

## **Council Minutes**

**December 1, 2025**

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City Council was held on Monday, December 1, 2025 in the council room in the Newport Municipal Building. Present were Mayor Rick Ufford-Chase, Council President Kevin Charboneau, council members John Monette, Andrew Touchette, Carter Finegan, City Clerk/Treasurer James Johnson, Finance and Office Administrator Kari Schulze, Police Chief Travis Bingham, Public works Director Tom Bernier, Kelly Gleason, Dave LaForce, Brian Gray, Stephanie Clark, Dave Saladino, Kurt Muller, Frank Cheney.

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

### **Additions/Deletions**

Mr. Charboneau moved to add a request from Chip Stearns to establish reserve funds. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried.

### **Consent Agenda, Minutes of 11/3/25, 11/17/25, AP Warrants 11/19/25, 11/21/25, PR Warrants 11/26/25**

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

### **2025 SWIP Public Meeting and Consideration of Approval by Council**

Kelly Gleason from Casella gave a presentation on the Solid Waste Implementation Program. Mr. Charboneau moved to approve the SWIP Program and authorize the Mayor to sign the Document. Seconded by Ms. Finegan, motion carried.

### **Executive Session Per 1 V.S.A. 313(a) (2) for the Purpose of Considering a Bid for Estimating Public Infrastructure Costs Associated with 8 Potential Redevelopment Parcels in Downtown Newport.**

Mr. Monette moved to enter executive session per 1 V.S.A. 313(a) (2) and invite Dave LaForce, Brian Gray, Stephanie Clark, Kurt Muller, and Dave Saladino into executive session. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried.

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

No Action.

Ms. Finegan moved to authorize the Mayor to sign an amendment (\$15,000) to the existing contract with VHB for estimating the cost of infrastructure on main St. for the development of eight potential parcels for a total contract cost of \$38,590. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried.

### **Budget Presentations, Operations, Police and Public Works**

Zoning Administrator and Assessor Frank Cheney, City Clerk/Treasure James Johnson, Police Chief Travis Bingham and Public works Director Tom Bernier presented the first draft of their 2026-2027 proposed budgets.

### **Errors and Omissions 74 Prospect St.**

Mr. Cheney presented a request for property valuation adjustments to the as billed 2025 Grand List for Parcels #133163 and #133162. Mr. Monette moved to approve the errors and Omissions as presented. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried.

### **Discussion Regarding Draft of Proposed Charter**

The council and members of the public discussed the proposed charter at length. Many comments were heard and questions were asked.

Mr. Monette moved to refer the proposed charter to Stitzel, Page and Fletcher for review to be returned to the council by December 19, 2025. Seconded by Ms. Finegan, motion carried.

Mr. Touchette moved to warning a Public Hearing on the proposed charter as part of the Regular council meeting on January 5, 2026. Seconded by Ms. Finegan, motion carried.

### **Warning of County Meeting**

Mayor Ufford-Chase read the County Meeting Warning.

### **Task Force Reports**

Water and Sewer

No report.

Financial Reporting and Fiscal Practices

Mr. Monette moved to establish Reserve Accounts per the request from Chip Stearns. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried.

Housing Insecurity, Public Encampments and Community Safety

Next Meeting December 4, 2025 at 3pm.

Fire Department Strategic Planning

No report.

**Public Comment**

Anne Chiarello commented on the Proposed Charter.

Laurie Grimm commented on the proposed Charter.

**New Business**

None

**Old Business**

The Mayor, Ms. Finegan and Ms. Schulze will be meeting with Dominic Cloud regarding the search for a City Manager.

The Mayor noted the city is searching for a Municipal Building Custodian.

**Next Meeting Date**

Mr. Charboneau moved to set the next Meeting date for December 15, 2025. Seconded by Ms. Finegan, motion carried.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Charboneau moved to adjourn at 10:30 PM. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried.

Attested James Johnson This 5<sup>th</sup> Day of December 2025

R. Yellin Mayor