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**CITY OF NEWPORT**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL**  
**JANUARY 6, 2020**

The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session Monday, January 6, 2020 in the chambers of the Municipal Courtroom.

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

Following the invocation by Regina Lake, those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion by Allen and second by Falwell to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2019 meeting carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Falwell, Green, Lake, May, Moss and Pankey.

**REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**

Mayor Stewart had the following reports:

- The November 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.
- Newport New Vision Class will be at City Hall on Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m. Mayor Stewart requested any Council Member that is available to attend.
- Mayor Stewart stated he had a verbal resignation of City Attorney Ratton to take the appointment of Judge for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District. The resignation was effective January 3, 2020. A motion by Falwell and second by Moss to accept the resignation of Rob Ratton as City Attorney carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by May, Green, Pankey, Moss, Lake, Falwell and Allen.
- Mayor Stewart stated he had been appointed by Governor Hutchinson, along with 15 other mayors, to the Census Complete Count Committee. Mayor Stewart will be responsible for Jackson, White, Independence and Cleburne Counties. Mayor Stewart will form subcommittees in each County. This project is very important and will be time consuming.
- The next Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 due to the holiday.
- Sales Taxes received in December 2019 were City Sales Taxes - \$127,456, County Sales Taxes - \$70,268 and NEDC Sales Taxes - \$63,728.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS: - NONE**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Organization of City Council ACA §14-43-501**

Mayor Stewart stated that ACA 14-43-501 requires that the Council assemble and organize the governing body annually in January. Mayor Stewart asked if the Council had any changes to the current organization of the Council. After discussion, a motion by Moss and second by Falwell to keep the current organization and add a time limit of 5 minutes for an individual to speak when they are not scheduled on the agenda carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Lake, May, Moss, Falwell, Pankey, Allen and Green.

51 **Resolution: Application to Arkansas Economic Development Commission for Grant**  
52 **(Fire Truck)**

53 Mayor Stewart stated the City had been denied the Rural Services Block Grant for a fire truck in  
54 2019. The Arkansas Economic Development Commission Community Development Grant is for  
55 \$250,000 and if awarded would be used with the Act 833 monies to purchase a fire truck. Mayor  
56 Stewart read the Resolution in its entirety. A motion by Lake and second by Falwell to authorize the  
57 Mayor to submit an application to the State of Arkansas, for grant funds, under the Community  
58 Development provisions of the Arkansas Community and Economic Development Program, and to  
59 expend funds to accomplish such community development activities, if the grant is awarded carried  
60 (7/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Green, Moss, Lake, Pankey, Falwell and May.  
61

62 **Ordinance: For the Approval of a Private Club Permit for Candlelite Steakhouse, Inc.,**  
63 **d/b/a The Old Gas Station Bar & Grill**

64 Mayor Stewart stated per the provisions of Act 1112 of 2017 the City Council is required to  
65 approve the application for a proposed private club before it is submitted to the Arkansas  
66 Alcoholic Beverage Control Division. Terry Hill is requesting to open a private club to be  
67 known as “The Old Gas Station Bar & Grill” at 121 Hazel Street subject to the approval of  
68 the State of Arkansas Alcoholic Beverage Control Division. Mayor Stewart read the 1<sup>st</sup>  
69 reading of the Ordinance in its entirety.  
70

71 **Consider Appointment to Fill Unexpired Term of City Attorney Rob Ratton with Term**  
72 **Expiring 12/31/22 (Executive Session)**

73 A motion by Falwell and second by Allen to go into executive session to discuss the  
74 unexpired term of the City Attorney and to allow City Clerk/Treasurer Hembrey to be in the  
75 executive session for any financial questions carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Moss, Pankey,  
76 Green, May, Lake, Allen and Falwell.  
77

78 A motion by Pankey and second by Falwell to return to regular session carried (7/0) with  
79 “yes” votes by Moss, Pankey, Green, May, Lake, Allen and Falwell.  
80

81 After discussion, a motion by Falwell and second by Green to appoint John Pettie to be the  
82 Newport City Attorney effective 1/7/2020 carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Pankey, Moss,  
83 Green, Allen, May, Falwell and Lake.  
84

85 **Good of the City**

86 Council Member Pankey asked if the leaf vacuum had been repaired. Mayor Stewart stated it  
87 was back in service as of today.  
88

89 With no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.  
90

91 PASSED AND APPROVED THE 21<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF JANUARY, 2020  
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94 \_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

95 ATTEST:  
96  
97 \_\_\_\_\_  
98 CITY CLERK