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

10 The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session Monday, July 6,
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 Andy May, Julie Moss and Neal Pankey. City Attorney John Pettie was present. Council
17 Member Leroy Mansko was absent.

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

19 A motion by Allen and second by Moss to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2020 and June
20 24, 2020 meetings carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Green, Lake, May, Moss and
21 Pankey. Carol Falwell abstained due to being absent both meetings.

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REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

24 Mayor Stewart had the following reports:

- 25 • A copy of the 2019 Sewer Department Audit Report was given to each Council Member.
26 The report stated “In our opinion, the 2019 financial statements referred to above present
27 fairly, in all material respects, the modified cash basis financial position of the City of
28 Newport, Arkansas Sewer Department as of December 31, 2019, and the respective changes
29 in modified cash basis financial position and modified cash basis cash flows for the year then
30 ended, in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting as described in Note 1(B) to
31 the financial statements.”
- 32 • The May 2020 Financial Statements for the General Fund, Street Fund, 911 Fund, Sewer
33 Fund and the Newport Airport Commission were given to each Council Member. Mayor
34 Stewart asked that each Council Member review the financial statements and direct any
35 questions to City Clerk/Treasurer Hembrey or to him.
- 36 • Mayor Stewart gave an overview of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
37 program. This government program will pay minimum wage of \$10 per hour for individuals
38 18 to 24 years of age who need employment. The City is working with White River Planning
39 and Development to use this program to supply workers at the Recycling Center and mowing
40 at the City Shed. Mayor Stewart asked that everyone spread the word about this program.
- 41 • Mayor Stewart recognized Sheridan Chadwell, Program Administrator for the Joe and Helen
42 Harris Foundation. Chadwell gave a very informative overview of the Foundation mission.
43 Chadwell requested that the Council consider leasing the Newport Armory to the Joe and
44 Helen Harris Foundation for a \$1 a year.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS: - NONE

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NEW BUSINESS:

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ORDINANCE CHANGING NAME OF JONES STREET TO W.F. BRANCH WAY

51 Mayor Stewart stated the organization named “Bringing Resources and Navigating
52 Community Help, “BRANCH” has requested that Jones Street be renamed to W.F. Branch

53 Way. After discussion from the citizens, City Attorney Pettie read the 1st reading of the
54 Ordinance in its entirety. The Ordinance will be read again at the next regular Council
55 Meeting.

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57 **PHILLIP BROWN WITH IMAD TO ADDRESS COUNCIL ON RENOVATION OF**
58 **CROSSROADS PARK WITH IMAD DONATIONS**

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60 Mayor Stewart stated that in the past the Crossroads Park was abandoned due to destruction
61 and crime on the park grounds. Mayor Stewart stated that Phillip Brown has requested the
62 City allow the IMAD Organization to renovate the park with new equipment and other items
63 with IMAD funds. Phillip Brown gave an informative overview of how the organization
64 would like to revitalize the Park. A motion by Pankey and second by Falwell to prepare a
65 contract to be drawn up by City Attorney Pettie to allow the IMAD Organization to revitalize
66 and manage the Crossroads Park carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Green, Allen, May,
67 Falwell, Pankey, Moss and Lake.

68
69 **GOOD OF THE CITY**

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71 Council Member Moss suggested a larger fine for commercial property owners that receive a
72 ticket for tall grass violations. City Attorney Pettie will check into a new Ordinance
73 addressing a larger penalty.

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

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77 PASSED AND APPROVED THE 3RD DAY OF AUGUST, 2020

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MAYOR

81 ATTEST:
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84 CITY CLERK