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CITY OF NEWPORT
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
MAY 4, 2020

10 The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session Monday, May 4,
11 2020 in the lobby of the Municipal Building. Seating was placed approximately 6 feet apart
12 due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Regular Council Meetings are being held on the first
13 Monday of the month due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

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

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

19 A motion by Allen and second by Mansko to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2020
20 meeting carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Falwell, Green, Lake, Mansko, May and
21 Moss. Pankey abstained due to being absent on April 6, 2020.

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REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

24 Mayor Stewart had the following reports:

- 25 • The March 2020 Financial Statements for the General Fund, Street Fund, 911 Fund, Sewer
26 Fund and the Newport Airport Commission were given to each Council Member. Mayor
27 Stewart asked that each Council Member review the financial statements and direct any
28 questions to City Clerk/Treasurer Hembrey or to him.
- 29 • The traffic light at 3rd and Walnut Street has been broken on the library side for months. An
30 estimate to repair the system came in at approximately \$30,000. The subject will be
31 discussed at the next Council Meeting.
- 32 • Sales Taxes received in April 2020 were City Sales Taxes - \$119,141, County Sales Taxes -
33 \$70,219 and NEDC Sales Taxes - \$59,570.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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Consider Ownership-Blue Bridge Right of Way

38 Mayor Stewart gave each Council Member a copy of the e-mail he received from Nikki Senn
39 of the Arkansas Department of Transportation concerning the possible donation of the White
40 River (Blue) Bridge to the Newport Recreational Trails Association. The City of Newport or
41 Jackson County would be required to sign a Memorandum of Agreement along with other
42 requirements to allow the ownership of the bridge to be given to the non-profit organization.
43 After discussion, Mayor Stewart will request a member of the Newport Recreational Trails
44 Association to speak to the Council at the next meeting.

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Discuss COVID-19

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48 Mayor Stewart stated that at this time Jackson County has no active cases of Covid-19.
49 Jackson County has had 1 case of Covid-19 and that person has recovered. Mayor Stewart
50 stated he had spoken to several medical professionals, including the Jackson County Health

51 Officer, Dr. Guilford Dudley, and they suggested a slow gradual lifting of restrictions.
52 Mayor Stewart stated that places of gathering would remain closed until at least May 15th
53 when new information is expected. Mayor Stewart stated that the Municipal Building, which
54 includes the Court Department, will remain closed to the public, Depot will remain closed
55 and pavilions at the parks will remain closed. The parks will be opened as long as people
56 continue to follow social distancing rules. Mayor Stewart stated that currently no changes
57 are needed to current personnel work hours; however, he and City Clerk Hembrey will
58 continue to keep a very watchful eye on the revenues to determine if any changes are needed.

59

60 **NEW BUSINESS**

61

62 **Reappointments to Newport Economic Development Commission**

- 63 • **Dr. Sandra Massey (Term Expiring 5/6/2025)**
- 64 • **Benjy Harris (Term Expiring 5/6/2025)**
- 65 • **Shota “Dave” Kajikawa (Term Expiring 5/6/2025)**

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67 A motion by Falwell and second by Moss to reappoint Dr. Sandra Massey to the Newport
68 Economic Development Commission (NEDC) with a term expiring 5/6/2025 carried (8/0)
69 with “yes” votes by Allen, Green, Moss, Lake, Mansko, Pankey, Falwell and May.

70

71 A motion by Lake and second by Green to reappoint Benjy Harris to the NEDC with a term
72 expiring 5/6/2025 carried (8/0) with “yes” votes by Falwell, Pankey, Green, Moss, May,
73 Mansko, Lake and Allen.

74

75 A motion by Falwell and second by Moss to reappoint Shota “Dave” Kajikawa to the NEDC
76 with a term expiring 5/6/2025 carried (8/0) with “yes” votes by Green, Allen, May, Falwell,
77 Pankey, Mansko, Moss and Lake.

78

79 **Six (6) Ordinances Allowing City Officials to Conduct Business with the** 80 **City of Newport**

81

82 A motion by May and second by Falwell to suspend the rules in their entirety and forego the
83 reading of all six (6) ordinances carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Lake, May, Moss, Mansko,
84 Falwell, Pankey and Green. Allen abstained.

85

86 **1. Harris Ford, Inc. and Benjy Harris**

87 A motion by Lake and second by Falwell to accept the Ordinance permitting the City of
88 Newport to conduct business with Harris Ford, Inc. and Benjy Harris who serves as a non-
89 paid member of the Newport Economic Development Commission carried (8/0) with “yes”
90 votes by Mansko, Falwell, Green, Lake, Moss, Allen, Pankey and May.

91

92 **2. D. T. Allen Construction Company and Alderman Michael Allen**

93 A motion by Green and second by Mansko to accept the Ordinance permitting the City of
94 Newport to conduct business with D. T. Allen Construction Company and Alderman Michael
95 Allen, individually carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by May, Green, Pankey, Moss, Lake,
96 Falwell and Mansko. Alderman Michael Allen abstained.

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98 **3. Michael N. Turner, CPA**

99 A motion by Mansko and second by Falwell to accept the Ordinance permitting the City of
100 Newport to conduct business with Michael N. Turner, CPA who serves as a non-paid

101 member of the Newport Economic Development Commission carried (8/0) with “yes” votes
102 by Moss, Pankey, Green, May, Lake, Mansko, Allen and Falwell.

103

104 **4. Darling & Grady Rentals**

105 A motion by Moss and second by Lake to accept the Ordinance permitting the City of
106 Newport to conduct business with Darling and Grady Rentals (Kenneth Grady, Department
107 Head of the Mosquito Eradication Program being part owner) carried (8/0) with “yes” votes
108 by Pankey, Moss, Green, Allen, May, Falwell, Lake and Mansko.

109

110 **5. Mosquito Products, LLC and Shane Grady**

111 A motion by Lake and second by Green to accept the Ordinance permitting the City of
112 Newport to conduct business with Mosquito Products, LLC and Shane Grady carried (8/0)
113 with “yes” votes by Allen, Green, Moss, Lake, Mansko, Pankey, Falwell and May.

114

115 **6. George Kell Motors, Inc. and Dean Sides**

116 A motion by Moss and second by Falwell to accept the Ordinance permitting the City of
117 Newport to conduct business with George Kell Motors, Inc. and Dean Sides who serves as a
118 non-paid member of the Newport Economic Development Commission carried (8/0) with
119 “yes” votes by Falwell, Pankey, Green, Moss, May, Mansko, Lake and Allen.

120

121 **GOOD OF THE CITY**

122

123 Alderman May presented an overview of the need to keep the Newport Drag Strip. After
124 discussion, Mayor Stewart suggested that a plan be drawn up and presented to the Airport
125 Commission.

126

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

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129 PASSED AND APPROVED THE 1ST DAY OF JUNE, 2020

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131

132

MAYOR

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ATTEST:

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CITY CLERK