

CITY MANAGER
CITY OF NEWPORT, OREGON

CITY MANAGER

Salary \$150,000 - \$180,000 annually
Plus excellent benefits package



POPULATION

11,083

BUDGET

\$114 Million (FY 2023-2024)

FTE

164

CITY DEPARTMENTS

Administration
Airport
Community Development
Engineering
Finance
Fire
Human Resources
Information Systems
Library
Parks & Recreation
Police
Public Works

BENEFITS

Medical/Dental/Vision
Life/Disability Insurance
Retirement
Car/Cellphone Allowance

COMMUNITY

Small Town Feel
Regional Hub
Coastal Charm
Diverse Community
Iconic Festivals
Family Friendly

THE COMMUNITY

The City of Newport, Oregon (population 11,083), situated on Yaquina Bay, serves as the Lincoln County seat and a regional hub on the central Oregon coast. With two major highways, 101 and 20, converging in the City, it provides easy access to visitors and area residents alike. Newport is a well-loved year-round tourist destination offering a wide range of outdoor recreation opportunities, historic sites, performing arts, family activities, shopping, and culinary establishments. Commercial fishing, shipping, and marine research provide an active coastal economy.

Incorporated in 1882 and recognized as the Dungeness Crab capital of the world, Newport first established itself with a thriving fishing and natural resource-based economy. Today, Newport sustains its economy with the Oregon's largest commercial fishing fleet based on the historic Bayfront area, a vibrant tourism economy, and a growing marine research economic sector.

The community takes in pride in the City's distinct neighborhoods that showcase Newport's diverse array of natural, cultural, economic, and tourist attractions. Recognizable landmarks such as the Yaquina Bay Bridge, whose iconic architecture symbolizes progress and hope for the future, as well as the historic Yaquina Head and Yaquina Bay Lighthouses, the former of which is the tallest lighthouse in Oregon.



Agate Beach, Nye Beach, and South Beach, offer ample and varied opportunities to enjoy the beautiful coast with surfing, clamming, boating, beach walking, and visiting an eclectic array of shops and restaurants. The community celebrates its vibrant public art culture including the active Performing Arts Center. Notable marine science organizations and research centers including the Oregon Coast Aquarium, Oregon State University's Hatfield Marine Science Center, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Marine Operations Center - Pacific (NOAA MOC-P), the US Coast Guard and others are part of this community. The City's Nye Beach Neighborhood and the Bayfront each offer a variety of shops, restaurants, and lodging establishments. Host of the renowned Seafood and Wine Festival, the City holds numerous events throughout the year. Newport is a welcoming, authentic coastal community with diverse, active, environmentally, and nature-minded people who engender a sense of community and friendliness.



THE ORGANIZATION

The City of Newport employs a Council-Manager form of government with the legislative and policy-making body composed of a Mayor and six City Council members who are elected at-large. Councilors serve a term of four years and the Mayor is elected every two years. The Mayor, a voting member of the Council with no veto powers, serves as chair of the Council, preserves order, enforces council rules, and determines the order of business. The Council also elects a Council President from its members to act as Mayor if the Mayor is unable to perform duties. The City Manager is appointed by a majority of the Council, as is the City Attorney and Municipal Judge. The City Manager appoints, supervises and removes all other employees of the City.

City departments include Administration, Airport, Community Development, Engineering, Finance, Fire, Human Resources, Information Systems, Library, Parks & Recreation, Police, and Public Works. The City employs roughly 164 full-time equivalent employees, with a 2023-2024 budget of approximately \$114 million. The City participates in three collective bargaining agreements with the City of Newport Police Association the Local International Association of Fire Fighters, ALF-CIO and the Newport Employees Association which covers public works personnel.

THE POSITION

Under the direction and supervision of the City Council, the City Manager serves as the chief administrative officer of the City government and is responsible for implementing the policies enacted by the Council. The City Manager has general supervision, direction and control over all non-elective officers and public employees of the city and of the work of all city departments, other than appointive officers. The City Manager assumes full leadership and accountability for all City operations, hiring of key personnel, provides leadership and expert guidance, spearheads long-term planning efforts, and serves as the primary liaison between the policy-making and operational functions of the City.

THE IDEAL CANDIDATE

The ideal candidate possesses and has demonstrated the following attributes:

- **Experienced, approachable, and well rounded, leadership and management abilities** to cultivate an effective, visionary, and efficient organization. Skills to provide impartial and clear direction, oversee and support multidisciplinary departments, balance priority initiatives, and promote equitable practices in the organization. Management experience to ensure operational effectiveness through strategic utilization of limited

staff capacity, effective collaboration and delegation, promotion of accountability, and fostering of a shared organizational culture and common purpose. A leadership style that values and practices consistent and clear communication, teamwork, humility, professionalism, creativity, and integrity. A commitment to continuous learning and professional development opportunities as practicable. Ability to effectively and expeditiously recruit for key staff vacancies while ensuring continuity of operations. A calm, even tempered, inclusive, respectful, and empathetic personal demeanor.

- **Ability to foster effective Council relations** to support their work as a policy making body through professional, responsive, equitable, and inclusive relationship development. Skills to support the Council's navigation of challenging policy decisions through provision of impartial background information and facilitating the adoption of long-term goals and strategies. Ability to effectuate Council policy decisions through staff direction and ensuring adequate resources are available for implementation. Proactively maintain awareness and keep the Council informed of City operations and legal obligations to ensure regulatory compliance and informed decision-making. Demonstrated experience conducting productive public meetings and fostering meaningful dialogue, inclusivity, transparency, and effective time management. Commitment to maintain robust Council member onboarding processes and support is desired.
- **Articulate and consistent communication practices** to facilitate effective internal and external organizational coordination. Skills to engage and collaborate with diverse City audiences including City Council, staff, local government officials, community members and groups, nonprofits, and businesses are essential. Demonstrated emotional and cultural competency, transparency, humility, inclusion, ethics, and accessibility when communicating with all individuals or groups. A communication style that facilitates neutral, equitable, and respectful two-way dialogues on complex policy issues is essential. Communicate verbally and in writing with clarity, substance, and conciseness.
- **Strong understanding of the components and processes for implementing large, complex capital infrastructure projects**



to provide excellent management and communication. Skills to effectively manage, guide, prioritize, and lead City efforts and multi-disciplinary technical teams for tangible project outcomes are critical. Aptitude to identify and pursue creative and strategic infrastructure and facilities project funding with sensitivity to taxpayer impacts. Ability to effectively communicate infrastructure and facility needs and impacts as well as keep partners, stakeholders, and community members informed of progress is necessary. Familiarity with water, wastewater, stormwater, and facilities projects as well as sustainable energy approaches and other measures to reduce contributions to climate change is beneficial.

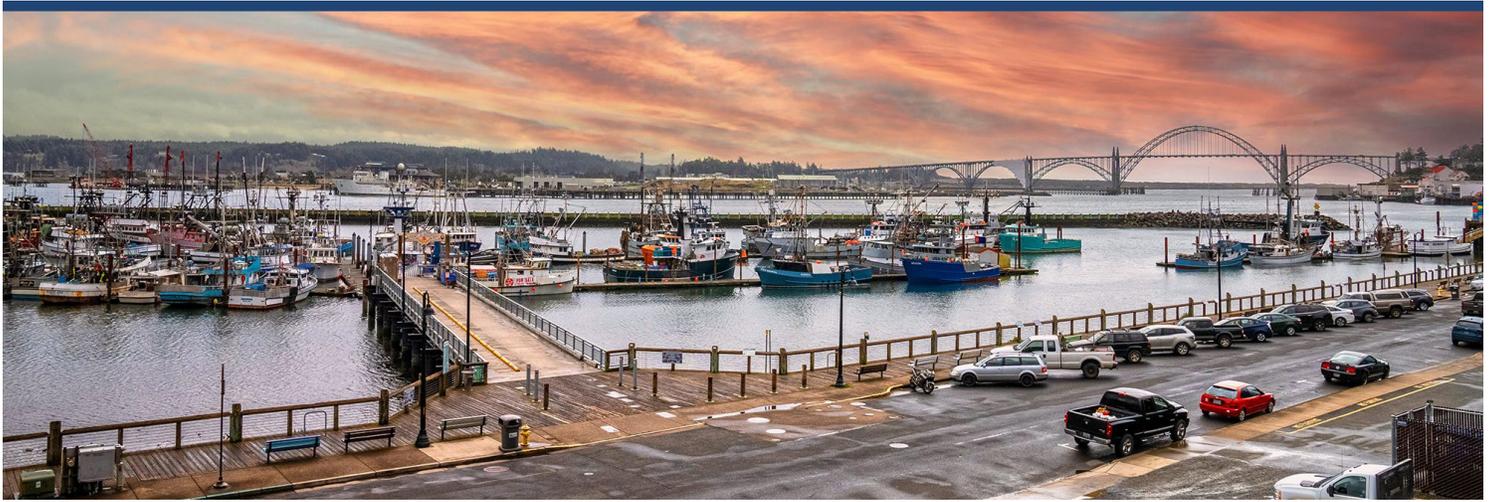
- **Demonstrated and excellent public finance proficiency** to maintain the City's high quality services, and fund major infrastructure and facilities projects, and ensure long-term sustainable resources. Municipal finance experience to support responsible management of taxpayer funds through strategic fiscal management that utilizes diverse revenue sources, balances resident and business interests, and is integrated with City Council goals and the community vision. Effective communication and engagement skills to support fiscal decision-making related to utility rates, potential taxes, bond measures, and levies is imperative. Prior knowledge or the ability to quickly learn Oregon budget law and requirements including Urban Renewal funds.
- **Excellent human resource planning and management experience** to maintain, attract, retain, and enhance an effective City workforce with fiscal responsibility.

A commitment to developing, continuing, revising, and implementing personnel policies and initiatives to promote a supportive, team-oriented, and efficient workplace environment is essential. Ability to plan for current and future workforce needs by attracting and developing talented professionals through recruitments and proactive succession planning. Union relations experience including labor negotiations is beneficial.

- **Demonstrated skills to be an effective liaison to inform and meaningfully engage the community** in important City activities and decisions. Ability to develop and implement effective approaches, including social media and online resources and that are inclusive of diverse populations, cultures, and perspectives. A commitment to practicing accessibility, professionalism, respect, and employ a respectful even-handed approach to differing views and interests. Experience and excellent communication skills to facilitate transparent, inclusive, and consensus building community dialogue around important and complex civic matters is essential. Willingness to become a visible leader that promotes and facilitates regular engagement between the City and community.
- **Knowledge to effectively manage planning, maintenance, construction, and connectivity of City streets.** Experience in street asset maintenance and enhancement, traffic and parking management, coordination of intergovernmental projects, and efforts to enhance multi-modal transportation systems is beneficial. Familiarity supporting the development of local transit options and partnerships to promote safe, income accessible, and city-wide transportation options is desired.



- **Knowledge and experience in community and economic development** to plan and implement initiatives to promote City goals, economic resilience and plan for long term economic health. Experience and skills to balance diverse interests and needs in meaningful community dialogues about development goals, placemaking initiatives, and implementing the community's vision is desirable. Knowledge to foster local industries that support career-oriented workforces. Familiarity or capacity to effectively operate within Oregon's land use laws, including coastal goals, and urban renewal management is important. A commitment to sustainable economic growth focused on development of underdeveloped assets already connected or accessible to City infrastructure is important.
- **Demonstrated experience and commitment to cultural competency,** with a working understanding of the principles and issues related to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) including racial and social equity. Dedication and experience to support the Newport City Council's commitment to cultivate awareness and practices related to DEI principles as an integral part of the City's public processes, policies, and operations. Experience building trusting relationships with underrepresented communities, increasing language and/or physical accessibility, and other inclusionary efforts for all Newport community members is important. Specific knowledge or experience working with Latiné, Ukrainian, other eastern European, indigenous Native American, and South American populations is beneficial.
- **Knowledge of current housing policies and approaches** to support affordable housing options in a tourist impacted and regionally important industrial economic base. Ability to facilitate housing development opportunities that meet City goals and can be supported by the City's infrastructure capacity is important. Skills to effectively support the City's existing camping and parking policies, County-led shelter efforts, as well as other opportunities to provide resources to address public health and safety concerns is important.
- **Ability to work collaboratively with other local or regional jurisdictions** to identify and pursue mutually beneficial projects and policy development opportunities while effectively advocating for City interests. An ability



to enhance and expand strong working relationships with the County, State, Federal, and other local governments, including those with a local presence such as the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) or the Coast Guard will be necessary.

- **Relevant knowledge or experience to coordinate emergency preparedness** with partners and plan to ensure the City is prepared to protect and aid its citizens in the event of a disaster. Familiarity with coastal emergency management planning and implementation is beneficial. An ability to proactively support local and regional emergency preparedness planning through infrastructure improvements, collaboration, and planning is important.
- **Skills to support the City's existing and future technology systems** including seeking and evaluating fiscally prudent opportunities for new technologies. An ability to coordinate potential implementation of new software, tools, and process updates smoothly with appropriate engagement and transparency, particularly until the IT Director position is filled, is important.
- **Appreciation of Newport's unique culture** with rich natural beauty, passion for public arts, and culturally diverse and vibrant Newport community. A willingness to be an active member of the community, promote Newport's well being, and help bring the Newport 2040 Vision to fruition.
- **Thorough understanding of city government roles** including the Council-Manager form of government and the proper roles of bodies and individuals within such governments. Ability to help the City Council, staff, and advisory bodies operate effectively with each other and within their legally defined roles.

POLICY DIRECTIVES

The City Manager will be expected to support, facilitate, and/or implement the following policy priorities for the City:

Big Creek Dam Replacement Project

Like other Oregon coastal communities, a majority of the City's key infrastructure was constructed with substantial Federal support in the 1950s through the 1970s. Today, the City faces a backlog of maintenance, rising demands for additional capacity, and the need to update infrastructure systems while competing for limited federal dollars and other funding sources. Currently, the City of Newport has two water reservoirs located at the Upper and Lower Big Creek Dams (constructed in the 1950s and 1970s respectively). The upper dam has been deemed high hazard and the lower dam has been classified as potentially unsafe. Both dams are not seismically sound posing a substantial risk of compromising the City's water supply not to mention immediate flooding impacts on a small number of residential homes (~20) and the City's water treatment plant.

Over the last decade, the City completed feasibility assessments and is preparing requisite financing and design work to move forward with the recommended option to a new concrete dam between the original dams. This \$100-million-dollar plus project, the City's largest-ever infrastructure project, has been allocated \$14 million from the State of Oregon to conduct design and permitting for a replacement dam and \$60 million has been authorized, but not appropriated, in federal funding to date. Additional revenues will be needed requiring additional federal and state funding and voter-approved general obligation or revenue bonds for a local match. In addition, negotiated

land acquisitions or private access easements will be needed to establish access roads.

The next City Manager will need to continue leading this complex and critical project effectively and strategically, keeping it on schedule to avoid increases in construction costs, while providing transparency and updates for the Newport community.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Replacement

With a growing population, a large seasonal influx of tourists, and a robust fishing and food processing industries, Newport needs a reliable City wastewater infrastructure. The City is completing a wastewater treatment plant master plan which recommends the treatment plant be upgraded and expanded within the next decade to meet growing demand and to avoid future discharges that could lead to Oregon Department of Environmental Quality violations and fines. With a preliminary projected construction cost of \$100 million, this project will be on par with the size and complexity of the Big Creek Dam replacement. It will be incumbent upon the next manager to possess the expertise and organization to effectively coordinate this work concurrently with the Big Creek Dam replacement. This requires supporting financing efforts to secure funding for the plant as well as regular sewer and collection system upgrades on an annual basis to avoid other major issues in the future.

Workforce Development & Workplace Culture

In recent years, the City of Newport has experienced staffing challenges related to retirements, departures to pursue new opportunities, competition with other employers, or inability of employees to find affordable housing options. These factors have resulted in a substantial number of key position vacancies which are

typically difficult to fill quickly as well as a potential loss of institutional knowledge. These positions currently include the City Engineer, Information Technology Director, Public Communications Director, and anticipated retirements of executive managers including the Fire and Police Chiefs. In response, the City has been working to develop and implement recruitment processes, succession planning, and workplace culture initiatives to promote retention of staff and sharing of institutional knowledge.

A workplace culture conditions and opportunities assessment that has been under development for several years is being completed and has and will provide prioritized recommendations for City Council's consideration. These include changes related to work schedule, employee recognition, workload management, professional development for growth and capacity planning, and opportunities to improve overall recruitment and retention outcomes. The next City Manager will need to support and ensure ongoing work to implement adopted recommendations, promote the City of Newport as an Employer of Choice, further succession planning, as well as evaluate staffing assignments and efficiencies.

Urban Renewal

Northside Urban Renewal District - City Center Revitalization Project

With Highways 101 and 20 entering the City core, Newport has limited options in downtown to reduce traffic impacts, conduct beautification initiatives, enhance walkability (sidewalks and a cross walk), and promote economic and residential development. In 2015, the City established the Northside Urban Renewal District which has funding to finance area improvement projects. A Transportation



Growth Management grant has been obtained to develop a City Center Revitalization Plan. Key concepts in the plan will include consideration of two options to upgrade Highway 101, incentivize façade improvements, establishment of a permanent farmers market location, a 20-year downtown revitalization plan, and developing additional sidewalk and active transportation amenities. This planning effort will guide a decision for City Council and ODOT on selecting one of two proposed options for Highway 101, allowing the City to collect public input and make a final decision. The planning process will occur over an 18 month period.

Encouraging residential development in the downtown core is intended to promote growth in underdeveloped areas already connected to City services allowing the City to grow more sustainably and cost-effectively. The next City Manager will be integral to developing the final plan and implementation of these urban renewal projects.

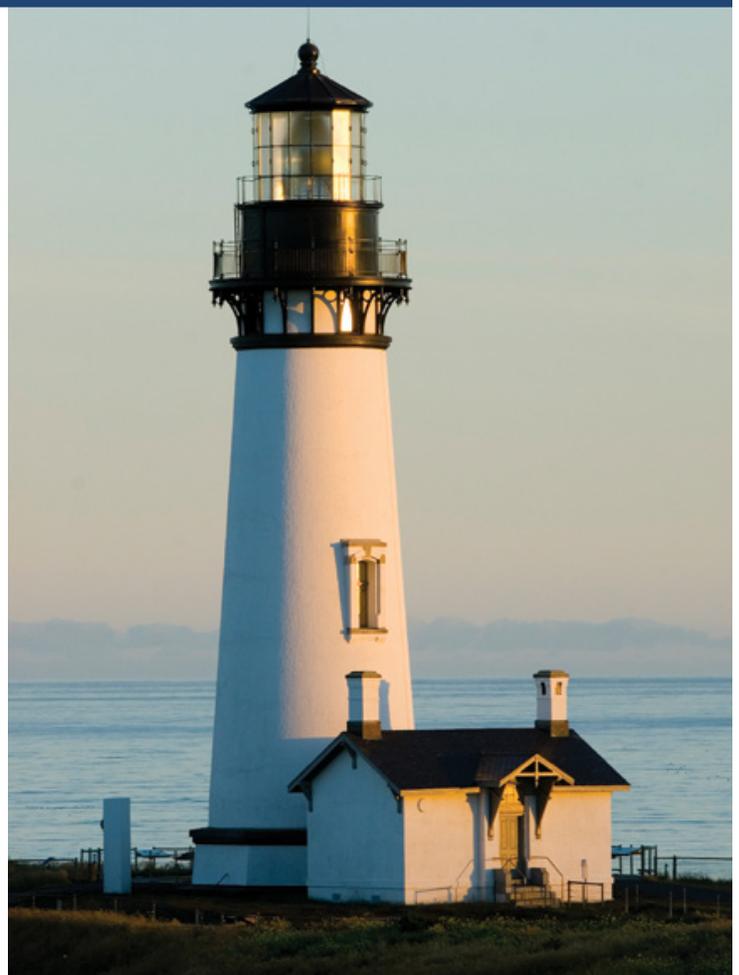
South Beach Urban Renewal District

Redevelopment efforts to be completed in the South Beach area include establishing a robust bike and walking network, enhancing South Beach placemaking through improvements to landscaping and public art, intersection improvements at SE 40th and US 101, and various infrastructure improvements. This URA is anticipated to close to new projects in December of 2025 with the capture of taxes ending in 2027. The next City Manager will be expected to effectively prioritize and implement the funds' final investments and manage the sunseting of this initiative.

EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE

A bachelor's degree in public administration, planning, political science, or related field, and at least five years of upper-level public sector management experience are required. Equivalent combination of education and experience may be considered.

An advanced degree in public administration or related field, an active member or ICMA Credentialed Manager (ICMA-CM), five or more years' experience serving as a City Manager, and 10 or more years of increasingly responsible public sector experience are preferable. Experience and/or training in public infrastructure work, public finance, and initiatives related to diversity, equity, and inclusion is highly desired. Oregon local government experience is helpful.



RECRUITMENT PROCESS

Applications Due

March 11, 2024

Semi-Finalist Online Video Interviews

Week of March 18, 2024

Finalist Interviews & Selection

April 16 - 19, 2024

Anticipated Start Date

July 8, 2024

For additional details, required application materials, and instructions on how to apply, please visit

www.jensenstrategies.com/recruitment/newportcitymanager

Questions may be directed to:

Emily Rehder, Jensen Strategies, LLC
503-477-5615 or emily@jensenstrategies.com



The City of Newport is an Equal Opportunity Employer.