

## **Council Minutes**

**January 5, 2026**

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City Council was held on Monday, January 5, 2026 in the council room in the Newport Municipal Building. Present were Mayor Rick Ufford-Chase, Council President Kevin Charboneau, council members John Monette on line, Carter Finegan, Andrew Touchette, City Clerk/Treasurer James D. Johnson, Financial and Office Administrator Kari Schulze, members of the Press and Public

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

### **Additions/Deletions**

Added a liquor licenses application from the VFW.

Deleted item #4, Environmental review: Gardner Park Sewer Siphon.

### **Consent Agenda**

Mr. Charboneau moved to approve the minutes of December 22, 2025 with an amendment to reflect the exact wording of the motion regarding the Charter Revisions per title 17 sec 2645. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried.

Mr. Charboneau moved to approve the liquor licenses application for the VFW. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried.

### **Present Copies of Draft Budget in Advance of Special Town Meeting January 10, 2026**

Mayor Ufford-Chase distributed copies of the 2026-27 draft budget to the council and members of the public in attendance.

### **Warning of County Meeting**

Mayor Ufford-Chase read aloud the County Warning.

### **Task Force Reports**

Mr. Monette, the Water and Sewer Task Force will meet on Thursday to look at the proposed S/W budget. The Water commissioners will meet on January 26, 2026 to approve the budget.

Ms. Finegan, the Financial Reporting and Fiscal Practices Task Force, will meet Tuesday morning at 8 am to finalize detail for the January 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Housing Insecurity, Public Enforcement, Community Safety. No report

Fire Department Strategic Planning, no report.

**Public Comment**

Ann Chiarello commented on errors in the Charter revision process.

Jay Walsh commented on specific changes to the charter.

**New Business**

None

**Old Business**

None

**Next Meeting Dates**

Mr. Charboneau moved to set the next meeting date for a Special Town Meeting for January 10, 2026 at 9am and a Special Council Meeting for January 13, 2026 at 6pm. Seconded by Ms. Finegan.

Discussion on the Procurement power of the council to hire a consultant in the city manager search.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Charboneau moved to adjourn at 6:40pm. Seconded by Ms. Finegan, motion carried.

Attested James Johnson this 28<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026

Phillip Mayor