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**CITY OF NEWPORT  
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL  
AUGUST 2, 2021**

The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session Monday, August 2, 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, Carol Falwell, Kathy Green, Regina Lake, Leroy Mansko, Andy May and Julie Moss. City Attorney John Pettie was present. Council Member Donny Ivie was absent.

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

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

**REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**

Mayor Stewart had the following reports:

- The June 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.
- Several concrete street repairs are being finished around the City. These areas include McLain Street at Highway 69, Holden Avenue, 2 areas in Galleria Addition. The Highway Fuel Tax Grant of \$250,000, which is scheduled to begin this Fall, will include Elm, Vine, Pine, Ash, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, short 6<sup>th</sup>, Hirsch, Washington, Lafayette and Grant Streets.
- The first installment of the American Rescue Act of 2021 was received on July 26, 2021. The \$772,214.19 has been placed in a separate checking account. We are waiting for the final rules from the Federal Reserve on the allowable expenditures for these funds.
- Mayor Stewart will be meeting with Congressman Crawford on Wednesday August 11<sup>th</sup> to discuss his concerns on the restrictions on American Rescue Act funds.
- Sales Taxes received in July 2021 were City Sales Taxes - \$158,104, County Sales Taxes - \$91,094 and NEDC Sales Taxes - \$79,052.
- City Attorney Pettie stated that he is running for Prosecuting Attorney and will not be able to run for City Attorney in the next election. Pettie stated that the Law changed in 2019 ( A.C.A. §14-42-122) allowing a City of the first class under 10,000 to switch from electing the City Attorney to appointing or hiring the City Attorney. Pettie stated he brought this to the Council’s attention to give the Council their options for the City Attorney position in the future.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE**

50 **NEW BUSINESS:**

51

52 **REAPPOINT KATHY ROBINSON TO NEWPORT HOUSING AUTHORITY**  
53 **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS (TERM EXPIRING 5/1/26)**

54

55 Mayor Stewart presented a letter from the Newport Housing Authority asking that Kathy  
56 Robinson be reappointed to the Newport Housing Authority Board of Commissioners. A  
57 motion by Falwell and second by Moss to reappoint Kathy Robinson to the Newport Housing  
58 Authority Board of Commissioners carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Lake, Falwell, May,  
59 Mansko, Allen, Green and Moss.

60

61 **REAPPOINT MARK ELLIS TO THE NEWPORT AIRPORT COMMISSION (TERM**  
62 **EXPIRING 9/30/26)**

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64 A motion by Moss and second by Lake to reappoint Mark Ellis to the Newport Airport  
65 Commission with a term expiring 9/30/26 carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Moss,  
66 Lake, Falwell, May and Mansko. Green abstained.

67

68 **REQUEST FROM ARKANSAS CENTER FOR INDEPENDENCE**

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70 Mayor Stewart presented a letter from Executive Director Glenda Rutledge-May of the  
71 Arkansas Center for Independence asking the City Council to waive any city building fees on  
72 the project for a new day program facility. After discussion, a motion by Falwell and second  
73 by Moss to waive the city building fees of \$1,830.00 for the new day program facility carried  
74 (6/0) with “yes” votes by Green, Lake, Falwell, Allen, Moss and Mansko. May abstained.

75

76 **KEVIN LEE TO ADDRESS COUNCIL ABOUT DIVERSITY**

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78 Mayor Stewart presented Kevin Lee. Mr. Lee gave an overview of his views of diversity in  
79 Newport and Jackson County.

80

81 **GOOD OF THE CITY**

82

83 After discussion concerning street debris and grass growing in the streets, a walk behind  
84 grass edger will be purchased.

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

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88 PASSED AND APPROVED THE 7<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2021

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MAYOR

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ATTEST:

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CITY CLERK