

## **Special Council Meeting**

**April 30, 2025**

A duly warned special meeting of the Newport City Council was held on Wednesday, April 30, 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, Andrew Touchette, City Clerk/Treasurer James Johnson, PW Director Tom Bernier, members of the Task forces, Member of the Press and Public

Mayor Ufford-Chase called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

### **Additions/Deletions to the Agenda**

None

### **Consent Agenda**

Mr. Charboneau moved to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Mr. Monette, motion carried.

### **Special Task Forces, Recommendations for Action (attached)**

#### **1. Water and Sewer**

Mr. Monette presented recommendations from the Water/Sewer Task force that included the proposed 25-26 budget, Water rates, Sewer rates, and Labor/Equipment Fees.

Ms. Finegan moved to approve the 25-26 Water/Sewer budget as Presented on April 30, 2025 with the understanding that there is more to come during Phase Two. Seconded by Mr. Monette, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Monette moved to approve the Sewer Department schedule of rates and fees recommended by the Water Commission on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2025. Rates to be effective with the period beginning May 1, 2025. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Monette moved to approve the Water Department schedule of rates and fees recommended by the Water Commission on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2025. Rates to be effective with the period beginning May 1, 2025. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Monette moved to approve the Newport City schedule of rates and fees recommended by the Water Commissioners on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2025. Rates to be effective with the period beginning May 1, 2025. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried unanimously.

**2. Financial Reporting and Fiscal Practices (attached)**

Ms. Finegan presented recommendations from the Financial Reporting and Fiscal Practices Task Force. Including cloud mitigation services, off-site data backup, financial system consulting, long term borrowing.

Ms. Finegan moved that the City engage New England Municipal Resource Center (NEMRC) for cloud mitigation services. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Finegan moved to authorize the Mayor to engage NEMRC for off-site data backup. Seconded by Mr. Monette, motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Finegan moved to engage NEMRC for interim Financial System Consulting. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Finegan moved to prepare to warn a Special meeting for long term borrowing. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried unanimously.

**Comments by the Public**

Jennifer Hopkins commented on spending.

**Next Meeting Date**

Mr. Charboneau moved to set the next meeting for May 5, 2025. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried unanimously.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Charboneau moved to adjourn at 8:07 pm. Seconded by Ms. Finegan, motion carried unanimously.

Attested \_\_\_\_\_ This \_\_\_\_\_ Day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2025

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Mayor