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**CITY OF NEWPORT
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 7, 2021**

5 The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session Tuesday,
6 September 7, 2021 in the chambers of the Municipal Courtroom. Regular Council Meetings
7 are being held 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, Donny Ivie, Regina Lake,
11 Leroy Mansko, Andy May and Julie Moss. City Attorney John Pettie was present. Council
12 Member Kathy Green was absent.

14 Following the invocation by Carol Falwell, those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

16 A motion by May and second by Moss to approve the minutes of the August 2, 2021 Meeting
17 carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Falwell, Lake, Mansko, May, and Moss.
18 Ivie abstained due to being absent on August 2, 2021.

20 **REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**

22 Mayor Stewart had the following reports:

- 23 • A copy of the 2020 Sewer Department Audit Report was given to each Council Member.
24 The report stated “In our opinion, the 2020 financial statements referred to above present
25 fairly, in all material respects, the modified cash basis financial position of the City of
26 Newport, Arkansas Sewer Department as of December 31, 2020, and the respective changes
27 in modified cash basis financial position and modified cash basis cash flows for the year then
28 ended, in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting as described in Note 1(B) to
29 the financial statements.”
- 30 • The July 2021 Financial Statements for the General Fund, Street Fund, 911 Fund, Sewer
31 Fund and Newport Airport Commission were given to each Council Member. Mayor
32 Stewart asked that each Council Member review the financial statements and direct
33 any questions to City Clerk/Treasurer Hembrey or to him.
- 34 • Mayor Stewart gave a list of approved projects funded or to be funded by the
35 Advertising & Promotion Tax as of September 1, 2021.
- 36 • White River Medical Center and Unity Health are putting a \$4,200,000 solar project
37 in the field on McLain Street west of where the old Newport Hospital stood. The
38 array will be built by Entegry Energy Partners with a single axis tracker model.
- 39 • On September 27th, a curb clean-up will begin with 1 city employee and 5 New Life
40 workers. The project will begin in the area of Ash, Pine and Vine and continue
41 throughout the City where dirty and grass are present.
- 42 • Kerry Tharpe, Director of Public Works, gave a report on the cleaning of the inlets
43 with a high pressure machine throughout the City.
- 44 • Derrick Ratliffe, City Inspector, gave a list of several dilapidated properties and the
45 current status of each property.
- 46 • Mayor Stewart gave a report on his meeting with Congressman Crawford on August
47 11, 2021. The meeting covered many areas of concern including the American
48 Rescue Act Funds and the allowable usage of those funds.
- 49 • Sales Taxes received in August 2021 were City Sales Taxes - \$156,541, County Sales
50 Taxes - \$92,755 and NEDC Sales Taxes - \$78,271.

- The 2020 Census has been released and NEWPORT has INCREASED by 126 citizens from the 2010 Census.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

APPOINT BILLY KEEDY TO NEWPORT AIRPORT COMMISSION TO FULFILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF ANDREW JONES (Term Expiring 9/30/25)

Mayor Stewart stated Andrew Jones has received a promotion and will no longer be able to serve on the Newport Airport Commission. A motion by May and second by Lake to appoint Billy Keedy to the Newport Airport Commission with a term expiring 9/30/25 carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Ivie, Moss, Lake, Falwell, May and Manko.

RESOLUTION: AD VALOREM TAX

Mayor Stewart stated that the annual notification to the Jackson County Clerk’s Office for the taxes of 2021 to be paid in 2022 in accordance with Statute 26-73-202 was due. The taxes will remain the same Five (5) Mills for General Fund and One (1) Mill for Firemen’s Pension Fund. City Attorney Pettie read the Ad Valorem Tax Resolution in its entirety. A motion by Allen and second by Moss to approve the Resolution carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Falwell, Ivie, Manko, Lake, May, Allen and Moss.

RESOLUTION: AMEND 2020 BUDGET FOR ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION FUND AND GRANT FUND

Mayor Stewart presented an amended 2020 budget for the Advertising and Promotion Fund and the Grant Fund. City Attorney Pettie read the Resolution in its entirety. A motion by Falwell and second by Manko carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Ivie, Lake, May, Falwell, Allen, Moss and Manko.

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ORDINANCE: WAIVING COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND AUTHORIZING CONTRACT WITH LINING AND COATING SOLUTIONS, LLC. FOR REPAIR OF 995 FEET OF SEWER LINE

Mayor Stewart stated Martin Steward has requested an Ordinance to waive competitive bidding on a failed gravity sewer line in the area of Bryant Street. City Attorney Pettie read the Ordinance in its entirety. A motion by Allen and second by Moss to suspend the rules in their entirety and forego the 2nd and 3rd readings of the Ordinance carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Lake, May, Moss, Manko, Falwell, Ivie and Allen.

101 A motion by May and second by Falwell to adopt the Ordinance carried (7/0) with “yes”
102 votes by Mansko, Falwell, Lake, Moss, Allen, Ivie and May.

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104 A motion by Allen and second by May to approve the emergency clause carried (7/0) with
105 “yes” votes by May, Mansko, Moss, Allen, Lake, Falwell and Ivie.

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107 **KEVIN LEE TO ADDRESS COUNCIL ABOUT**

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- 109 • **Diversity**
- 110 • **Funding for Improvement on West End of Newport**
- 111 • **Community Center for Newport**

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113 Mayor Stewart presented Kevin Lee. Mr. Lee gave an overview of his views of diversity,
114 funding and improvement for activities and recreation for youth and a community center in
115 Newport and Jackson County.

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

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119 PASSED AND APPROVED THE 4TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2021

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122 _____
MAYOR

123 ATTEST:

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125 _____

126 CITY CLERK