at [bit.ly/newbergsequgb](https://bit.ly/newbergsequgb)

### COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Peggy Kilburg was elected to this position, a role that presides over city council meetings should the mayor be unable to do so (most often due to absence).

### CUSTOMER SERVICE

In response to the City Council’s goal to “create and maintain a high level of customer service”, City Manager Will Worthey and his staff developed the first

edition of a customer service manual. This manual includes measurable standards on deliverables such as turnaround time to resolve customer concerns and timely performance feedback to employees. The city council approved its adoption.

### SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT CHARGES (SDCs)

The reforms to the system development charges mentioned in our last edition went into effect on April 1st. To learn more about the city’s SDC rates visit

[bit.ly/newbergsdcs](https://bit.ly/newbergsdcs)

### SHORT-TERM RENTALS

City Council reviewed the recommendations of the ad hoc committee on short-term-rentals (vacation homes). Staff has been directed to begin revisions to the municipal code and to develop a plan for public engagement on this topic.

### MUNICIPAL BILL RATES FOR 2025 & 2026

Unfortunately, the rise of inflation, which we are all too familiar with these days, has necessitated increases on our municipal services (water bill). The rate review committee determined that increases of 4.4% effective January 2025 and 3.9% effective January 2026 are necessary to maintain the current level of service. The TUF (transportation utility fee) on this bill was implemented to provide needed capital to maintain our deteriorating city streets. This TUF fee has not been increased for inflation for several years. Staff and council agree that the easy decision would have been to continue to let it languish, but the responsible decision is to implement a TUF increase of about \$1.00 per month (included in the percentages above) and preserve as many of our deteriorating city streets as possible.

### HOMETOWN HEROES

The city’s first Hometown Hero Award was presented to six residents who were Providentially in the right place at the right time. Working together, they saved the life of another Newberg resident. Read the full, heartwarming account at the following link.

[bit.ly/newberghometownheroapril24](https://bit.ly/newberghometownheroapril24)

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### **VIETNAM VETS FINALLY WELCOMED HOME**

Mayor Rosacker read a Welcome Home Proclamation for Viet Nam Veterans, a very belated proclamation that was well received by the approximately twenty grateful Viet Nam veterans who attended.

### **MILITARY ASSISTANCE FUND INCREASED**

The council approved an increase in the city's military assistance allotment, which is used to defray utility bills for families of active military service members. The budgeted amount was increased from \$3600 to \$6000 annually, which will allow 20 families to receive \$25 per month in assistance, an increase of 8 families.

### **REDWOOD & WHITE OAKS REMOVED IN MEMORIAL PARK**

There are several known Redwoods throughout the Willamette Valley that are thought to have been planted 70 - 80 years ago. Frequently these were planted with little regard to their proximity to roads or structures already in place. A California Redwood and two White Oak trees located on the property adjacent to Memorial park near Blaine St, were examined by an arborist along with our Public Works Maintenance team, and the difficult decision was made to fell the trees to avoid massive costs of repairing or relocating a main stormwater line.

To retain the character of Memorial Park for future generations to enjoy, city staff planted 6 trees to include Oak trees. Additionally, the city is giving away all of the lumber from the Redwood to Newberg residents to use in building fences or other projects for the benefit of the community.

### **SAFETY CAMERA**

City staff are still working on logistics with ODOT to enable the electrical cabinets required for the radar-enforced safety camera project. Before any of these cameras "go live", the City of Newberg will work to ensure that local residents know where they are located, how they are expected to enhance safety at each intersection, and when enforcement will begin.

### **INTERSECTION ILLINOIS, N MAIN, & HWY 240**

A \$60,000 study of this troublesome intersection was canceled. Rather than try to (again) determine a safer and more efficient design for that intersection, the decision was made to look at other possibilities, like

making Illinois a dead-end street at North Main. This action was taken intentionally to solve our problems locally instead of allowing ODOT to control the solution, which would most likely have resulted in a roundabout at significant cost to the city. Public outreach to the impacted neighborhood will begin in May.

### **FISCALLY CONSERVATIVE LEADERSHIP**

As other cities are adding extra fees, payroll taxes and experiencing structural budget issues, Newberg is moving in the opposite direction. The three-year budget model projects the elimination of the communications officer fee from the municipal (utility) bill in 2026; This will be possible with the early payoff of the communications tower loan. At the same time, city leadership is committed to maintaining tight fiscal controls, enabling the projection of a healthy budget despite tough economic times. Our city's leadership thinks about money differently than our neighboring cities do.

Read previous editions of the newsletter on our website! Visit [bit.ly/newbergcouncilnewsletter](https://bit.ly/newbergcouncilnewsletter) or scan the QR code below.

Lea la versión en español del boletín en nuestro sitio web o escanee el código QR a continuación.

