

Council Minutes

October 19, 2026

A duly warned meeting of the Newport city Council was held council room immediately after a Public Hearing on Monday, October 19, 2026. Present Were Mayor Rick Ufford-Chase, Council President Carter Finegan, council members Andrew Touchette, John Monette, Sharon Pare', City Manager Joe Gunter, City Clerk/Treasurer James Johnson, Frank Cheney, members of the Press and Public.

Mayor Ufford-Chase called meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

Additions/Deletions

Mr. Touchette moved to remove the two executive sessions, items 11 & 12 from the agenda due to language technicalities. Seconded by Mr. Monette, motion carried.

Ms. Finegan moved to add an update on the MERP Grant. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried.

Consent Agenda, Minutes of 10/5/26, AP Warrants of 10/09/26 & 110/16/26, PR Warrant of 10/15/26

Ms. Chiarello questioned the appointment of authorized representative for NBRC Grants actually means in the minutes of 10/05/26.

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

Public Comment

Ms. Chiarello commented on the confusion of the November 3, 2026 ballots, and the Wildflower Way and Lakemont Water/Sewer infrastructure agreements.

Ms. Ladds commented on the confusion between the general election state proposals and the City Charter ballot.

Ms. Gerade commented on the Science Matters presentation concerning Leachate.

Ms. Grimm commented on Rural Vermont Rising and the Charter vote.

City Managers Report

Joe Gunter talk about ADA requirement for the Cities web-site, Technology for road maintenance, Radar sign Grant, He has submitted two projects to NVDP for consideration, City budgets from Dept.

heads due Wednesday, budget status, Outdoor Recreation meeting and sorting thru invoices. The mayor and members of the public would like to receive the reports that Chip used to give to continue.

Old Business

Ms. Finegan gave an update on the MERP Grant status.

New Business

Mr. Gunter noted that since we are a combined S/W system with Derby we are required to have a Clean Water Loan Feasibility and planning study. The cost is \$19,000 with 50% funded by the state. Ms. Finegan moved to approve the SRF application. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried.

Mayor Ufford-chase commented on the community leadership discussion at the VCRD conference. Particularly the speeches by Sarah Waring regarding Paul Costello and Mr. Costello's response. A brief video of the speeches was played.

Ms. Finegan spoke about funding city projects without grants.

Task Force Reports

No updates.

Next Meeting Date

Ms. Pare' moved to set the next meeting for November 2, 2026

Adjournment

Ms. Finegan moved to adjourn at 7:38 pm. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried.

Attested _____ this _____ day of _____ 2026

_____ Mayor