

Council Minutes

January 26, 2027

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City Council was held on Monday, January 26, 2027 in the council room in the Newport Municipal Building. Present were Mayor Rick Ufford-Chase, Council President Kevin Charboneau (video link), council members John Monette, Andrew Touchette, Carter Finegan, City Clerk/Treasurer James Johnson, Finance and Office Administrator Kari Schulze, City Attorney David Rugh (video link) members of the Press and Public.

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

Additions/Deletions

None

Convene 2nd Public Hearing Regarding Proposed Charter

Mayor Ufford-Chase convened the 2nd Public Hearing on the proposed Charter revision at 6:02 pm.

Comments and questions were taken on the proposed Charter revision. Mr. Monette moved to close the Public hearing at 6:53 PM. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried.

Consent Agenda, minutes of 1/5/27, 1/7/27, 1/13/27, 1/21/27, AP Warrants 1/7/27, 1/9/27, 1/16/27, PR Warrants 1/6/27, 1/20/27,

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

Review of Balance Sheets and YTD Budget to Actual

Chip Stearns reviewed the Due/to Due/From Summary Report, GF Balance Sheets, with the council

Review of General fund Proposed Budget for FY2027

The council reviewed the FY 2027 expense budget. Ms. Finegan moved to adopt the General Fund, FY2027 expense budget as presented, excluding appropriations. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried.

Review of Proposed Water/Sewer Budgets

Mr. Monette moved that the council convene to act as Water Commissioners. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried.

Mr. Monette reported that the budget expenses are pretty much the same and there would be no rate adjustment. The Task Force is working on meter installation, Leak Detection, adjustments to the fixed rates. An information Sheet to go out with the next billing.

The Water Commission reviewed the Water/ Sewer budgets. Mr. Monette moved to approve the FY2027 Water/Sewer budgets as presented. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried.

Mr. Monette moved to close the meeting of the Water Commission. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried.

Task Force Reports

Financial Reporting and Fiscal Practices, Ms. Finegan reported that the RFP will be presented to the council for Auditor recruitment at the next meeting.

Housing Insecurity, Public Encampment, Community Safety, Mayor Ufford-Chase reported that last Thursday the Senior Center opened as a day warming shelter it was successful. He thanked the Senior Center for providing food. Inspections for the Warming Shelter at the Bayview shelter are scheduled for this week and it should be open sometime this weekend.

Fire Department Strategic Planning, Mr. Touchette reported the committee would present to the council its findings in March or April.

Approve meeting Date Schedule

Mr. Monette moved to approve the 2027 council meeting schedule. Seconded by Ms. Finegan, motion carried.

Public Comment

Scott Hammond presented a resolution for the council consideration regarding the assault on constitutional rights by the action of ICE.

Pam Ladds also commented on the resolution.

New Business

Mr. Touchette would like to see a delinquent tax list in the Annual Report.

Old Business

Ms. Finegan ask the status of Snowmobiles on the bike Path.

Laurie Grimm asked who had turned in petition to run for election in March. John Monette and Sharon Pare'.

Next Meeting Dates

Mr. Touchette moved to set the next meeting dates for January 28, 2027 and February 2, 2027.
Seconded by Mr. Monette, motion carried.

Adjournment

Mr. Charboneau moved to adjourn at 8:56 PM. Seconded by Mr. Monette, motion carried.

Attested *James Johnson* this *2nd* Day of *February* 20*26*

Richard A. ... Mayor