

Council Minutes

October 5, 2026

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City Council was held on Monday, October 5, 2026 in the council room in the Newport Municipal Building. Present were Mayor Rick Ufford-Chase, Council President Carter Finegan, council members Sharon Pare', John Monette, Andrew Touchette, City Manager Joe Gunter, City Clerk/Treasurer James Johnson and members of the Press and Public

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

Additions /Deletions

Mr. Monette moved to add the 9/30/26 warrant. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried.

Consent Agenda, Minutes of 9/21/26, AP Warrants 9/25/26, 9/30/26, 10/2/26, PR Warrant 10/1/26

Ms. Finegan moved to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Ms. Pare', motion carried.

Public Comment

Teresa Gerade commented on the Casella open house

Pam Ladds commented on the upcoming Gardner Park Grant Public Hearing

Laurie commented on the Charter Article being voted on in November

Pam Ladds commented on the General Election and City Charter ballots

City Manager's Report (attached)

Old Business

Ms. Pare' asked about compliance regarding vacancies on the City School Board. The City council will appoint if not filled. The council will work with the School board to fill the vacancy.

New Business

(A) Budget discussion

The consensus of the council was not to make cut but minimize the increases

(B)

Mr. Monette moved to appoint the City Manager, Title VI Coordinator. Seconded by Ms. Finegan, motion carried.

(c) Appoint Authorized Representative for the NBRC Grant

Mr. Touchette moved to remove the mayor and appoint the City Manager, Authorized Representative for the New NBRC Grant. Seconded by Ms. Pare', motion carried.

Task Force Reports

Water and Sewer, No changes waiting for the audit.

Financial Reporting and Fiscal Practices, Still having budget and audit discussions

Fire Department Strategic Planning, no update

Mayor Ufford-Chase updated the council on the Housing Task Force

Council Round Table

The council discussed things on their minds such as unruly people on the waterfront and status of the Board Walk.

Next Meeting Date

Mr. Touchette moved to set the next meeting for October 19, 2026

Adjournment

Mr. Monette moved to adjourn at 7:03pm. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried.

Attested _____ this _____ day of October 2026

Mayor

City Manager

General Update 10-05-2026

- I met with Dani and emailed the state about digitizing our ordinances. The state has a pilot project it is developing now for this. We volunteered to participate in the pilot.
- There is also a free state digitization program running now for land records. I will pass this off to the City Clerk as these are his documents to manage.
- We have received significant interest in the insurance buyout from the PD. I'm working with the PD to execute the buyout.
- Health Insurance numbers are in. We will start adding them to the FY28 budget
- The crew has been working to install water meters again.
- I sent an email to our reps about improving the state law regarding TIF. White and Burke brought this to our attention.
- Frank and the PC is working on a complete bylaw update
- We received our city ISO fire rating. We rank a 6.1 on a scale of 1 to 10. Chief said we are about the same score as last time we were evaluated
- The audit is still chugging along. We continue to send the auditor information as requested. I intend to schedule a meeting with her next week to discuss the process and our standing.