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**CITY OF NEWPORT
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
JANUARY 21, 2020**

13 The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session Tuesday, January
14 21, 2020 in the chambers of the Municipal Courtroom.

15 Mayor Stewart called the meeting to order. City Clerk/Treasurer Hembrey called the roll.
16 Council members present were Michael Allen, Regina Lake, Andy May, Julie Moss and Neal
17 Pankey. City Attorney John Pettie was present. Council Members Carol Falwell, Kathy
18 Green and Leroy Mansko were absent.

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

20 A motion by Allen and second by Lake to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2020
21 meeting carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Lake, May, Moss and Pankey.

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REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

31 Mayor Stewart had the following reports:

- 32 • The December 2019 Financial Statements for the General Fund, Street Fund, 911 Fund and
33 Sewer Fund were given to each Council Member. Mayor Stewart asked that each Council
34 Member review the financial statements and direct any questions to City Clerk/Treasurer
35 Hembrey or to him.
- 36 • The new pavilion at Lockwood Park was donated to the City by the Rotary Club of Newport.
37 Mayor Stewart presented a thank you letter sent to the Rotary Club for their donation.
- 38 • The Mayor’s office will have applications for part-time Census takers in his office this week
39 for anyone interested in applying. Eight to twelve positions will be needed. The Census
40 takers will work approximately 29 hours per week.

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**UNFINISHED BUSINESS: - Ordinance: For the Approval of a Private
Club Permit for Candlelite Steakhouse, Inc., D/B/A The Old Gas Station
Bar & Grill**

Mayor Stewart asked if anyone from the public would like to comment on the Ordinance; no
one responded. A motion by Pankey and second by Allen to suspend the rules in their
entirety and forego the 2nd and 3rd reading carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Pankey, Moss,
May, Lake, Allen and Mayor Stewart.

A motion by Allen and second by Moss to accept the Ordinance approving the application
for a private club permit to be submitted to the Arkansas Alcoholic Beverage Control
Division carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Moss, Lake, Pankey and May.

NEW BUSINESS:

Bid Consideration: New Pickup Truck for Wastewater Treatment Plant

Mayor Stewart presented proof of publication in The Independent and a handwritten bid
tabulation for the purchase of a ½ ton pickup truck. Bid was opened on January 14th at 10
a.m. One bid was received: George Kell Motors, Inc. - \$20,985.70. A motion by Moss and

51 second by Lake to accept the bid of George Kell Motors, Inc. of Newport in the amount of
52 \$20,985.70 carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, May, Pankey, Moss and Lake.

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54 **First Reading of Advertising and Promotion Tax**

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56 Mayor Stewart stated the Ordinance would be read by City Attorney Pettie, Mayor Stewart
57 would present letters he received in favor of the Ordinance and then the floor would be
58 opened for anyone to speak to the Council concerning the Ordinance with a time limited of 5
59 minutes per person. City Attorney Pettie read the Ordinance in its entirety. Mayor Stewart
60 presented letters from the Newport Area Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Revitalization
61 and Improvement Volunteer Effort and the Newport Economic Development Commission in
62 favor of the Ordinance. Council Member Allen stated he thought the public should vote on
63 the Advertising and Promotion Tax. Mayor Stewart stated that the Advertising and
64 Promotion Commission Act states that the governing body may levy this tax by Ordinance.
65 Mayor Stewart asked if anyone from the public would like to speak. Jon Chadwell,
66 Executive Director of the Newport Economic Development Commission, and Dr. Patti
67 Mullins of the Christmas Committee spoke in full support of the Advertising and Promotion
68 Tax. Mayor Stewart stated he supports the Ordinance and if passed, would like to see some
69 of those funds used to promote tourism through youth activities at George Kell Park.

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71 Mayor Stewart stated the Advertising and Promotion Tax Ordinance will be placed on the
72 agenda for the next Council Meeting.

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

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76 PASSED AND APPROVED THE 3RD DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2020

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MAYOR

80 ATTEST:

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CITY CLERK