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CITY OF NEWPORT
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
MAY 6, 2019

19 The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session Monday, May 6,
20 2019 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, and Julie Moss. City Attorney Rob Ratton was present. Council Members
24 Andy May and Neal Pankey were absent.

25 Following the invocation by Leroy Mansko those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

26 A motion by Lake and second by Falwell to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2019
27 meeting carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Falwell, Green, Lake, and Mayor Stewart.
28 Mansko and Moss abstained due to being absent on April 15, 2019.

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REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

51 Mayor Stewart had the following reports:

- 52 • The March 2019 Financial Statements for the Airport were given to each Council Member. Mayor Stewart asked that each Council Member review the financial statements and direct any questions to City Clerk/Treasurer Hembrey or to him.
- Sales Taxes received in April, 2019 were City Sales Taxes - \$108,500, County Sales Taxes - \$68,733 and NEDC Sales Taxes - \$54,250.
- White River Planning and Development reported to Mayor Stewart that Newport is now eligible for grants for low to moderate income communities. These grants will be available for 3 years for street paving up to \$300,000, purchase of fire truck - \$75,000, sewer grants and other grants.
- The City owns approximately 60 lots around town. These lots are maintained by the City. Latasha Robinson has inquired about 5 lots on the corner of Arrington and Carpenter Court to build a home.
- Council Member Allen reported that Ronnie Delcase had come to him asking about a flashing red light at the intersection of Walker Road and State Street. This intersection has had several accidents where vehicles run the stop sign and crashed into the wall surrounding the house. Mayor Stewart will ask the Arkansas Department of Transportation about installing a flashing red light.
- Mayor Stewart is scheduled for a meeting with the Arkansas Department of Transportation on the Stegall Road project.
- NEDC Executive Director Jon Chadwell stated that the Cooperative Extension Service had sent him a notice stating the average yearly earnings per working individual who works in Jackson County is \$58,000 and is the 4th highest in the state of Arkansas. Chadwell stated while we are rated 4th highest in average earnings per working individual we have a large population of nonworking individuals in our county. Some of the nonworking individuals in Jackson County do not have the skills needed for the jobs available. Also Jackson County is 54% women and only 30% of those women are in the workforce. The project between ASUN and Unity Health for a nursing program should improve the skills needed for better employment opportunities.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS: - NONE

53 **NEW BUSINESS:**

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55 **Reappointments to Levee Commission**

- 56 • Drew Haigwood (Term Exp. 5/1/21)
57 • Jesse Davis (Term Exp. 5/1/22)
58 • Jimmy Simpson (Term Exp. 5/1/23)
59 • Jeff Rutledge (Term Exp. 5/1/24)
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61 A motion by Green and second by Lake to reappoint Drew Haigwood to the Newport Levee District
62 Commission with a term ending May 1, 2021 carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Mansko, Falwell,
63 Green, Lake, Moss and Allen.

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65 A motion by Allen and second by Falwell to reappoint Jesse Davis to the Newport Levee District
66 Commission with a term ending May 1, 2022 carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Mansko, Lake,
67 Green, Moss and Falwell.

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69 A motion by Lake and second by Moss to reappoint Jimmy Simpson to the Newport Levee District
70 Commission with a term ending May 1, 2023 carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Green, Moss, Lake,
71 Falwell, Allen and Mansko.

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73 A motion by Falwell and second by Green to reappoint Jeff Rutledge to the Newport Levee District
74 Commission with a term ending May 1, 2024 carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Moss, Green, Allen,
75 Falwell, Lake and Mansko.

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77 **Ordinance Waiving Competitive Bidding and Authorizing a Contract with Carl**
78 **Baldwin Construction Co., Inc. (Sewer Department)**

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80 Mayor Stewart introduced NEDC Executive Director Jon Chadwell. Chadwell stated the sewer main
81 was needed for the construction of the Natural State Wellness Enterprises, LLC Marijuana Plant.
82 This will also supply the 76 acres near the site for future industry. City Attorney Ratton read the
83 Ordinance in its entirety.

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85 A motion by Allen and second by Moss to suspend the rules and forego the 2nd and 3rd
86 readings of the Ordinance carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Falwell, Green, Moss, Allen,
87 Mansko and Lake.

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89 A motion by Allen and second by Mansko to adopt the Ordinance carried (6/0) with “yes”
90 votes by Green, Allen, Falwell, Mansko, Moss and Lake.

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92 A motion by Allen and second by Mansko to approve the emergency clause carried (6/0)
93 with “yes” votes by Moss, Allen, Mansko, Falwell, Green and Lake.

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

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97 PASSED AND APPROVED THE 20TH DAY OF MAY, 2019

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MAYOR

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ATTEST:

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CITY CLERK