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CITY OF NEWPORT
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
APRIL 5, 2021

5 The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session Monday, April 5,
6 2021 in the chambers of the Municipal Courtroom. Regular Council Meetings are being held
7 once a month due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

9 Mayor Stewart called the meeting to order. City Clerk/Treasurer Hembrey called the roll.
10 Council members present were Michael Allen, Carol Falwell, Kathy Green, Donny Ivie,
11 Regina Lake, Leroy Mansko and Julie Moss. Council Member Andy May was absent.

13 Following the invocation by Julie Moss, those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

15 A motion by Lake and second by Moss to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2021 meeting
16 carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Green, Ivie, Lake, Mansko and Moss.
17 Carol Falwell abstained due to being absent on March 1, 2021.

19 **REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**

20 Mayor Stewart had the following reports:

- 21 • The February 2021 Financial Statements for the General Fund, Street Fund, 911 Fund,
22 Sewer Fund and Newport Airport Commission were given to each Council Member.
23 Mayor Stewart asked that each Council Member review the financial statements and
24 direct any questions to City Clerk/Treasurer Hembrey or to him.
- 25 • American Rescue Plan Act has funds designated to cities and towns. According to
26 the information from the Municipal League, Newport is expected to receive
27 approximately \$1,500,000. The United States Treasury Department will publish the
28 rules and the guidance for spending these funds in the near future. These rules and
29 the guidance will dictate the use of these funds.
- 30 • Our Street Department has been working on filling potholes in the streets created by
31 winter weather. The next phase by the Street Program through the Arkansas
32 Department of Transportation will include Ash, Vine, Pine, Elm to Walnut and side
33 streets including Rimmel Avenue, Arrington to the Levee and Clay. This phase is
34 expected to be approved and completed in later 2021 or early 2022.
- 35 • The Street Department started spraying weeds and grass last week and the mowing
36 crew began today.
- 37 • The Newport Regional Airport received a \$13,000 grant through the Airport
38 Coronavirus Response Grant Program. The grant allows the funds to be used for
39 expenses related to operations, personnel, cleaning, sanitization, janitorial services
40 and combating the spread of pathogens at the airport.
- 41 • The Newport Police Department will have a seized, forfeited and court ordered asset
42 auction on the 24th of April. The auction will have 143 guns, 3 vehicles and 1 ounce
43 of gold. The auction will be held by Grady Auction and Realty, Inc.
- 44 • Sales Taxes received in March 2021 were City Sales Taxes - \$134,958 County Sales
45 Taxes - \$79,602 and NEDC Sales Taxes - \$67,479.
- 46 • Miller-Newell Engineers are working on a cost analysis for a new concession stand
47 and bathroom facilities for George Kell Park. The cost is expected to be
48 approximately \$300,000. The plan is to apply for a \$150,000 state park grant and
49 apply for a grant for the remaining cost through the Advertising and Promotion Tax
50 Commission.

- 51 • Mayor Stewart stated Mr. Kevin Lee requested to speak to the Council about some
52 issues concerning drainage at and around his mother’s house. Mayor Stewart
53 recognized Mr. Lee. Mr. Lee gave an informative overview of the drainage problem.
54 Mayor Stewart stated the City has determined the 8” drainage pipe collapsed due to
55 the growth of tree between his mother’s house and the neighbor’s house. Mayor
56 Stewart has contacted a bonded tree removal service to remove the tree when weather
57 allows and then a new drainable pipe can be installed.
- 58 • Council Member Falwell stated the Newport City Beautiful Commission will be
59 holding a city wide clean-up on the 24th of April. Everyone is encouraged to
60 participate.

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62 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS: - NONE**

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64 **NEW BUSINESS:**

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66 **ACCEPT RESIGNATION OF JEFF FORTUNE FROM ADVERTISING AND**
67 **PROMOTION COMMISSION AND APPOINT KIM WATKINS, MANAGER OF**
68 **FORTUNE INN & SUITES, TO FULFILL THAT TERM EXPIRING MARCH 2023**
69

70 Mayor Stewart stated, due to a change in management at Fortune Inn & Suites, Jeff Fortune
71 is resigning from the Advertising & Promotion Commission. The new manager, Kim
72 Watkins has agreed, if appointment by the Council, to fulfill his term expiring March 2023.
73 A motion by Allen and second by Falwell to accept Jeff Fortune’s resignation from the
74 Advertising & Promotion Commission and appoint Kim Watkins to fulfill his term through
75 March 2023 carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Ivie, Lake, Falwell, Mansko, Allen, Green and
76 Moss.

77
78 **BID CONSIDERATION: GARBAGE BAGS**

79
80 Mayor Stewart presented proof of publication in the Newport Independent and the
81 handwritten bid tabulation for the garbage bags. Three bids were received:

82

83	Central Poly-bag Corp.	\$9.20/per roll plus sales tax
84	Unipak Corp.	\$6.40/per roll plus sales tax
85	Sigma Supply, Inc.	\$8.32/per roll plus sales tax

86

87 Mayor Stewart stated the Unipak Corporation bid was not to specifications. The bags are
88 barrel bags, too large for residential garbage cans and are not the same quality. This bid was
89 rejected.

90
91 After discussion, a motion by Allen and second by Ivie to accept the bid of Sigma Supply,
92 Inc. for 8,200 boxes of garbage bags containing 50 bags each for \$8.32 per roll plus tax
93 carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Green, Ivie, Moss, Lake, Falwell and Mansko.

94
95 **GOOD OF THE CITY**

96
97 Council Member Allen requested signs be placed marking the correct directions to Little
98 Rock and Memphis when coming off of the Blue Bridge (Highway 14). GPS systems are
99 directing traffic into residential areas.

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

103

104 PASSED AND APPROVED THE 3RD DAY OF MAY, 2021

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MAYOR

109 ATTEST:

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CITY CLERK