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CITY OF NEWPORT
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
APRIL 6, 2020

The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session Monday, April 6, 2020 in the lobby of the Municipal Building. Seating was placed approximately 6 feet apart due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

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, Leroy Mansko, Andy May and Julie Moss. City Attorney John Pettie was present. Council Member Neal Pankey was absent.

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

The March 16, 2020 Council Meeting was cancelled due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

A motion by Allen and second by Falwell to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2020 meeting carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Falwell, Green, Lake, Mansko and May. Moss abstained due to being absent on March 2, 2020.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Stewart had the following reports:

- Sales Taxes received in March 2020 were City Sales Taxes - \$118,252, County Sales Taxes - \$74,090 and NEDC Sales Taxes - \$59,126.
- The street project at Rice Road has been completed. The street project cost \$99,728 with City of Newport paying \$49,728 and The Jackson County Industrial Development Commission contributing \$50,000.
- Governor Hutchison announced today the mandatory closure of all public schools, in class instruction, for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year due to the Covid-19 Virus. Arkansas educators will continue to provide alternative methods of instruction (AMI) through the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.
- Mayor Stewart announced that the family of Mary Alice Conner has developed plans for a memorial park at the corner of Galeria Drive and Stegall Road. The plans include a walking trail, small dog park, 5 pods of children’s playground equipment, a fire pit, asphalt parking area and trees planted around the park. After the completion of the park, the Conner family plans to donate the park to the City of Newport. Cherry Johnson gave an informative overview of how the idea of the Memorial Park to Ms. Mary Alice Conner came together.
- After discussion, a motion by Falwell and a second by Moss to have one Council Meeting per month on the first Monday of the month at 6 p.m. while the Covid-19 restrictions are being observed carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by May, Mansko, Moss, Green, Allen, Lake and Falwell.
- The February 2020 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.
- Martin Steward, Wastewater Superintendent, gave a very informative overview of the cause of the odor of the Sewer Wastewater Plant. Steward stated that our sewer ponds have a top layer of oxygenated water and a bottom layer that does not have oxygen due to the breaking down of the sewage, during certain weather conditions the ponds will turn over causing the

53 foul odor to come to the top. We have been having these weather conditions since
54 approximately October. Council Member Falwell asked if a newer version of our wastewater
55 management plant would remedy the odor issue. Steward stated the cost of a newer sewer
56 process plant would cost upwards of \$ 30,000,000.

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58 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS: - NONE**

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60 **NEW BUSINESS: CONSIDER DELAY IN ADVERTISING AND**
61 **PROMOTION TAX COLLECTION**

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63 Mayor Stewart suggested due to the Covid-19 Pandemic the Council consider delaying the
64 start of the collecting of the Advertising and Promotion Tax until October 1, 2020. A motion
65 by May and second by Mansko to delay the start of collecting the Advertising and Promotion
66 Tax until October 1, 2020 carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Green, Allen, May, Falwell,
67 Mansko, Moss and Lake.

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69 City Attorney Pettie read the Ordinance amending the start of collection of the Advertising
70 and Promotion Tax until October 1, 2020 in its entirety. A motion by Lake and second by
71 Allen to suspend the rules in their entirety and forgo the 2nd and 3rd readings of the Ordinance
72 carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Moss, Green, May, Lake, Mansko, Allen and Falwell.

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74 A motion by Allen and a second by Moss to accept the Ordinance amending the start date for
75 collection of the Advertising and Promotion Tax carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Falwell,
76 Lake, Green, Allen, May, Moss and Mansko.

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78 **Bid Consideration: Garbage Bags**

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80 Mayor Stewart presented proof of publication in the Newport Independent and the
81 handwritten bid tabulation for the garbage bags. Only one bid was received:

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83 Sigma Supply, Inc. \$6.15/per roll sales tax included

84

85 A motion by Allen and second by Moss to accept the bid of Sigma Supply, Inc. for 8,200
86 boxes of garbage bags containing 50 bags each for \$6.15 per roll carried (7/0) with “yes”
87 votes by Allen, Green, Moss, Lake, Mansko, Falwell and May.

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89 **Bid Consideration: Mosquito Control Chemicals**

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91 Mayor Stewart presented proof of publication from the Jonesboro Sun along with a
92 handwritten bid tabulation. One bid was received and opened on March 30, 2020 at 10 a.m.
93 The bid was received from Mosquito Products, LLC as follows:

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96 **Mosquito Products, LLC**

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- | | | |
|-----|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 98 | 1. 30-30 ULV | \$ 83.49 per gal |
| 99 | 2. 31-66 ULV | \$ 115.70 per gal |
| 100 | 3. Aqualeur 20-20 | \$ 171.57 per gal |
| 101 | 4. Oil Carrier | \$ 8.58 per gal |
| 102 | 5. Larvacide (sustrain) | \$ 8.99 per lb. |

- 103 6. Fyfanon ULV \$ 64.89 per gal
- 104 7. Imperium (airplane) \$ 250.00 per gal

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A motion by Lake and second by May to accept the bid of Mosquito Products, LLC carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Moss, Green, Allen, May, Falwell, Lake and Mansko.

109 **State of the City Address**

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Mayor Stewart stated at the present time everyone is within the tight financial Budget set for 2020. Mayor Stewart stated due to the Covid-19 Pandemic the following measures have been put into place to follow Governor Hutchinson and the CDC’s guidelines:

- 115 1. City buildings are closed to the public.
- 116 2. City parks are closed to the public.
- 117 3. Commission meetings have been postponed or held by phone conference with
- 118 guidelines by the Municipal League.
- 119 4. Firemen, Ambulance and Police are following guidelines.
- 120 5. Public Works Department is following the guidelines from the Health Department.
- 121 6. Recycling Department has closed due to guidelines from the Health Department.
- 122 7. Court has been canceled until further notice. Payments can be made through the mail
- 123 or online. Judge Griffin is conducting bail cases by phone.
- 124 8. City Hall is closed to the public but can be reached by phone between the hours 9
- 125 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.
- 126 9. No cases of the Covid-19 Virus in Jackson County at this time.

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Mayor Stewart stated that the City could see a reduction in revenues of 30% or more. Some expenses budgeted for 2020 will be adjusted such as delaying purchases of vehicles and equipment to counter the loss of revenues.

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

134 PASSED AND APPROVED THE 4TH DAY OF MAY, 2020

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MAYOR

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ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

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