

Council Minutes

April 21, 2025

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City Council was held on Monday, April 21, 2025 in the council room in the Newport Municipal Building. Present were Mayor Rick Ufford-Chase, Council President Kevin Charboneau, council members Carter Finegan, John Monette, City Clerk/Treasurer James D. Johnson, Micheal Brown, Francis Cheney, Kitty Ufford-Chase, Denis Chenette, members of the Press and Public. Council Member Touchette was absent.

Mayor Ufford-Chase called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

None

Consent Agenda

Mr. Monette moved to accept the consent agenda. Seconded by Ms. Finegan, motion carried.

Request to Name a Council Member as a Backup/Alternate for Representative Woodman Page

Kitty Ufford-Chase requested that the council name /appoint someone as alternate to the NEKCV Board. Ms. Finegan moved to actively seek a candidate to serve as backup/alternate to NEKCV Broadband Board by the first meeting in May. Seconded by Mr. Monette, motion carried.

Storm water Permit for Jackson/Stonewall Project

Mr. Monette moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the Storm Water Agreement between Tanguay Homes, Inc. and the City of Newport. Seconded by Ms. Finegan, motion carried.

DRB Request to Reduce From Nine to Seven Members

Mr. Monette moved to reduce members of the DRB from Nine to Seven. Seconded by Ms. Finegan, motion carried.

Correspondence from CanUSA 360 Arts Collaborative

Someone from the council will follow-up with CanUSA regarding the correspondence. Mr. Monette suggested a policy regarding petitions. Mayor Ufford-Chase suggested revisiting in mid-summer to talk about a policy. Ms. Finegan moved to revisit by the first meeting in August. Seconded by Mr. Monette, motion carried.

Executive Session to Approve Summer Hires for the Recreation Dept. 1 V.S.A. 313(a)(3)

Mr. Monette moved to enter executive session to approve summer staff hires and invite Rec. Dir. Mike Brown into executive session. Seconded by Ms. Finegan, motion carried.

None action.

Mr. Charboneau moved to approve two seasonal hires for the Rec. Dept. Seconded by Ms. Finegan, motion carried.

Declaration of Intent for TIF Preparation

Mr. Charboneau moved to approve the Declaration of Intent for TIF Preparation. Seconded by Mr. Monette, motion carried.

Consideration of Bicycle/PED Scoping Study Grant

Mr. Monette moved to accept the grant and authorize the mayor to sign grant STP BP 24(19). Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried.

Special Task Forces

Mr. Monette updated the council on the Water/Sewer Task Force. Next W/S Task force meeting Wednesday at 4:30, Public Hearing Sunday April 27th at 2:00 pm and a Special Meeting with the task forces Monday, April 28th at 6:00 pm

Ms. Finegan updated the council on the Financial Reporting and Fiscal Practices Task Force.

Comments by the Public

Carl King commented on being elected Commander of the American Legion Post 21

New Business

Mr. Charboneau has received positive comments on the Playground at Gardner Park

Old Business

Mayor Ufford-chase Stated that NCDD had a meeting with several state officials on Friday the 18th regarding Newport city's future.

Next Meeting Date

Ms. Finegan moved to set the next meeting for Monday, April 28, 2025 at 6:00 pm. Seconded by Mr. Monette, motion carried.

Special Meeting to consider recommendations from W/S and FRFP Task forces.

Adjournment

Ms. Finegan moved to adjourn at 7:34 pm. Seconded by Mr. Monette, motion carried.

Attested _____ This _____ Day of _____ 2025

Mayor

Newport City Development Board

To Newport City council

Agathe Coburn
Chair of DRB

The DRB would like to ask the Newport City council to consider to reduce the number of members on the Developmentt board from 9 to 7 . After losing 2 member lately and not being able to find a 9th member after a year this number would be easier to work with and easier to have quorum.

Thank you for working with us.

Sincerely yours,

 4/14/25
Agathe Coburn

Chair of Newport City DRB.



Date: March 25, 2025

Subject: Inquiry Regarding Denial of Funding Request - CanUSA Arts 360

Dear Mayor and Council,

We are writing to follow up on our recent funding request for \$1,000 to support the CanUSA Arts 360 collaborative, as outlined in our previous letter sent in December 2024. We understand that our request was denied and not put on the ballot, and we respectfully seek further clarification regarding the reasons for this decision.

As you know, over the past 15 months, a dedicated group of artists, performing artists, and artisans from both sides of the border have been working diligently to establish CanUSA Arts 360. Our vision is to cultivate a vibrant, cross-border arts community that strengthens our region's identity, supports local artists, and enhances our reputation as a unique destination for the arts.

We believe that our collaborative efforts, including co-branding under the "CanUSA Arts 360" logo and developing cross-border events, align with Newport's goals of supporting local residents and attracting visitors. We are committed to complementing existing arts initiatives in Newport, Derby, Stanstead, and the surrounding villages.

We initially sought fiscal sponsorship from Newport Downtown Development to facilitate our initial growth. Our intention is to eventually incorporate as an independent non-profit organization, enabling us to pursue grassroots fundraising and grant opportunities.

We are eager to understand the specific concerns or criteria that led to the denial of our funding request. Knowing this information will allow us to address any potential misconceptions and refine our approach as we continue to seek support from other communities in the region.

Specifically, we would appreciate feedback on:

- Any specific areas where our proposal did not meet the council's criteria to be put on the ballot.
- Suggestions for how we might strengthen our application in the future.
- Any alternative avenues of support or resources that the council might recommend.

We remain committed to our vision of creating a thriving arts community in our region and are hopeful that we can work together with the City of Newport to achieve this goal.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to your response and the opportunity to discuss this further.

Sincerely, Lynn Rublee, Coordinator

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Lynn Rublee'.

PO Box 741, Newport, VT 05855 - canusa360arts.com - info.canusa360arts@gmail.com

**DECLARATION OF OFFICIAL INTENT
OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT TO REIMBURSE
CERTAIN EXPENDITURES FROM PROCEEDS OF INDEBTEDNESS**

WHEREAS, the City of Newport, Vermont (the "Issuer") intends to construct certain public improvements including TIF District development and improvements in the City of Newport (the "Project"), with funding for these improvements to be considered by the Issuer at an annual or special meeting to be called and held for that purpose; and

WHEREAS, the Issuer expects to pay certain capital expenditures (the "Reimbursement Expenditures") in connection with the Project prior to the issuance of indebtedness for the purpose of financing costs associated with the Project on a long-term basis;

WHEREAS, the Issuer reasonably expects that for that part of the Project consisting of design, engineering, permitting, financing, legal, acquisition and construction costs, debt obligations in an amount not expected to exceed Two Hundred Sixty-Five Thousand U.S. Dollars (\$265,000) will be issued and that certain of the proceeds of such debt obligations will be used to reimburse the Reimbursement Expenditures; and

WHEREAS, the Issuer declares its reasonable official intent to reimburse prior expenditures for the above-described part of the Project with proceeds of a subsequent borrowing.

NOW THEREFORE, the Issuer declares:

Section 1. The Issuer finds and determines that the foregoing recitals are true and correct, and that all of the capital expenditures covered by this Resolution were or will be made not earlier than 60 days prior to the date of this Resolution.

Section 2. This declaration is made solely for the purposes of establishing compliance with the requirements of Section 1.150-2 of the Treasury Regulations. This declaration does not bind the Issuer to make any expenditure, incur any indebtedness, or proceed with the Project.

Section 3. The Issuer hereby declares its official intent to use proceeds of indebtedness to reimburse itself for Reimbursement Expenditures, within 18 months of either the date of the first expenditure of funds by Issuer for such Project or the date that such Project is placed in service, whichever is later (but in no event more than three years after the date of the original expenditure of Issuer funds for such Project), and to allocate an amount not to exceed Two Hundred Sixty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$265,000)

of the proceeds thereof to reimburse itself for its expenditures in connection with the Project.

Section 4. The Issuer's debt obligations for the aforementioned purpose will not be "private activity bonds" within the meaning of Section 141 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

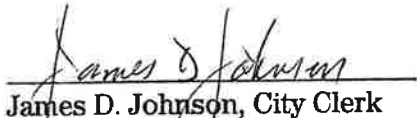
Section 5. All prior actions of the officials and agents of Issuer that are in conformity with the purpose and intent of this Resolution and in furtherance of the Project shall be and the same hereby are in all respects ratified, approved and confirmed.

Section 6. All other resolutions of the legislative body of the Issuer, or parts of resolutions, inconsistent with this Resolution are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section 7. It is hereby found that all discussions and deliberations of the legislative body of the Issuer leading to the adoption of this Resolution occurred at one or more meetings of the legislative body conducted pursuant to public notice and open to public attendance.

Section 8. This declaration shall take effect from and after its adoption.

The undersigned, City Clerk of the Issuer, hereby certifies that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the declaration of the legislative body of said Issuer duly made at a meeting thereof held on the date, specified below, and that said declaration has not been amended, modified or revoked.


James D. Johnson, City Clerk
City of Newport

April 21, 2025