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**CITY OF NEWPORT**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL**  
**FEBRUARY 3, 2020**

13 The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session Monday, February 3, 2020 in the chambers of the Municipal Courtroom.

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

16 Following the invocation by Carol Falwell, those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

17 A motion by Allen and second by Moss to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2020 meeting carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, May, Moss, Pankey and Mayor Stewart. Falwell, Green and Mansko abstained due to being absent on January 21, 2020.

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19 **REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**

20 Mayor Stewart had the following reports:

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- 23 • Mayor Stewart read a letter from Suddenlink advising the Council of an increase of the rates for their commercial customers only.
  - 24 • Cobblestone Inn would like to invite the Community to their groundbreaking event on February 14, 2020 at 11 a.m. at the Cobblestone Inn site next to Harris Ford.
  - 25 • The December 2019 Financial Statements for 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.
  - 26 • ACA §14-59-116 requires each municipality publish annually a financial statement of the prior year’s revenues and expenses by April 1<sup>st</sup>. A copy of the financial statement was given to each Council Member. A copy of the 2019 Financial Statement should be published in The Independent on February 6, 2020.
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34 **NEW BUSINESS: Cherry Johnson to Address Council for Newport City Beautiful Commission Report**

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37 Mayor Stewart recognized Newport City Beautiful Commission President Cherry Johnson. Johnson gave an informative report of the 2019 accomplishments of the Commission since it was reestablished on August 5, 2019. Johnson gave an informative overview of what the Committee would like to do in the future.

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42 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS: - Second Reading of Advertising and Promotion Tax**

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45 Mayor Stewart asked City Attorney Pettie to read the second reading of the Advertising and Promotion Tax Ordinance. City Attorney Pettie read it in its entirety. Mayor Stewart recognized, one at a time, Jon Chadwell, Dr. Patti Mullins, Mike Turner and Brad Kieffner. Each spoke in support of the tax and gave reasons the tax would benefit the City of Newport. Mayor Stewart asked if anyone else would like to speak against or in favor of the tax. Mayor Stewart recognized Mrs. Jones who stated that while she is not against the tax she is against

51 an entertainment district which would allow open alcohol containers in downtown. Mayor  
52 Stewart stated although an Advertising and Promotion Tax is required to have an  
53 Entertainment District, the matter of an Entertainment District is a separate matter which  
54 would require a different Ordinance. Mayor Stewart recognized Mr. Rutledge who stated he  
55 had just learned of the new proposed tax and was concerned that the issue would be decided  
56 tonight. Mayor Stewart stated the third and final reading would be at the next Council  
57 Meeting on February 18, 2020. Council Member Allen had questions concerning items such  
58 as would the permits have a fee, what are the guidelines for receiving permits, vacancies on  
59 the Commission and day to day accounting of the tax. City Attorney Pettie and Mayor  
60 Stewart stated the Commission would be responsible for the rules and regulation plus the  
61 administration of the Advertising and Promotion Tax.

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

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65 PASSED AND APPROVED THE 18<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2020

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MAYOR

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ATTEST:

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CITY CLERK