

## **Council Minutes**

**February 23, 2026**

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City Council was held on Monday, February 23, 2026 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 D. Johnson, Financial and Office Administrator Kari Schulze, Jason Salvitori and Chris Meunier from VTRANS, members of the Press and Public.

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

### **Additions/Deletions**

None

### **Consent Agenda**

**Minutes: 1/26/26, 1/28/26, 2/2/26, AP Warrants: 2/4/26, 2/9/26,2/13/26, PR Warrant: 2/3/26, Liquor License Applications**

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

### **Newport City BM25902 Proposed Maintenance Project on VT I91 at Bridge #3**

Jason Salvitori and Chris Meunier gave a presentation on the proposed maintenance project for Bridge #3 scheduled for this summer.

### **Certificate of no Appeal or Suit Pending**

Mr. Monette moved to approve and sign the Certificate of no Appeal or Suit Pending from the Vermont Department of Taxes. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried.

### **Executive Session as per 1 V.S.A. sec. 313(a)(2)**

Mr. Touchette moved to enter executive session per 1 V.S.A. sec. 313(a)(2) for the purpose of sensitive matters pertaining to property control and/or acquisition in downtown Newport and invite Brian Gray and Dave LaForce into executive session. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried.

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

No action.

### **Coin Drop for American Legion Auxiliary**

Ms. Finegan moved to approve a coin drop for the American Legion Post 21 Auxiliary on November 7, 2026. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried.

### **Task Force Reports**

**Water and Sewer:** Mr. Monette responded to the letter in the paper noting several things in the letter that were not correct.

Mr. Monette responded to comments and questions from the public in attendance.

**Financial Reporting and Fiscal Practices:** Finegan noted the next meeting on March 4, 2026, they are discussing capital Needs and cash funds oversight.

**Housing Insecurity, Public Encampments, Community Safety:** Mayor Ufford-chase noted that the Warming Shelter opened three weeks ago, they are having a hard time staffing the shelter, volunteers are needed.

**Fire Department Strategic Planning:** They are gathering data and working on a presentation to the council.

### **Public Comment**

Anne Chiarello commented on the Charter proposal.

Laurie Grimm commented on the Public Comment item on the agenda.

### **New Business**

Ms. Finegan spoke about the City Manager Search Committee .A committee is working on a Rail to Trail management plan.

Mayor Ufford-Chase noted that March 2, 2026 would be Mr. Charboneau's last council meeting after 6 years of service.

### **Old Business**

Mr. Johnson noted a BCA meeting on Tuesday at 4:45 pm.

**Next Meeting Dates**

Public Info Hearing and Council Meeting on March 2, 2026.

Special Council Meeting on March 9, 2026 regarding Vermont Bond Bank Loan.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Charboneau moved to adjourn at 8:09 pm. Seconded by Ms. Finegan, motion carried.

Attested James Johnson This 3<sup>rd</sup> Day of March 2026

R. Dyball Mayor