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**CITY OF NEWPORT
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
DECEMBER 7, 2020**

10 The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session Monday,
11 December 7, 2020 in the chambers of the Municipal Courtroom. Seating was placed
12 approximately 6 feet apart due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Regular Council Meetings are
13 being held once a 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 Carol Falwell, those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

19 A motion by Lake and second by May to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2020
20 meeting carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Green, Lake, Mansko, May, Moss and
21 Pankey. Falwell abstained due to being absent on November 2, 2020.

22 A motion by Allen and second by Mansko to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2020
23 special meeting carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Green, Lake, Mansko and Pankey.
24 Falwell, May and Moss abstained due to being absent on November 5, 2020.

25 **REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**

26 Mayor Stewart had the following reports:

- 27
- 28 • The October 2020 Financial Statements for the Newport Airport Commission were given to
29 each Council Member. Mayor Stewart asked that each Council Member review the financial
30 statements and direct any questions to City Clerk/Treasurer Hembrey or to him.
 - 31 • The October and November 2020 Financial Statements for the General Fund, Street Fund,
32 911 Fund and Sewer Fund were given to each Council Member. Mayor Stewart asked that
33 each Council Member review the financial statements and direct any questions to City
34 Clerk/Treasurer Hembrey or to him.
 - 35 • The premiums for health insurance will increase by \$40 a month per employee beginning
36 with the January 2021 premiums. The Proposed 2021 Budget has a 2% salary increase rather
37 than 3% to offset this increase.
 - 38 • Sales Taxes received in November 2020 were City Sales Taxes - \$154,689 County Sales
39 Taxes - \$91,422 and NEDC Sales Taxes - \$77,344.
 - 40 • Mayor Stewart presented Council Member Neal Pankey with a plaque recognizing Mr.
41 Pankey’s service as a Council Member from 2003 through 2020. Mayor Stewart expressed
42 the City of Newport’s and his appreciation for the years of dedicated service given to the
43 citizens of Newport by Mr. Neal Pankey.
- 44

45 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

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47 **GOLF CART ORDINANCE – SECOND READING**

48
49 Mayor Stewart requested comments from the public on the Golf Cart Ordinance. No one
50 responded. After discussion, a motion by Lake and second by Green to suspend the rules in
51 their entirety with the 2nd reading by caption only and forgo the 3rd reading carried (6/2) with

52 “yes” votes by Pankey, Moss, Green, May, Lake and Mansko – “no” votes by Allen and
53 Falwell.

54
55 City Attorney Pettie read the Ordinance by caption only.

56
57 A motion by Green and second by Lake to accept the Ordinance carried (5/4) with “yes”
58 votes by Green, May, Lake and Mansko – “no” votes by Moss, Pankey, Allen and Falwell –
59 Mayor Stewart voted “yes” breaking the tie.

60

61 **NEW BUSINESS:**

62

63 **APPOINT TODD WATSON TO THE NEWPORT PLANNING COMMISSION TO**
64 **FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF KAREN CATHEY (TERM EXP. JULY 2022)**

65

66 Mayor Stewart stated he had spoken to Todd Watson and he is willing to be appointed to the
67 Newport Planning Commission. A motion by Moss and second by Allen to appoint Todd
68 Watson to the Newport Planning Commission to fill the unexpired term of Karen Cathey
69 carried (8/0) with “yes” votes by Mansko, Falwell, Green, Lake, Moss, Allen, Pankey and
70 May.

71

72 **RESOLUTION: ADMINISTRATIVE AGREEMENT WITH WHITE RIVER**
73 **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, INC. – ECONOMIC**
74 **DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION (EDA) GRANT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF**
75 **BUILDING**

76

77 Mayor Stewart recognized Director Jon Chadwell, Newport Economic Development
78 Commission. Director Chadwell gave an informative overview of the grant and the
79 requirements for funding of the construction of the new IT Training Center. In order to
80 implement the regulations pertaining to the grant, Mayor Stewart and Director Chadwell
81 requested that an administrative agreement be authorized with White River Planning and
82 Development District, Inc. for this project.

83

84 City Attorney Pettie read the Resolution in its entirety. A motion by Pankey and second by
85 Falwell to authorize the Mayor to enter into an administrative agreement with White River
86 Planning and Development District, Inc. carried (8/0) with “yes” votes by May, Green,
87 Pankey, Moss, Lake, Falwell, Allen and Mansko.

88

89 **RESOLUTION: ENGINEERING AGREEMENT WITH MILLER-NEWELL**
90 **ENGINEERS, INC. FOR CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDING (EDA GRANT)**

91

92 A Resolution to authorize the Mayor to enter into an engineering agreement with Miller-
93 Newell Engineers, Inc. for the construction of the IT Training Center was presented. City
94 Attorney Pettie read the Resolution in its entirety. A motion by Allen and second by Green
95 to authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement with Miller-Newell Engineers, Inc. carried
96 (8/0) with “yes” votes by Moss, Pankey, Green, May, Lake, Mansko, Allen and Falwell.

97

98 **BID CONSIDERATION: MONITOR/DEFIBRILLATOR FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT**

99

100 Mayor Stewart presented proof of publication in the Newport Independent and the
101 handwritten bid tabulation for a monitor/defibrillator. Two bids were received:

102

103 Stryker \$29,255.97
104 Zoll \$31,715.25

105

106 After discussion, a motion by May and second by Green to accept the bid of Stryker for
107 \$29,255.97 for a monitor/defibrillator to be paid for in 3 annual payments carried (8/0) with
108 “yes” votes by Falwell, Pankey, Green, Moss, May, Mansko, Lake and Allen.

109

110 **AMEND USE OF FORCE POLICE POLICY**

111

112 Mayor Stewart recognized Police Chief Edwards. Police Chief Edwards gave an informative
113 overview of the amended Use of Force Police Policy. After discussion, a motion by Falwell
114 and second by Moss to approve the amended “Use of Force Police Policy” dated 12/2020
115 carried (8/0) with “yes” votes by Lake, May, Moss, Mansko, Falwell, Pankey, Allen and
116 Green.

117

118 **FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION ORDINANCE**

119

120 Mayor Stewart stated the new floodplain maps were displayed at the back of the room for
121 inspection. Mayor Stewart stated that there were a few changes mostly in areas where no
122 houses have been built. Mayor Stewart stated FEMA requires the local government to pass
123 an Ordinance establishing a flood damage prevention program due to A.C. A. 14-268-101
124 delegating responsibility to local governments to adopt regulations to minimize flood losses.
125 After discussion, a motion by Pankey and second by Moss to suspend the rules in their
126 entirety, read the Ordinance by caption only for the 1st reading and forgo the 2nd and 3rd
127 readings carried (8/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Green, Moss, Mansko, Falwell, Pankey,
128 Lake and May.

129

130 A motion by Pankey and second by Allen to accept the Ordinance carried (8/0) with “yes”
131 votes by Green, Falwell, Moss, Mansko, Allen, Pankey, Lake and May.

132

133 A motion by Pankey and second by Allen to approve the emergency clause carried (8/0) with
134 “yes” votes by Mansko, Falwell, May, Green, Allen, Pankey, Lake and Moss.

135

136 **RESOLUTION: REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF NEWPORT ECONOMIC**
137 **DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION 2021 BUDGET**

138

139 The 2021 Newport Economic Development Commission Budget was presented to the
140 Council. After review, City Attorney Pettie read the Resolution in its entirety. A motion by
141 Green and second by Lake to accept the Resolution carried (8/0) with “yes” votes by Allen,
142 Falwell, Pankey, Moss, Lake, May, Green and Mansko.

143

144 **RESOLUTION: REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF NEWPORT AIRPORT**
145 **COMMISSION 2021 BUDGET**

146

147 Mayor Stewart stated the Newport Airport Commission is still working on the 2021 Airport
148 Budget.

149

150 Council Member May asked for another Council Member be appointed to the A&P
151 Commission to replace Council Member Pankey. After discussion, Carol Falwell stated she
152 would serve on the Commission. A motion by Green and second by Moss to appoint Carol
153 Falwell to the A&P Commission carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Mansko, Green, Lake,
154 Moss, Allen, Pankey and May. Falwell abstained.

155 **DISCUSS 2021 CITY BUDGET**

156

157 Mayor Stewart gave a detailed review of the proposed 2021 revenues and 2021 expenses by
158 each department and answered questions from the Council. Mayor Stewart stated proposed
159 salary increases are 2% due to the MHBF premiums increase of \$40 per month per employee.

160

161 After discussion, City Attorney Pettie read the Resolution in its entirety. A motion by Green
162 and second by Lake to accept the Resolution carried (8/0) with “yes” votes by May, Allen,
163 Green, Moss, Falwell, Mansko, Pankey and Lake.

164

165 **GOOD OF THE CITY**

166

167 Mayor Stewart stated that the City had received \$312,148.23 from the Federal Cares Act
168 Grant monies.

169

170 One of the Medical Marijuana Cultivation Plants has sold and plans to move. Legal action is
171 being pursued.

172

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

174

175 PASSED AND APPROVED THE 4TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2021

176

177

178

MAYOR

179

ATTEST:

180

181

182

CITY CLERK