

Council Minutes
Including Special Budget Meeting
June 1, 2026

Mayor Ufford-Chase called the meeting to order at 5:40 pm

Additions/Deletions

None

Consent Agenda, Approval of Minutes 5/18/26, AP Warrants: 5/22/26, 5/29/26, PR Warrant: 5/26/26, Liquor Licenses, Vendor Permits

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

Town Meeting, "Newport fiscal Vision 28"

Mayor Ufford-Chase and Council President Carter Finegan presented a slide show on the current year budget status. The attendees split into groups by city departments to list what each department does. The list were posted around the Gateway attendees mark what they thought was priority using colored sticky dots. This info will be compiled and used in setting the 27-28 budget.

Consideration of Council Intention to form a Short term Task force to Propose Charter Amendments (see Mayor's Memo)

Mr. Touchette moved to begin the process of appointing a Task force to begin a charter review to be done by the end of September. Seconded by Ms. Finegan, motion carried.

Set Next Meeting Date

Ms. Finegan moved to set the next meeting for June 15, 2026. Seconded by Ms. Pare' motion carried.

Adjournment

Mr. Monette moved to adjourn at 8:17 pm. Seconded by Ms. Finegan, motion carried.

Attested James Johnson This 15th Day of June 2026

[Signature] Mayor

Memo Regarding Formation of a Short-Term Task Force re: Newport City Charter
From: Mayor Rick Ufford-Chase
To: Newport City Council Members
Date: 5/29/26

Council Members,

Having allowed for a cooling off period since the failed March vote on the proposed City Charter revisions, I recommend that the Council take action to form a short-term Task Force (eight to twelve weeks) to review the City Charter and determine whether to make a recommendation to the Council regarding potential amendments to the Charter in time to be submitted to VT Legislature in its 2027 Session.

Make-up of Proposed Task Force:

Council Member Sharon Parè has expressed her willingness to co-chair the Task Force with a community resident to be selected by the Council. I would propose the Task Force be composed of five to seven members (at Council's discretion), including Council Member Parè, with the understanding that the Mayor may also participate at his discretion as an *ex officio* member (meaning having a voice but no vote). Task Force members may include Newport residents, Newport property owners and Newport business owners.

Proposed Timeline for the Task Force's work:

6/1/26 Council opens nominations submission period; deadline of noon on June 12th.
6/15/26 Council appoints Task Force members who meet as they deem necessary subject to requirements of the Open Meeting Law.
8/17/26 Council receives initial report from Task Force and determines whether/how to move forward, and if so, what the timeline for the two required public hearings and final Council approval will be.

Proposed Scope of Work:

1. To review the current Charter and determine what items, if any, should be addressed in a process to amend or revise the Charter.
2. To determine the most effective strategy to propose revisions that will result in as much clarity in the Charter as possible.
3. To recommend appropriate language to address proposed amendments.
4. To advise the Council in addressing public concerns regarding the current and/or proposed language.
5. To recommend a schedule of open hearings and council consideration that will allow the Council to take action (if it is their will to do so) to recommend revisions for public consideration at the election to be held November 3, 2026. Those revisions would have

to be warned for a Special City Meeting no less than 30 nor more than 40 days in advance of November 3rd.

Limits of the Task Forces Authority: The Task Force has the authority only to make recommendations to the Council. Any recommendations should be accompanied by a description of whether they are unanimous or there is a split opinion among the members.