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CITY OF NEWPORT
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 20, 2018

19 The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session Tuesday, February
20 20, 2018 in the chambers of the Municipal Courtroom.

21 Mayor Stewart called the meeting to order. City Clerk/Treasurer Hembrey called the roll.
22 Council members present were Michael Allen, Carol Falwell, Kathy Green, Regina Lake,
23 Leroy Mansko, Andy May, Julie Moss and Neal Pankey. City Attorney Rob Ratton was
24 present.

25 Following the invocation by Andy May, those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

26 A motion by Allen and second by Moss to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2018
27 meeting carried (8/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Falwell, Green, Lake, Mansko, May, Moss
28 and Pankey.

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REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

39 Mayor Stewart had the following reports:

- 40 • The floodgates and flood pumps have been checked in preparation for the weather forecast of
41 up to 9 inches of rain. The safe room has been opened on Pecan Street.
- 42 • Recently, a police car was totaled, a commercial garbage truck burned and a dump truck fell
43 off of a lowboy trailer. Insurance will pay approximately \$6,125 for the police car and
44 approximately \$47,350 for the commercial garbage truck. Mayor Stewart stated he had
45 located a used 2010 commercial garbage truck for \$49,900. Photos of the truck were given to
46 the Council. A motion by Pankey and second by Allen to purchase the 2010 Volvo VHD 20
47 yd. Pack Mac carried (8/0) with “yes” votes by May, Moss, Green, Pankey, Lake, Falwell,
48 Mansko and Allen.
- 49 • Art Show will be held this weekend-February 24, 2018.
- ACA §14-59-116 requires each municipality publish annually a financial statement of
the prior year revenues and expenses by April 1st. A copy of the 2017 Financial
Statement should be published in the Newport Independent on February 22, 2018. A
copy of the statement was given to each Council Member.
- Attorney General Leslie Rutledge will be at the Jackson County Cooperative
Extension Office from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on March 1, 2018 to discuss the
prescription take back program.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Discussion: Suddenlink Communications and Channel KAIT8

Mayor Stewart stated he had met with Mike Ederington, Director of Operations for
Suddenlink for approximately two hours discussing the importance of KAIT8 to the citizens
of Newport and surrounding areas. Mr. Ederington stated that Suddenlink Communications
and Channel KAIT8 were still in negotiations. The official letter from Suddenlink given to
Mayor Stewart now reads “there is a possibility” rather than they will no longer carry KAIT-
ABC effective February 27, 2018. Mr. Ederington will also meet with Mayor Rick
Elumbaugh of Batesville, Jimmy Clark of Heber Springs and David Morris of Searcy.

50 Mayor Stewart also spoke to KAIT Manager Chris Conroy and discussed the importance of
51 KAIT to the citizens of Newport especially during stormy weather. Mr. Ederington and Mr.
52 Conroy stated as soon as a decision was final they would contact him.

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54 **Resolution: Recognizing the Opioid Epidemic and to Engage in Litigation as a Member**
55 **of the Municipal Legal Defense Program Against Those Entities and People**
56 **Responsible for this Societal Crisis**

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58 Mayor Stewart recognized City Attorney Ratton. Ratton stated the litigation is basically a
59 lawsuit against pharmaceutical companies for misleading and deceptive marketing practices
60 on behalf of local governments within Arkansas. Council Member Allen stated he believed it
61 was an individual's responsibility to be informed. After discussion, City Attorney Ratton
62 read the Resolution in its entirety. A motion by May and second by Lake carried (7/1) with
63 "yes" votes by Lake, Moss, Falwell, Pankey, May, Mansko and Green and a "no" vote by
64 Allen.

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66 **NEW BUSINESS:**

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68 **Bid Consideration: Two (2) 2018 Police Cars**

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70 Mayor Stewart presented proof of publication in the Arkansas Democrat Gazette and a
71 handwritten tabulation for two 2018 police cars. Bids were opened on February 9, 2018.
72 Three bids were received: Harris Ford, Newport \$25,108.00 each, Mark McLarty Ford,
73 Little Rock \$25,180.00 each and Lonnie Cobb Ford, LLC – Henderson, TN \$ 28,608.65
74 each. A motion by Allen and second by Falwell to accept the lowest bid from Harris Ford,
75 Newport at \$25,108.00 each for two 2018 police cars carried (8/0) with "yes" votes by Lake,
76 Green, Allen, Mansko, May, Falwell, Moss and Pankey.

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78 **Resolution: 2017 Amended Budget**

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80 Mayor Stewart presented the 2017 Amended Budget for General, 911, Street, Sewer and
81 other funds. City Attorney Ratton read the Resolution in its entirety. After discussion, a
82 motion made by Moss and second by Lake to adopt the 2017 Amended Budget for General,
83 911, Street, Sewer and other funds carried (8/0) with "yes" votes by Green, Allen, May,
84 Falwell, Pankey, Mansko, Lake and Moss.

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86 With no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

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88 PASSED AND APPROVED THE 5TH DAY OF MARCH, 2018

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MAYOR

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ATTEST:

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CITY CLERK