

Council Minutes

June 16, 2025

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City council was held on Monday, June 16, 2025 in the council room in the Newport Municipal Building. Present were Mayor Rick Ufford-Chase, council members John Monette, Andrew Touchette, Carter Finegan, City Clerk/Treasurer James Johnson, Police Chief Travis Bingham, Rec. Director Mike Brown, Chip Stearns, members of the Press and Public. Council President Kevin Charboneau was absent.

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

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

Remove item number nine from the agenda.

Consent Agenda

Approval of minutes of June 2, 2025, AP Warrants 5/31, 6/3, 6/6/2025, Licenses, Permits, Events. The permit by Ryan Staples was pulled for further questions.

Mr. Touchette moved to accept the consent agenda excluding the application by Ryan Staples. Seconded by Ms. Finegan, motion carried.

Task Force Reports

Financial Reporting and Fiscal Practices

Chip Stearns from NEMRC reviewed the Balance Sheet and Budget Status Report, the Cash Flow Certificate and borrowing recommendations with the council.

The council discussed setting a Special City Meeting for August 12, 2025 at the July 7, 2025 council meeting for the purpose of borrowing funds. The council also discussed ways to inform the public in regards the borrowing recommendations.

Water and Sewer Report

Mr. Monette review the Water and Sewer Task Force status. The task force is looking at the cost of operation, Metering, the rate structure, and collection of delinquent accounts.

Housing Insecurity, Public Encampments, Community Safety

The first meeting will be Wednesday, June 18th at 3:30 pm.

Fire Department strategic Planning Task force.

The first meeting will be Monday, July 14th at 6:00 pm. Mr. Touchette moved to appoint members of the Task force as presented. Seconded by Mr. Monette, motion carried.

Approval of Loan for New Police Vehicle

Tabled waiting for more info. from Passumpsic Bank

Approval to Add John Aldredge to the Recreation committee.

Mr. Monette moved to appoint John Aldredge to the Recreation committee. Seconded by Ms. Finegan, motion carried.

Vote to Approve Proposed Vision and Dental Insurance Rates

Mr. Touchette moved to approve the new Dental and Vision rates as proposed by Mr. Roberge. Seconded by Mr. Monette, motion carried.

Approval to Offer to hire Part-Time Dispatcher

Mr. Touchette moved to enter executive session to offer to hire a part-time dispatcher 1 VSA 313(a)(3). Seconded by Ms. Finegan, motion carried.

No action.

Mr. Monette moved to approve the offer to hire a part-time dispatcher as presented. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried.

Public Comment

The Mayor stated that the candidate for the position of Financial and Office Administrator has withdrawn. The council is rethinking what the positions may look like.

Chris Roy invited the council to a NEK Amateur Radio Club demonstration on June 28-29th at Memphremagog Trails

New Business

None

Old Business

None

Next Meeting Date

Mr. Monette moved to set the next regular meeting date for July 7, 2025. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried.

Adjournment

Mr. Touchette moved to adjourn at 8:42 pm. Seconded by Ms. Finegan, motion carried.

Attested James Johnson This 17th Day of June 2025

[Signature] Mayor

Report from Andrew Touchette regarding the formation of the Task Force for Strategic Planning for the Fire Department: June 16, 2025

The following people have agreed to serve as members of the committee upon Council approval:

Andrew Touchette - Newport City Fire member / Council Representative

Dylan Messier - Newport Fire member (Lieutenant)

Steve Ellis - City Resident / Business owner

Robert George - Newport Fire Department (Retired Chief)

Roger Gosselin - S. Burlington Fire (Lieutenant)

Michael Curtin - City of Burlington (Chief)

We also have the following people who have agreed to resource the Task Force regarding specific topics as requested.

Andrew Carbine Newport City Fire (Asst. Chief)

Kevin Lacoss - Newport City Fire (Chief)

Doug Spates - Business owner / Multiply buildings within the City

David Laforce - Business owner / Furniture manufacturer (awaiting confirmation)

The Task Force would be strengthened by the presence of two to three additional members who are residents or business owners in the City of Newport but do not have specific background in emergency response. Interested community members are encouraged to share their interest with Council Member Andrew Touchette at Andrew.touchette@newportvermont.org.

Meeting Time and Location:

We are planning to meet the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month starting July, 14th in the council room from 6:00 - 8:00 pm

The first meeting will be an introduction and overview of the task force.