

## Mayor Update – from Linda Joy Sullivan

*I agree with the residents who have said that fixation on individuals or elected officials is “creepy.” In fact, such fixation may lead to fear by the targeted person that their life is in danger by the person who is so fixated on them.*

**So Newport-** let's not play “Liar, Liar, pants on fire....” Don't rely on those who are fixated with attacking one or more persons for whatever the bizarre reason. Fixation is an unconscious process driven by the drive to cope with emotional stress. Fixation is a type of immature defense mechanism. Oftentimes the person fixated doesn't even know their target personally. The obsessor usually can only focus on proving their fixated point by constantly trying to find information that may look as though their position is credible, whether piecemeal or out of context or pushing their own interpretation—and **usually can't stop**. Fixation behavior can rise to a dangerous level. If you have a question or need clarification or want to discuss your position, contact me. I am available. Let's stop the name calling Newport. We have bigger and better opportunities to focus on. Let's work together and keep our beautiful and amazing City moving forward!

***Let's focus on the safety of our citizens, the great work your elected officials are doing on the council, and just some of what has been accomplished during the transitional phases (much more still going through processes and to be announced at future council meetings):***

1. NEKIA – the bid for the infrastructure and building of the new terminal is anticipated to be in June of 2024. This is great news. Expect a new terminal building.
2. The NEKIA Aviation Task Force is gearing up and working with stakeholders to share important ideas with the State
3. Community Policing Forum – a great start as the initial forum and what a stellar panel of professionals and great questions from the community — Thank you Senator Russ Ingalls
4. Community Policing Forum follow up and Mental Health Forum being planned
5. Grant money awarded – we have salvaged monies almost lost and have received new funding for the redevelopment of Newport
6. New City Manager – the contract is signed
7. Policies and procedures being put in place – conflicts of interest, record retention, personnel policies and more
8. Reviewing the water and sewer and water meter – deep dive and meetings have taken place and discussions to continue at the Council Meetings
9. The City's mapping updates are being addressed
10. Review of existing grants being addressed
11. Review of the city's line of credit
12. Interviewing of candidates for fire chief – with the Interim Fire Chief and the Police Chief joining the Council in interviews and then being joined as the interview process begins by the fire dept members selected by the Interim Fire Chief
13. Reviews of the City's bidding process and many other much needed updates to policies and contracts
14. The City is continuing its review of the historic email and document deletions as it continues to respond to PRA requests
15. The City is incorporating more safety trainings in the Dept of Public Works
16. The City will be incorporating new trainings after Election Day for the Council and the City Manager and Staff and Dept Heads
17. There will be a date for a community forum announced shortly to discuss Newport's development needs and conversations around the properties in Newport and TIF district processes and those conversations around the “hole” — that date is anticipated to be in April 2024

18. Bonding of City employees and officials are being reviewed and will be put in place in accordance with the Charter; the Mayor and two council members (at no expense to them) are already incorporated in the Bond required to be effective March 2024. (The other council members in office will also be afforded the opportunity to be covered under that bond at no expense; if they choose another avenue for bonding, they will be reimbursed for that legitimate business expense.)
19. The budget was presented for several meetings with opportunities for questions from the public; and it was voted on by the Council
20. The Water and Sewer budget was presented with opportunities for questions from the public; and it was voted on by the Council
21. The Governor has appointed the Mayor and the City Manager to important councils and commissions giving Newport a voice at the table in Vermont
22. The Mayor's hours on Mondays and Wednesdays at City Hall from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM have been well attended and are a great opportunity to have issues addressed and further discussed at council meetings with plans for response and/or resolution if appropriate by the Council—**SO, IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION OR HAVE HEARD SOMETHING THAT YOU NEED CLARIFIED – JUST ASK — I'm here and I am listening; Remember, this is the forum to ask your questions or contact me directly. Council meetings public comment is just that – we listen to your comments (comments focused on city business will be reviewed and addressed as appropriate.) The council meetings are for conducting council business.**
23. The Mayor has “from the Desk of the Mayor” updates every other Tuesdays on NEKTV

All of these topics are being discussed with the council members and for those items not yet on the agenda, the Council will see them on the upcoming agendas. There is a lot being attended to. We are trying to place the items on the Agenda so that the Council members can have enough time to discuss the items and make decisions.

Your Mayor and Council and Comptroller, City Leaders and other Elected Officials are working diligently for Newport. Let's stay focused on the tasks and moving Newport forward economically and as a united community. **Let's make Newport that GO TO CITY!**

Very important—**Get out and vote:** The community has an amazing group of Newport citizens who are stepping up to the plate to run for the two council seats up for grabs. Let's give a round of applause to (listed alphabetically): Kevin Charbaneau; Laurie Grimm; Carl King; Andrew Touchette; and Rick Ufford-Chase

Thank you all for running. I look forward to working with those who secure the seats. Thank you for your confidence – **Your Mayor, Linda Joy Sullivan.** [Mayor.sullivan@newportvermont.org](mailto:Mayor.sullivan@newportvermont.org)