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CITY OF NEWPORT
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 2, 2020

13 The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session Monday, March 2,
14 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, Carol Falwell, Kathy Green, Regina Lake,
17 Leroy Mansko, Andy May and Neal Pankey. City Attorney John Pettie was present. Council
18 Member Julie Moss was absent.

19 Following the invocation by Andy May, those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

20 A motion by May and second by Falwell to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2020
21 meeting carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Falwell, Green, Lake, Mansko, May and
22 Pankey.

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REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

34 Mayor Stewart had the following reports:

- 35 • The January 2020 Financial Statements for the General Fund, Street Fund, 911 Fund, Sewer
36 Fund and the Newport Airport Commission were given to each Council Member. Mayor
37 Stewart asked that each Council Member review the financial statements and direct any
38 questions to City Clerk/Treasurer Hembrey or to him.
- 39 • The rock work for the Rice Road Project has begun. The City of Newport budgeted \$50,000
40 and the Jackson County Industrial Development Commission has pledged \$50,000. This will
41 complete Phase I, which is the rock work, 3” of asphalt, signage and striping for
42 approximately 3/10th of a mile.
- 43 • The signage for the 2nd Phase of the Arkansas State Aid City Street Project has been placed in
44 Gray’s Addition, the grant is for \$250,000. Application for the 3rd Phase will be made in the
45 near future.
- 46 • Council Member Mansko from Ward 1 had received complaints of dilapidated buildings in
47 his Ward. Mayor Stewart reported that City Inspector Ratliffe has been working on
48 contacting owners and placing red tags on several properties in Ward 1.
- 49 • Mayor Stewart spoke to the Arkansas Highway Department again concerning the hump at 3rd
50 and Vine Street. The Highway Department is hopeful that they can work on the problem in
51 the next couple of weeks.
- 52 • The new cover for the Legion/High School Baseball Field, purchased through a 50/50 Parks
53 and Tourism Grant, has been received and is now on the field.
- The City Clerk’s Office has put together sample forms for the Advertising and Promotion
Commission to evaluate.
- Mayor Stewart suggested the City Clerk’s Office perform the functions of administration and
operations of the City of Newport Advertising and Promotion Fund. The Commission would
reimburse the City of Newport General Fund for costs incurred. Also, with the extra
responsibilities for Angela McKissac and Teresa Long in the Clerk’s Office, Mayor Stewart
suggested an increase in their hourly rate of \$1.00. After discussion, members of the Council
agreed with Mayor Stewart’s suggestions.
- The repair of the traffic light at 3rd and Walnut should be made in the next few days.
- City Inspector Ratliffe will speak to the person placing stumps on the vacant lot at 4th and
Elm.

54 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS: - NONE**

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56 **NEW BUSINESS: APPOINTMENTS TO NEWPORT ADVERTISING**
57 **AND PROMOTION COMMISSION**

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- **Jeff Fortune (Term to be determined)**

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- **Benjy Harris (Term to be determined)**

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- **Marcus Hembrey (Term to be determined)**

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- **Andy May (Term length is at will of Council)**

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- **Neal Pankey (Term length is at will of Council)**

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- **Randy Ramsey (Term expiring March 2024)**

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- **Lauren Sampson (Term to be determined)**

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67 Mayor Stewart presented his appointments for the City Council’s approval. The terms for
68 the four tourism industry positions are to be based on random drawings of 1, 2, 3 and 4-year
69 terms. The at large appointment is for 4 years, the two members of the governing body shall
70 serve at the will of the Mayor and the City Council. A drawing was performed with terms of
71 Jeff Fortune - 3 years, Benjy Harris - 4 years, Marcus Hembrey - 2 years and Lauren
72 Sampson - 1 year.

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74 A motion by Green and a second by Lake to appoint Jeff Fortune to the Newport Advertising
75 and Promotion Commission with a term expiring March 2023 carried (7/0) with “yes” votes
76 by Allen, Green, Lake, Mansko, Pankey, Falwell and May.

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78 A motion by Lake and a second by Falwell to appoint Benjy Harris to the Newport
79 Advertising and Promotion Commission with a term expiring March 2024 carried (7/0) with
80 “yes” votes by Falwell, Pankey, Green, May, Mansko, Lake and Allen.

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82 A motion by Falwell and a second by Lake to appoint Marcus Hembrey to the Newport
83 Advertising and Promotion Commission with a term expiring March 2022 carried (7/0) with
84 “yes” votes by Green, Allen, May, Falwell, Pankey, Mansko and Lake.

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86 A motion by Green and a second by Lake to appoint Andy May to the Newport Advertising
87 and Promotion Commission with a term being at the will of the Council carried (6/0) with
88 “yes” votes by Lake, Mansko, Falwell, Pankey, Allen and Green. May abstained.

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90 A motion by Falwell and a second by Mansko to appoint Neal Pankey to the Newport
91 Advertising and Promotion Commission with a term being at the will of the Council carried
92 (6/0) with “yes” votes by Mansko, Falwell, Green, Lake, Allen and May. Pankey abstained.

93

94 A motion by Mansko and a second by Falwell to appoint Lauren Sampson to the Newport
95 Advertising and Promotion Commission with a term expiring March 2021 carried (7/0) with
96 “yes” votes by Pankey, Green, May, Lake, Mansko, Allen and Falwell.

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98 A motion by Lake and a second by Falwell to appoint Randy Ramsey to the Newport
99 Advertising and Promotion Commission with a term expiring March 2024 carried (7/0) with
100 “yes” votes by May, Green, Pankey, Lake, Falwell, Allen and Mansko.

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

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106 PASSED AND APPROVED THE 6TH DAY OF APRIL, 2020

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MAYOR

110 ATTEST:

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CITY CLERK