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CITY OF NEWPORT
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
MAY 3, 2021

The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session Monday, May 3, 2021 in the chambers of the Municipal Courtroom. Regular Council Meetings are being held once a month due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

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

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

A motion by Allen and second by Moss to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2021 Meeting carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Green, Ivie, Mansko and Moss. Andy May abstained due to being absent on April 5, 2021.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Stewart had the following reports:

- Arkansas Correctional Regional Maintenance Crews are back to work at the Recycling Center and other projects. City Inspector Ratliffe reported that the Arkansas Correctional Regional Men’s Maintenance Crew worked clearing out the drainage ditch between Live Oak and Lelia Street. The Crew will continue working on the drainage ditches in that area.
- Mayor Stewart reported he has hired Jim’s Tree Care from Magness to remove the tree causing the drainage problem that Mr. Kevin Lee brought before the Council on April 5th. Weather permitting, Jim’s Tree Care will start the project in early June. When the tree is removed a new drainage pipe will be installed.
- Weather forecast for Jackson County is predicting 1 ½ to 2 inches of rain tonight. With the flood gates being closed due to the river stage, the flood pumps will have to pump out any rain we receive. Kerry Tharpe, Public Works Director, stated he had people ready to start the pumps as soon as it begins to rain.
- Police Chief Edwards reported that the police auction held on April 24th netted approximately \$29,000 for the 140 firearms and approximately \$14,000 for items seized through drug enforcement.
- The March 2021 Financial Statements for the General Fund, Street Fund, 911 Fund, Sewer Fund and Newport Airport Commission were given to each Council Member. Mayor Stewart asked that each Council Member review the financial statements and direct any questions to City Clerk/Treasurer Hembrey or to him.
- Mayor Stewart appointed 3 Council Members to form a Parks Committee for the planning and design of the George Kell Park new concession stand and bathroom facilities. The Parks Committee Members are Donny Ivie, Michael Allen and Andy May.
- Sales Taxes received in April 2021 were City Sales Taxes - \$126,318, County Sales Taxes - \$73,395 and NEDC Sales Taxes - \$63,159.
- Mayor Stewart recognized Roderick Robinson to address the Council on Branch Park. Several requests were made including bathrooms. After discussion, Council Member

51 Green suggested a committee to study the feasibility of any improvements to Branch
52 Park. Mayor Stewart appointed Kathy Green, Leroy Mansko and Donny Ivie to the
53 Committee.
54

55 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS: - NONE**

56
57 **NEW BUSINESS:**

58
59 **REAPPOINT LAUREN SAMPSON TO ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION**
60 **COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING MARCH 2024**

61
62 A motion by Green and second by Moss to reappoint Lauren Sampson to the Advertising and
63 Promotion Commission for a term expiring March 2024 carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by
64 Moss, Ivie, Green, May, Mansko and Allen.
65

66 **REAPPOINT DREW HAIGWOOD TO THE LEVEE COMMISSION FOR A TERM**
67 **EXPIRING MAY 1, 2024**

68
69 A motion by Ivie and second by Allen to reappoint Drew Haigwood to the Levee
70 Commission for a term expiring May 1, 2024 carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by May,
71 Mansko, Moss, Green, Allen and Ivie.
72

73 **REAPPOINT PENN STAFFORD TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION FOR TERM**
74 **EXPIRING JULY 2024**

75
76 A motion by Allen and second by Mansko to reappoint Penn Stafford to the Planning
77 Commission for a term expiring July 2024 carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Mansko, Green,
78 Moss, Allen, Ivie and May.
79

80 **REAPPOINTMENTS TO THE NEWPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
81 **COMMISSION**

- 82
83 • **LEE SCOGGINS (TERM EXPIRING 5/1/26)**
84 • **DEAN SIDES (TERM EXPIRING 5/1/26)**
85 • **SCOTT FOUSHEE (TERM EXPIRING 5/1/26)**
86

87 A motion by Green and second by Moss to reappoint Lee Scoggins to the Newport Economic
88 Development Commission with a term expiring 5/1/26 carried (6/0) with “yes votes by May,
89 Moss, Mansko, Ivie, Allen and Green.
90

91 A motion by Moss and second by Mansko to reappoint Dean Sides to the Newport Economic
92 Development Commission with a term expiring 5/1/26 carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by
93 Allen, Green, Ivie, Moss, May and Mansko.
94

95 A motion by Ivie and second by Moss to reappoint Scott Foushee to the Newport Economic
96 Development Commission with a term expiring 5/1/26 carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Ivie,
97 May, Mansko, Allen, Green and Moss.
98

99 **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND PROVIDING FOR ACCEPTANCE OF**
100 **U.S.D.A. GRANT FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT**

101

102 City Attorney Pettie read the Resolution in its entirety. A motion by Moss and second by
103 Ivie to accept the Resolution authorizing and providing for the acceptance of U.S.D.A. grant
104 in an amount not to exceed \$49,000 for the purpose of providing a portion of the cost of
105 Police Department vehicles and equipment carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Green, Ivie,
106 May, Allen, Moss and Mansko.

107

108 **ORDINANCE EXTENDING THE EXPIRATION DATE OF 0.5% SALES AND USE**
109 **TAX FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM 3/31/2022-3/31/2032 AND**
110 **CALLING FOR A SPECIAL ELECTION**

111

112 Mayor Stewart stated the expiration date of the 0.5% sales and use tax for economic
113 development is set to expire March 2022. Mayor Stewart requested City Attorney Pettie read
114 the Ordinance calling for a special election to extend the expiration date to March 2032. A
115 motion by Allen and second by Green to read the Ordinance by caption only carried (6/0)
116 with “yes” votes by Allen, Green, Ivie Moss, May and Mansko.

117

118 City Attorney Pettie read the Ordinance by caption only. A motion by Allen and second by
119 Green to suspend the rules in their entirety and forego the 2nd and 3rd readings in their
120 entirety carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Green, Ivie, May, Allen, Moss and Mansko.

121

122 A motion by Moss and second by Green to accept the Ordinance carried (6/0) with “yes”
123 votes by May, Moss, Mansko, Ivie, Allen and Green.

124

125 **GOOD OF THE CITY**

126

127 Council Member Allen stated a citizen had complained about the looks of the barricade on
128 Walnut Street. Mayor Stewart stated a physical barrier was required and the barricade had
129 been moved back the 27 feet recommended by the Arkansas Highway Department.

130

131 Council Member Allen stated that Mr. Kenny Fletcher was concerned about the safety of his
132 trucks with traffic turning off of Beech Street onto Highway 367N. For the safety of
133 everyone, Mayor Stewart requested that Chief Edwards make sure the trucks are being
134 parked 10 feet from the roadway with visibility of 50 feet in each direction as the law states.

135

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

137

138 PASSED AND APPROVED THE 7TH DAY OF JUNE, 2021

139

140

141 _____
MAYOR

142 ATTEST:

143

144 _____
145 CITY CLERK