

CITY OF NEWPORT
NOTICE OF FIRST PUBLIC HEARING ON CHARTER AMENDMENT
JANUARY 5, 2026

The City Council of the City of Newport (the “City”) hereby gives notice pursuant to the requirements of 17 V.S.A. § 2645 that the first of two public hearings on proposed amendments to the City’s Charter, 24 Appx. V.S.A. Chapter 7, will be held in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, 222 Main Street, Newport, Vermont, at six o’clock in the afternoon (6:00 p.m.) on January 5, 2026, in-person and remotely by accessing the link below:

Monday, January 5, 2026 · 6:00 – 8:00pm

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/cvf-hruv-evw>

Or dial: (US) +1 513-909-4000 PIN: 627 511 108#

The proposed amendments to the City’s Charter are substantial and are too long and unwieldy to set out in amended form; however the proposed Charter amendments include:

- Clarifying the City’s governance structure as a modern Council-Manager form;
- Switching from an elected to an appointed City Clerk and Treasurer under the supervision of the City Council with any associated staff under the appointed Clerk’s and/or Treasurer’s supervision;
- Replacing listers with an appointed real estate assessor for property tax assessment;
- Creating an annual City budget adoption procedure with a five-year capital plan and modernizing budgeting and borrowing provisions;
- Switching tax payments from semi-annual to quarterly and authorizing voters to enact local option sales and/or rooms, meals, and alcohol taxes;
- Providing explicit authority and rules for certain commissions, boards, and task forces, such as the Harbor Commission, including appointments thereto; and
- Removing large portions of the former, 1917 Charter that included outdated language governing subjects that are now addressed in general Vermont municipal law or are extinct, as well as offices, positions and structures of departments like police and fire that are now controlled by statute or local ordinances.

These Charter amendments are proposed to be voted on March 3, 2026, at the City’s Annual Meeting. An official copy of the proposed Charter amendments will be posted for public viewing by December 26, 2025, in or proximate to the City Clerk’s Office in City Hall at the above-referenced address. Copies of the proposed Charter amendments will be made available at the City Clerk’s Office upon request.

Dated at Newport, Vermont, this 5th day of December, 2025.

CITY OF NEWPORT

/s/ Rick Ufford-Chase

Rick Ufford-Chase, Mayor

Received for record this 5th day of December, 2025, in the records of the City of Newport.

/s/ James Johnson, City Clerk

Posted at: City Clerk’s Office, Goodrich Memorial Library and the Post Office