

Council minutes

October 6, 2025

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City Council was held on October 6, 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 D. Johnson, Police Chief Travis Bingham, PW Director Tom Bernier, Finance/Office Administrator Kari Schulze, David LaForce members of the Press and Public.

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

Additions/Deletions

None

Consent Agenda

Minutes 9/15/25, AP Warrants 9/17/25, 9/25/25, 9/29/25, 10/03/25, PR Warrants 9/16/25, 9/30/25

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

Review of Recommended Ordinance from Taskforce on Housing Insecurity, Public Encampments, Community Safety (attached)

The council reviewed the proposed ordinance and made some changes to Sections 3 and 4. Mr. Charboneau moved to approve the ordinance as amended. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried.

Consideration of a Short Term Loan for 2.875M for the Eastside Water Tower in Anticipation of a 25 Year Bond to be arranged in 2026 (attached)

Ms. Finegan moved to adopt the Resolution for Capital Improvement Borrowing and to approve the loan commitment, promissory note, tax certificate, and other related loan documents associated with the City's issuance of a bond anticipation note to Passumpsic Savings Bank in the amount of \$2.875 million associated with construction of the City's east side water tower project and to authorize the Mayor and Treasurer to sign any documents needed or advisable to issue the bond anticipation note. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried unanimously.

Discuss potentially going After Municipal Planning Grant for a Study on Alternative Energy and Energy Recapture

Ms. Finegan gave a presentation on a Municipal Planning Grant for Alternative Energy. Ms. Finegan moved to approve and submit the Municipal planning Grant application for alternative Energy if the way be clear. Seconded by Mr. Monette, motion carried.

Conversation about 2026/2027 Budgeting Process and Priority-Based budgeting (attached)

No action.

Consideration to hold a Special town Meeting for Informational Purposes on January 10th from 10 am to 3 pm

Ms. Finegan moved to hold a special Meeting on January 10, 2026 for budget informational purposes. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried.

Conversation Regarding Process for Charter Review (attached)

The council discussed the Charter review process and took comments from the public.

No action.

Consideration of Appropriations Policy Update (attached)

Ms. Finegan presented an updated appropriations policy.

No action.

Discussion Regarding Holding November 3rd City council Meeting at the Gateway to be Hosted by MemSec

Ms. Finegan moved to hold the November 3rd council meeting at the Gateway. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried.

Review Council's "to do" Spreadsheet (attached)

No action.

Executive session to Consider Department Heads Recommendation for Part-time Municipal Building Custodian 1 V>S.A. 313(a) (3)

Mr. Charboneau moved to enter executive session to consider department heads recommendation for part-time custodian. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried.

Ms. Finegan moved to come out of executive session. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried.

Mr. Touchette moved to take action on hiring a 10 hour per week custodian. Seconded by Mr. Monette, motion carried.

Executive Session to consider Potential New hire to fill Vacancy at the Wastewater Treatment Facility 1 V.S.A. 313 (a) (3)

Ms. Finegan moved to enter executive session to consider new hire at Wastewater Treatment Facility. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried.

Mr. Touchette moved to come out of executive session. Seconded by Mr. Monette, motion carried.

No action.

Mr. Touchette moved to allow the Director of Public Works to submit an offer to a new hire at the Wastewater Treatment Facility. Seconded by Mr. Monette, motion carried.

Task Force Reports

Ms. Finegan reported on Financial Reporting and Fiscal Practices

Mr. Charboneau reported on Housing Insecurity

Mr. Monette reported on Water and Sewer

Mr. Touchette reported on Fire Department Strategic Planning

Public Comment

Ms. Chiarello commented on housing encampments

**Executive Session to Discuss Real Estate Matters Related to the Downtown Development Master Plan
1 V.S.A. 313(a) (2)**

Mr. Monette moved to enter executive session to discuss real estate matter related to the Downtown Development Master Plan and invite Stephanie Clark David Laforce and Brian Gray into executive session. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried.

Mr. Charboneau moved to come out of executive session. Seconded by Mr. Monette, motion carried.

No action.

New Business

None

Old Business

Ms. Finegan commented on the success of the Chili Fest.

BTA meeting October 15th at 5:00 pm.

Next Meeting Date

Mr. Charboneau moved to set the next meeting for October 20, 2025. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried.

Adjournment

Mr. Monette moved to adjourn at 9:35 pm. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried.

Attested James D. Johnson this 20th day of October 2025

[Signature] Mayor