

Special Council Meeting Minutes

August 20, 2026

A duly warned Special Meeting of the Newport City Council was held on Monday, August 20, 2026 in the council room in the Newport Municipal Building. Present were Mayor Rick Ufford-Chase, Council President Carter Finegan, council members John Monette, Sharon Pare', Andrew Touchette, City Clerk/Treasurer James Johnson, City Manager Joe Gunter, Finance and Office Administrator Kari Schulze, City Attorney Dave Rugh, members of the Charter Task Force, Representatives Woody Page, Michael Marcotte and members of the Press and Public.

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

Additions/Deletions

None

Consent Agenda, Approval of Minutes of 8/17/26

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

Presentation of Recommended Charter changes from Charter Task force

The draft Charter update was presented by the Charter Task Force. Comments and questions were taken from the Public, Press and Task Force. City Attorney David Rugh was present by video to offer legal advice and suggestions. Several changes were made to the draft.

Section 12, City Clerk

- 12- J Mr. Monette moved to change may to shall. Seconded by Ms. Finegan, motion carried.
- 13- J Mr. Monette moved to change Shall to may. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried.
- 14 Mr. Monette moved to change the wording to the City council shall appoint or contract with a City assessor. Seconded by Ms. Finegan, motion carried.
- 17- a Mr. Monette moved to change (a) to the City Council shall not authorize the sale of City owned real property without voter approval, except if the conveyance is, (1) directly related to easements or rights highways, or the public water, sewer, or electric systems. (2) Unless the appraised market value is less than \$10,000.

- D Mr. Monette moved to add to (d) or unless previous approval of any annual city budget. Seconded by Ms. Finegan, motion carried.
- 20- 3 Mr. Monette moved to insert total assessed value to the grand list. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried.
- 15- b Mr. Monette moved that 15-b read, Appointment, direction, supervision and removal of the City Manager, City Clerk, and City Treasurer. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried.
- 15- c Mr. Monette moved that 15-c read The City Council shall in consultation with the City Manager approve the appointment of City department heads as well as approve the job description of each position. The City Manager shall consult with the City Council regarding termination of a department head. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried.
- 15-e Mr. Monette moved that 15-c read review and approval of the proposed Annual city budget. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried.
- 15-f Mr. Monette moved to delete the city Council shall and change serve to serving. Seconded by Ms. Finegan, motion carried.
- 15-g Mr. Monette moved to delete The City Council shall and change fix to fixing. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried.
- 15-h Mr. Monette moved to delete The City council shall and change fix to fixing. Seconded by Ms. Finegan, motion carried.
- 15-i Mr. Monette moved to delete the city Council shall have. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried.
- 15-n Mr. Monette moved to Change section N to Section M. Delete the City Council shall and add review of. Seconded by Ms. Finegan, motion carried.
- 15-m Mr. Monette moved to make M its own paragraph and leave the language as is. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried.
- 11 Mr. Touchette moved to replace Board for the abatement of taxes with Board of Abatement. Seconded by Mr. Monette, motion carried.
- 6-a Mr. Touchette moved to change language to, the election and term of all City Council members and School Trustees shall be as follows and change a-2 to a staggered year term: Seconded by Mr. Monette, motion carried.
- 6-a Mr. Monette moved to delete 6-a-3. Seconded by Mr. Touchette. Second and motion withdrawn.

Mr. Monette moved to approve the charter amendments as discuss this evening and the charter proposal put before the voters. Seconded by Ms. Finegan, motion carried.

Ms. Finegan moved to find the charter to long and unyielding and be presented in amended form. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried.

Date for Public Hearings

Ms. Finegan moved to warn the Charter Public Hearings for September 3, 2026 and September 14, 2026. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried.

Public Comment on Item not on the Agenda

None

New Business

None

Old Business

Mr. Monette moved to change the American Legion Aux coin drop to October 31, 2026 if there is not conflict with the date. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried.

Adjournment

Ms. Finegan moved to adjourn at 10:10 pm. Seconded by Mr. Monette, motion carried.

Attested _____ this _____ day of _____ 2026

Mayor