Council Minutes

November 2, 2026

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City Council was held on Monday, November 2, 2026 in the council room in the Newport Municipal Building. Present were Mayor Rick Ufford-Chase, Council President Carter Finegan, Andre w Touchette, John Monette, Sharon Pare', City Manager Joe Gunter, City Clerk/Treasurer James Johnson, Dave LaForce, Members of the Press and Public.

Public Informational Hearing for Vote on November 3, 2026

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

The council discussed the November 3, 2026 Charter vote with the public.

Mr. Touchette moved to close the hearing at 6:10 pm. Seconded by Mr. Monette, motion carried.

Mayor Ufford-Chase called the Council Meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

Additions/Deletions

None

Consent Agenda, Minutes of 10/19/26, 11/23/226, AP Warrants of 10/30/26, 10/31/26, 11/02/26, PR Warrant of 10/29/26.

Mr. Touchette moved to add minutes of 10/23/26 and AP Warrant of 11/02/26 to the consent agenda. Seconded by Ms. Pare, motion carried.

Mr. Touchette moved to approve the consent agenda as amended. Seconded by Mr. Monette, motion carried

Public Comment

Ms. Ladds noted the election would be a long day for the Clerk's office.

City Mangers Report

Mr. Gunter reported on moving Water meter expense from the general fund to water fund, the proposed City budget, the coming Tax sale, VCDP grant audit, and working on a list of grants and water meters.

Old Business

None

New Business

Mr. Pronto presented the proposed Ambulance Contract. Ms. Finegan moved to approve the Ambulance contract. Seconded by MS. Pare' motion carried.

Mr. Monette moved to approve the Sewer/Water allocation for the St. Mary's project. Seconded by MS. Finegan, motion carried.

Ms. Finegan moved to appoint John Monette, water ordinance Hearing officer. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried.

Mr. Gunter reported that the check book has $3,536,511, and the city expenses are at around 30 to 40% at this point in the fiscal year.

Task Force Reports

Water/Sewer, no report

Financial Reporting and fiscal practices, working on a General journal entry policy.

Fire Dept. Strategic Planning, no report.

Council Round Table

Ms. Pare' noted that the City would be presenting Thora Sampson with an award celebrating her 103rd birthday

Executive Session per 1 VSA 313 (a)(2) Lease Agreement for Cell tower Location at the City Reservoir

Ms. Finegan moved to enter executive session and invite city Manager Joe Gunter into the session. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried.

Mr. Toouchette moved to come out of executive session. Seconded by Ms. Pare' motion carried.

No action.

Executive Session per 1 VSA 313(a)(2) for Considering Sensitive Real Estate Transactions in Down town Newport

Mr. Touchette moved to enter executive session to consider sensitive Real Estate transactions in Downtown Newport and invite City Manager Joe Gunter and Dave LaForce into the session.

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

No action

Discussion Regarding Appropriateness of Receiving Gifts of Key Downtown Properties for Development

The council and public discussed the appropriateness and implications of accepting private properties as

Opportunities, and property tax implications. Mr. Monette moved to approve in principle the possibility of receiving gifts of private property. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried.

Next Meeting Date

Ms. Pare 'moved to set the next meeting for November 16, 2026. Seconded by Mr. Monette motion carried.

Adjournment

Ms. Finegan moved to adjourn at 8:25 pm. Seconded by Mr. Monette, motion carried.

Attested _____ this _____ day of _____ 2026

_____ Mayor