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**CITY OF NEWPORT
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
JUNE 1, 2020**

10 The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session Monday, June 1,
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, Kathy Green, Regina Lake, Leroy Mansko,
16 Andy May and Julie Moss. City Attorney John Pettie was present. Council Members Carol
17 Falwell and Neal Pankey were absent.

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

19 A motion by May and second by Moss to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2020 Meeting
20 carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Green, Lake, Mansko, May and Moss.

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REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

23 Mayor Stewart had the following reports:

- 24 • The Arkansas Department of Transportation will do a study on the traffic light at 3rd and
25 Walnut Street. ArDot will have a recommendation within 30 days. Mayor Stewart stated
26 Jennifer Ballard, Jackson County Librarian, would like Walnut Street to become one way
27 going South up to the intersection with angled parking in front of the Library.
- 28 • Sales Taxes received in May 2020 were City Sales Taxes - \$135,707, County Sales Taxes -
29 \$81,450 and NEDC Sales Taxes - \$67,854.
- 30 • Jackson County has 2 new cases of the Covid-19 Virus. Mayor Stewart suggested that the
31 Council continue to meet once a month with the same procedures during the Covid-19
32 Pandemic. The Council agreed.
- 33 • The April 2020 Financial Statements for the General Fund, Street Fund, 911 Fund, Sewer
34 Fund and the Newport Airport Commission were given to each Council Member. Mayor
35 Stewart asked that each Council Member review the financial statements and direct any
36 questions to City Clerk/Treasurer Hembrey or to him.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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DISCUSS BLUE BRIDGE RIGHT OF WAY

41 Mayor Stewart stated the Newport Recreational Trails Association no longer wishes to take
42 ownership of the White River (Blue) Bridge due to restrictions by the Arkansas Department
43 of Transportation (ArDot). After discussion, a motion by Allen and second by Green to
44 reject the right of way to the White River (Blue) Bridge carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by
45 Moss, Green, Allen, May, Lake and Mansko.
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47 **NEW BUSINESS:**

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49 **RESOLUTION: GRANT APPLICATION TO U.S. DEPARTMENT OF**
50 **COMMERCE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION, JON**
51 **CHADWELL TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

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53 Mayor Stewart recognized Jon Chadwell, Director of the Newport Economic Development
54 Commission. Chadwell stated that Governor Hutchinson’s Blue Ribbon Commission created
55 the Arkansas Center for Data Sciences (ACDS) to grow the State’s IT Economy by
56 developing talent in high-demand, high-growth areas such as software development, data
57 analytics and cybersecurity. ACDS has established two IT Training Centers, one in Central
58 Arkansas and one in Northwest Arkansas to provide advanced training. The City of Newport
59 was selected by the ACDS to expand this program into Northeast Arkansas. The program
60 will be housed in one of the current buildings in downtown and should start training in the
61 late fall. Chadwell stated through the assistance of White River Planning and Development
62 the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development has grant monies available for
63 projects such as construction of a state of the art IT Training Center. Chadwell stated a
64 partnership between the ACDS, ASU-Newport and the Newport Economic Development
65 Commission has been established to operate the center. ACDS will be the managing partner
66 of the center and ASU-Newport will be the training partner. City Attorney John Pettie read
67 the Resolution in its entirety. A motion by Allen and second by Moss to accept the
68 Resolution authorizing the Mayor to apply for grant funds and accept any grant monies that
69 the Economic Development Administration awards to the City of Newport for the
70 construction project carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Green, Allen, May, Mansko, Moss and
71 Lake.

72

73 **ORDINANCE: WAIVING COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND AUTHORIZING A**
74 **CONTRACT WITH CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE OF ARKANSAS FOR SEWER**
75 **DEPARTMENT**

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77 Mayor Stewart recognized Martin Steward, Wastewater Superintendent. Steward gave a
78 very informative overview of the sewer issue near the intersection of Cross Drive and Village
79 Drive. The sewer pipe in this area is badly eroded to the point of collapse and serves the
80 entire north end of the city. Steward stated Capital Infrastructure of Arkansas has a process
81 that is a cured in place pipeline rehabilitation system using resin filled felt tube inserted into
82 the old pipeline, inflated and cured in place with steam. Capital Infrastructure of Arkansas
83 has given an estimate of \$62,500. An open trench contractor is on reserve in case needed
84 which would add to the cost. After discussion, City Attorney read the Ordinance in its
85 entirety. A motion by Allen and second by Mansko to suspend the rules in their entirety and
86 forego the 2nd and 3rd readings of the Ordinance carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Lake, May,
87 Moss, Mansko, Allen and Green.

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89 A motion by May and second by Allen to adopt the Ordinance carried (6/0) with “yes” votes
90 by Mansko, Green, Lake, Moss, Allen and May.

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92 A motion by Allen and second by Mansko to approve the emergency clause carried (6/0)
93 with “yes” votes by May, Green, Moss, Lake, Allen and Mansko.
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95 **GOOD OF THE CITY**

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97 Council Member Mansko asked if the City has a Pit Bull Dog Ordinance. Mayor Stewart
98 stated that while the City’s Dog Ordinance is not breed specific, the Ordinance states that a
99 dog must be within an enclosure or under the control of some competent person at all times.

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101 With no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.
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103 PASSED AND APPROVED THE 6TH DAY OF JULY, 2020
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105 _____
106 MAYOR

107 ATTEST:
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110 CITY CLERK