

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12

**CITY OF NEWPORT
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
OCTOBER 7, 2019**

13 The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session Monday, October 7, 2019 in the chambers of the Municipal Courtroom.

14 Mayor Stewart called the meeting to order. City Clerk/Treasurer Hembrey called the roll. Council members present were Michael Allen, Carol Falwell, Regina Lake, Julie Moss and Neal Pankey. City Attorney Rob Ratton was present. Council Members Green, Mansko, and May were absent.

15 Following the invocation by Neal Pankey, those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

16 A motion by Lake and second by Falwell to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2019 meeting carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Falwell, Lake, Moss and Pankey.

17
18 **REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**

19 Mayor Stewart had the following reports:

- 20 • The August 2019 Financial Statements for the General Fund, Street Fund, 911 Fund, Sewer Fund and the Newport Airport Commission 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.
- 21 • Lockwood Park is receiving a new pavilion courtesy of the Rotary Club.
- 22 • The Rural Services Block Grant (Fire Truck) of \$75,000 that the City applied for was denied. The Arkansas Economic Development Commission has encouraged the City to apply in March of 2020 for a \$200,000 grant toward the purchase of a fire truck.
- 23 • Sales Taxes received in September 2019 were City Sales Taxes - \$112,940, County Sales Taxes - \$72,922 and NEDC Sales Taxes - \$56,470.
- 24 • The Rempel Park Association Board and Tim Watson, Sr. wrote a letter to the City Council expressing their gratitude for the work in Rempel Park by the City.
- 25 • Kelly Comer, Director of Policy and Corporate Relations at Arkansas Advanced Energy Association, gave an informative overview of a solar project with Farmer’s Electric, Today’s Power and Jackson County. Ms. Comer requested that the City support a PILOT (Payments in Lieu of Taxes) agreement which would make the project more affordable. A motion by Pankey and second by Lake to authorize the Mayor to sign a letter for the City supporting the PILOT agreement carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by Moss, Lake, Pankey, Falwell and Allen.

26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

40
41 **COMPLETE AFFIDAVIT TO DESTROY COURT RECORDS**

42 A motion by Allen and second by Falwell to approve the affidavit to destroy the court records listed carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by Moss, Allen, Lake, Pankey and Falwell.

43
44
45 **NEW BUSINESS:**

46
47 **DISCUSS PROJECT, N.E.D.C. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JON CHADWELL TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

48 Mayor Stewart recognized Jon Chadwell, Executive Director of the N.E.D.C. Chadwell gave an informative overview of designating the downtown park area as an “entertainment district”. An “entertainment district” would allow open containers within certain boundaries

49
50
51

52 during a certain number of hours. In order to have an entertainment district, the County must
53 be a “wet” County, the City must be a 1st Class City and the City must have an Advertising
54 and Promotion Tax. Newport meets all the requirements except the advertising and
55 promotion tax. This tax is placed on prepared foods and hotel/motel establishments. A 1%
56 tax on prepared foods and 3% on hotel/motel establishments is forecast to create
57 approximately \$150,000 per year. These funds would be managed by a Board of 7 people
58 with 4 members being from the food and hotel/motel establishments, 2 members being
59 elected officials of Newport and 1 member being at large. The Board has control of the funds
60 and the rules state the funds can only be used on things that benefit tourism in the County.
61 After discussion, the Council agreed to continue the process.

62

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

64

65 PASSED AND APPROVED THE 21ST DAY OF OCTOBER, 2019

66

67

68

MAYOR

69

ATTEST:

70

71

72

CITY CLERK