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2
3 **CITY OF NEWPORT**
4 **REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL**
5 **SEPTEMBER 8, 2020**
6

7 The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session Tuesday,
8 September 8, 2020 in the lobby of the Municipal Building. Seating was placed
9 approximately 6 feet apart due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Regular Council Meetings are
10 being held once a month due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

11
12 Mayor Stewart called the meeting to order. City Clerk/Treasurer Hembrey called the roll.
13 Council members present were Michael Allen, Carol Falwell, Leroy Mansko, Andy May,
14 Julie Moss and Neal Pankey. City Attorney John Pettie was present. Council Members
15 Kathy Green and Regina Lake were absent.

16
17 Following the invocation by Carol Falwell, those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
18

19 A motion by Allen and second by Mansko to approve the minutes of the August 3, 2020
20 meeting carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Falwell, Mansko, May and Pankey. Julie
21 Moss abstained due to being absent on August 3, 2020.
22

23 **REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**
24

25 Mayor Stewart had the following reports:

- 26 • The July 2020 Financial Statements for the General Fund, Street Fund, 911 Fund, Sewer
27 Fund and the Newport Airport Commission were given to each Council Member. Mayor
28 Stewart asked that each Council Member review the financial statements and direct any
29 questions to City Clerk/Treasurer Hembrey or to him.
- 30 • A copy of a letter from Michael Preston’s office stating that the City’s application to the
31 Arkansas Economic Development Commission for a \$250,000 grant to help purchase a fire
32 truck was denied. Mayor Stewart stated Michael Preston called him the day after he received
33 the letter stating that all equipment requests had been denied due to a cut in funds available.
34 Mr. Preston strongly suggested that the City reapply in 2021.
- 35 • Wednesday September 16th at 10 a.m. Governor Hutchinson will be here for the ribbon
36 cutting of the IT Apprenticeship Center located at the Newport Depot. Also Michael
37 Preston of AEDC and Charles Morgan, former CEO of Acxiom Corporation, will be
38 present at the ribbon cutting. Mayor Stewart encouraged everyone to attend.
- 39 • Jim Martin, the Newport Airport Manager, passed away suddenly on August 26, 2020. The
40 Airport Commission, Mayor, City Clerk and Airport employees are working to fill the void
41 until a new manager is hired.
- 42 • Sales Taxes received in August 2020 were City Sales Taxes - \$148,044, County Sales Taxes -
43 \$91,229 and NEDC Sales Taxes - \$74,022.
44
45

46 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**
47

48 **ORDINANCE CHANGING NAME OF JONES STREET TO W.F. BRANCH WAY**
49

50 Mayor Stewart stated the third and final reading of the Ordinance changing the name of
51 Jones Street to W.F. Branch Way would be read tonight. City Attorney Pettie read the third

52 reading of the Ordinance in its entirety. Mayor Stewart asked if anyone would like to speak.
53 No one responded. A motion by Pankey and second by May to accept the Ordinance
54 changing the name of Jones Street to W.F. Branch Way carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by
55 Mansko, Falwell, Moss, Allen, Pankey and May.

56

57 **NEW BUSINESS:**

58

59 **REAPPOINT ANDREW JONES TO NEWPORT AIRPORT COMMISSION (TERM**
60 **EXPIRING 9/30/2025)**

61

62 Mayor Stewart stated Andrew Jones had indicated his willingness to be reappointed to the
63 Newport Airport Commission. A motion by Falwell and second by Moss to reappoint
64 Andrew Jones to the Newport Airport Commission with a term expiring 9/30/2025 carried
65 (6/0) with “yes” votes by May, Pankey, Moss, Falwell, Allen, and Mansko.

66

67 **BID CONSIDERATION: TWO (2) NEW FORD POLICE INTERCEPTOR SUVs**

68

69 Mayor Stewart presented proof of publication in the Newport Independent and the
70 handwritten bid tabulation for two (2) new Ford Police Interceptor SUVs. Only one bid was
71 received:

72

73 Harris Ford 2 Ford Police Interceptor SUVs for \$37,330.24 each

74

75 A motion by Moss and second by May to accept the bid from Harris Ford for 2 Ford Police
76 Interceptor SUVs for \$37,330.24 each carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Moss, Pankey, May,
77 Mansko, Allen and Falwell.

78

79 **RESOLUTION: USDA GRANT FOR TWO (2) NEW POLICE VEHICLES AND**
80 **VEHICLE EQUIPMENT**

81

82 City Attorney Pettie read the Resolution authorizing the acceptance of a USDA Grant up to
83 \$45,000 to provide a portion of the cost of two new police vehicles and equipment. A
84 motion by Pankey and second by Allen to accept the Resolution carried (6/0) with “yes”
85 votes by Pankey, Moss, Allen, May, Falwell and Mansko.

86

87 **RESOLUTION: AD VALOREM TAX**

88

89 Mayor Stewart stated that the annual notification to the Jackson County Clerk’s Office for
90 the taxes of 2020 to be paid in 2021 in accordance with Statute 26-73-202 was due. The
91 taxes will remain the same Five (5) Mills for General Fund and One (1) Mill for Firemen’s
92 Pension Fund. City Attorney Pettie read the Ad Valorem Tax Resolution in its entirety. A
93 motion by Allen and second by May to adopt the Resolution carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by
94 Allen, Moss, Mansko, Pankey, Falwell and May.

95

96 **ORDINANCE: PERMITTING LIMITED USE OF GOLF CARTS UPON CITY**
97 **STREETS**

98

99 After lengthy discussion, City Attorney Pettie read the 1st reading of an Ordinance permitting
100 the limited use of golf carts upon the City streets of the City of Newport, Arkansas and
101 establishing criminal penalties for any violation of said Ordinance in its entirety. The second
102 reading will be at the October 5th Council Meeting.

103 **GOOD OF THE CITY**

104

105 Council Member Falwell stated cars are being parked in the street on Dill. Council Member
106 Moss asked about commercial owners grass violations. City Attorney Pettie stated
107 correspondence has been sent and some action has been taken by the commercial owners.

108

109 Mayor Stewart stated the Street Department will be ordering 60 new street signs.

110

111 Mayor Stewart stated the Arkansas Highway Department is still studying the street light at
112 Walnut.

113

114 Council Member Mansko asked about the procedures for increases in payroll rates. Mayor
115 Stewart gave an overview of the process.

116

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

118

119 PASSED AND APPROVED THE 5TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2020

120

121

122 _____
MAYOR

123 ATTEST:

124

125 _____

126 CITY CLERK