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CITY OF NEWPORT
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 1, 2021

10 The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session Monday, February
11 1, 2021 in the chambers of the Municipal Courtroom. Seating was placed approximately 6
12 feet apart due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Regular Council Meetings are being held once a
13 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, Donny Ivie,
16 Regina Lake, Andy May and Julie Moss. Council Member Leroy Mansko and City Attorney
17 John Pettie were absent.

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

19 A motion by Allen and second by May to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2021
20 Meeting carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Green, Ivie, Lake, May, and Moss.
21 Carol Falwell abstained due to being absent on January 4, 2021.

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REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

24 Mayor Stewart had the following reports:

- 25 • In accordance with Arkansas Code Ann. §10-4-418, Mayor Stewart stated the 2019
26 Legislative Audit Report had been received. Mayor Stewart reviewed the finding
27 which stated “During our evaluation, nothing came to our attention that would
28 warrant disclosure in this report.” No action was needed by the Council.
- 29 • The December 2020 Financial Statements for the General Fund, Street Fund, 911 Fund,
30 Sewer Fund and Newport Airport Commission were given to each Council Member.
31 Mayor Stewart asked that each Council Member review the financial statements and
32 direct any questions to City Clerk/Treasurer Hembrey or to him.
- 33 • Mayor Stewart stated the 90 days required by the Arkansas Department of
34 Transportation for the removal of the traffic light at Third and Walnut Streets has
35 been met. Signs and barriers will be placed in the near future.
- 36 • A public hearing was held today February 1, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall on a
37 Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus Project (parking lot at the library
38 with WiFi) and an Arkansas Community and Economic Development Program Grant
39 (fire truck). Mayor Stewart stated no one responded to the request for comments
40 from the public.
- 41 • Mayor Stewart stated a grant through White River Planning and Development
42 District, Inc. for reimbursement of contract labor at the Recycling Center has been
43 approved. Contract labor from the New Life Center is being used due to the Covid-
44 19 restrictions on the Arkansas Department of Correction workers normally working
45 at the Recycling Center.
- 46 • Sales Taxes received in January 2021 were City Sales Taxes - \$139,159 County Sales
47 Taxes - \$84,314 and NEDC Sales Taxes - \$69,579.

48 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**
49 **RESOLUTION: REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF NEWPORT AIRPORT**
50 **COMMISSION 2021 BUDGET**

51
52 The Council reviewed the Proposed 2021 Newport Airport Commission Budget. Mayor
53 Stewart read the Resolution in its entirety. A motion by Allen and second by May to accept
54 the Resolution acknowledging the review and approval of the 2021 Budget of the Newport
55 Airport Commission carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Falwell, Green, Lake, Moss, Allen,
56 Ivie and May.

57
58 **NEW BUSINESS:**

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60 **APPOINT CHERRY STEELE, MANAGER OF COBBLESTONE HOTEL & SUITES,**
61 **TO NEWPORT ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION COMMISSION TO FILL**
62 **UNEXPIRED TERM OF BENJY HARRIS (TERM EXP. MARCH 2024)**

63
64 Mayor Stewart stated Benjy Harris of the Advertising and Promotion Commission has
65 requested that he be replaced with Cherry Steele his manager of Cobblestone Hotel and
66 Suites. A motion by Green and second by Falwell to appoint Cherry Steele to the
67 Advertising and Promotion Commission to fill the unexpired term (3/2024) of Benjy Harris
68 carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Falwell, Ivie, Lake, May, Allen, Moss and Green. A
69 motion by Moss and second by Green to accept the resignation of Benjy Harris from the
70 Advertising and Promotion Commission with a term expiring March 2024 carried (7/0) with
71 “yes” votes by Falwell, Ivie, Lake, May, Allen, Moss and Green.

72
73 **APPOINT KENNY THAXTON III TO THE NEWPORT PLANNING COMMISSION**
74 **TO FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF ROBBIE HINDMAN (TERM TO EXP.**
75 **JULY 2021) AND APPOINT TO ANOTHER TERM TO EXPIRE JULY 2024**

76
77 A motion by Lake and second by May to appoint Kenny Thaxton III to fill the unexpired
78 term of Robbie Hindman (7/2021) and to appoint Thaxton to another term expiring July 2024
79 carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Green, Ivie, Moss, Lake, Falwell and May.

80
81 **RESOLUTION TO SUBMIT APPLICATION TO ARKANSAS ECONOMIC**
82 **DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION FOR FIRE TRUCK GRANT**

83
84 Mayor Stewart read in its entirety the Resolution authorizing the Mayor to submit an
85 application for grant funds to purchase a fire truck. A motion by Ivie and second by Lake to
86 accept the Resolution authorizing the Mayor to submit an application to the State of
87 Arkansas, for grant funds, under the Community Development provisions of the Arkansas
88 Community and Economic Development Program carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Moss,
89 Ivie, Green, May, Lake, Allen and Falwell.

90
91 **RESOLUTION TO SUBMIT APPLICATION TO ARKANSAS ECONOMIC**
92 **DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION FOR PARKING LOT GRANT**

93
94 Mayor Stewart stated an area on Walnut Street between 2nd and 3rd Streets was being
95 purchased by NEDC with funds from NEDC, D.R.I.V.E, Seeds of Faith and the City of

96 Newport. The project is for a parking lot that will service several entities in the downtown
97 area including the Library, Seeds of Faith and the new IT Tech Center. The parking lot will
98 be a WiFi hotspot, provided by the Library, to allow access to the Internet in the parking lot.
99 This project is a Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus Project. Mayor Stewart
100 read in its entirety the Resolution authorizing the Mayor to submit an application under the
101 Community Development provisions of the Coronavirus Prevention, Preparation and
102 Response program to the Arkansas Economic Development Commission for the construction
103 of a parking lot. A motion by Ivie and second by Allen to accept the Resolution carried (7/0)
104 with “yes” votes by Ivie, Lake, Falwell, May, Allen, Green and Moss.

105

106 **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN**
107 **ADMINISTRATIVE AGREEMENT WITH WHITE RIVER PLANNING AND**
108 **DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, INC. FOR BOTH GRANT REQUESTS**

109

110 Mayor Stewart read in its entirety a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an
111 administrative agreement with the White River Planning and Development District, Inc. for
112 the Arkansas Community and Economic Development Program and/or Community
113 Development Block Grant Coronavirus Prevention Grant. A motion by Allen and second by
114 Ivie to accept the Resolution carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by May, Moss, Green, Allen,
115 Lake, Falwell and Ivie.

116

117 **RESOLUTION CONTINUING FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE**
118 **ACT (FFCRA)**

119

120 Mayor Stewart read in its entirety a Resolution continuing the paid sick leave and expanded
121 family and medical leave under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act from December
122 31, 2020 until March 31, 2021. A motion by May and second by Falwell to accept the
123 Resolution carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Lake, May, Moss, Falwell, Ivie, Allen and
124 Green.

125

126 **RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2020 BUDGET**

127

128 Mayor Stewart presented the proposed 2020 Amended Budget. After discussion, a
129 Resolution adopting the 2020 Amended Budget was read in its entirety by Mayor Stewart. A
130 motion by Allen and second by May to accept the Resolution carried (7/0) with “yes” votes
131 by Green, Ivie, Lake, May, Falwell, Allen and Moss.

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

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135 PASSED AND APPROVED THE 1ST DAY OF MARCH, 2021

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138

MAYOR

139 ATTEST:

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CITY CLERK