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**CITY OF NEWPORT
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
DECEMBER 6, 2021**

The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session Monday December 6, 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, Donny Ivie, Regina Lake, Leroy Manko, Andy May and Julie Moss. City Attorney John Pettie was present.

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

A motion by Allen and second by Ivie to approve the minutes of the November 1, 2021 meeting carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Green, Ivie, Lake, and May. Falwell, Manko and Moss abstained due to being absent on November 1, 2021.

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REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Stewart had the following reports:

- The October 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.
- The duplex at 104 Wilkerson Drive burnt several months ago. The owner of the property has been contacted several times by City Inspector Ratliffe and Mayor Stewart concerning the removal of the debris. The owner has made no effort to remove the debris. Condemnation proceedings have begun. Mayor Stewart asked that each Council Member go by 104 Wilkerson Drive and observe the property. An Ordinance of Condemnation will then be presented at the next Council Meeting.
- Mayor Stewart stated two (2) crews of workers are picking up bagged leaves all over town daily. The street sweeper is cleaning the street after the leaves are picked up. Next the workers will start cleaning the ditches, they will start on the main ditch going North and South.
- Mayor Stewart stated the Arkansas Parks and Recreation Grant for the new concession stand and restrooms for George Kell Park has been denied. Mayor Stewart stated a loan of \$360,000 for 5 years from Merchants and Planters Bank is included in the Proposed 2022 Budget. Loan payments would be made with funds from the Advertising and Promotion Tax. The Advertising and Promotion Commission has agreed to extend the allotment of 50% of the taxes collected to the George Kell Park until the loan is paid in full.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

**RESOLUTION GRANTING APPROVAL FOR SEARCY HOUSING AUTHORITY
TO ADMINISTER SECTION EIGHT PROJECT BASED VOUCHERS WITHIN THE
CITY OF NEWPORT**

51 Mayor Stewart recognized the Deputy Director of Newport Housing – David Gates. Mr.
52 Gates gave an informative overview of the need for an administrator of Section 8 project
53 based vouchers. Gates requested approval for the Searcy Housing Authority to administer
54 Section 8 project based vouchers within the City of Newport. City Attorney Pettie read the
55 Resolution granting the approval in its entirety. A motion by Allen and second by Falwell to
56 authorize the Searcy Housing Authority to exercise its powers within the territorial
57 boundaries of the City of Newport to administer Section 8 vouchers carried (8/0) with “yes”
58 votes by Green, Allen, Falwell, Mansko, Moss, Ivie, May and Lake.

59

60 **APPOINT WENDELL GREEN TO NEWPORT HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD**
61 **OF COMMISSIONERS TO FULFILL UNEXPIRED TERM OF DERRICK PERSON**
62 **(TERM OF 12/7/21 TO 5/1/23)**

63

64 Mayor Stewart presented a letter from the Newport Housing Authority requesting Wendell
65 Green be appointed to Newport Housing Authority Board of Commissioners. A motion by
66 Ivie and second by Mansko to appoint Wendell Green to the Newport Housing Authority
67 Board of Commissioners to fulfill the unexpired term of Derrick Person with a term of
68 12/7/21 to 5/1/23 carried (8/0) with “yes” votes by Moss, Ivie, Green, May, Lake, Mansko,
69 Allen and Falwell.

70

71 **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH**
72 **PROVENCE CONSTRUCTION FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A REGIONAL**
73 **TECHNOLOGY CENTER**

74

75 Mayor Stewart stated Provence Construction of Cave City, Arkansas had won the bid for the
76 construction of the new IT Center being built beside the Newport Economic Development
77 Commission Building. City Attorney Pettie read the Resolution authorizing the Mayor to
78 enter into a contract for the construction of the regional technology center in its entirety. A
79 motion by Falwell and second by Green to approve the Resolution carried (7/0) with “yes”
80 votes by Moss, Mansko, Falwell, Green, Lake, Ivie and May. Allen abstained.

81

82 **RESOLUTION: ADOPT AMENDED 2021 BUDGET FOR CITY AND NEDC**

83

84 Mayor Stewart presented the Amended 2021 Budget to the Council. After discussion, a
85 motion by Allen and second by Mansko to adopt the Amended 2021 Budget carried (8/0)
86 with “yes” votes by Ivie, Allen, Green, Moss, Falwell, Mansko, Lake and May.

87

88 **RESOLUTION: REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF NEWPORT ECONOMIC**
89 **DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION 2022 BUDGET**

90

91 Mayor Stewart presented the Proposed 2022 Budget for the Newport Economic Development
92 Commission. After discussion, City Attorney Pettie read the Resolution acknowledging the
93 review and approval of 2022 Budget for the Newport Economic Development Commission
94 in its entirety. A motion by Mansko and second by Lake to approve the Resolution carried
95 (8/0) with “yes” votes by Falwell, Green, Ivie, Allen, May, Mansko, Moss and Lake.

96

97 **RESOLUTION: REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE NEWPORT AIRPORT**
98 **COMMISSION 2022 BUDGET**

99

100 Mayor Stewart presented the Proposed 2022 Budget for the Newport Airport Commission
101 (NAC). NAC Chairman Jim McLarty gave an informative overview of the improvements
102 made to the Airport through FAA Grants and the State of Arkansas Grants. City Attorney

103 Pettie read the Resolution in its entirety. A motion by Ivie and second by Lake to approve
104 the Resolution acknowledging the review and approval of the 2022 Budget for the Newport
105 Airport Commission carried (8/0) with “yes” votes by May, Mansko, Moss, Green, Allen,
106 Lake, Falwell and Ivie.

107
108 **RESOLUTION: ADOPT 2022 CITY BUDGET**

109
110 Mayor Stewart gave a detailed review of the proposed 2022 revenues and 2022 expenses by
111 each department and answered questions from the Council. Mayor Stewart stated the 2022
112 proposed operating budget includes a salary increase of 3%. After discussion, City Attorney
113 Pettie read the Resolution in its entirety. A motion by Ivie and second by Moss to approve
114 the Resolution for the 2022 Operating Budget carried (8/0) with “yes” votes by Lake,
115 Mansko, Falwell, Green, Ivie, May, Allen, Moss.

116
117 **GOOD OF THE CITY**

118
119 Council Member Moss stated she had received calls about the corner of Magnolia and Dill.
120 Moss stated the view of oncoming traffic was blocked due to vehicles being parked in the
121 yard at the corner. Police Chief Edwards stated he had spoken with the property owner
122 concerning this matter. Chief Edwards stated if the vehicles continue parking on the property
123 blocking the view of traffic that the next step will be a sign stating “No Parking from here to
124 the Corner”.

125
126 Council Member Ivie inquired about the sign at the crosswalk at Remmel Avenue. Director
127 of Public Works Tharpe stated the sign was straightened as much as possible and placed back
128 at the crosswalk. The next morning the sign was found 4 blocks down the road and could not
129 be salvaged. After discussion, the 2nd new sign will be placed in the crosswalk.

130
131 Council Member Mansko inquired about the policy for placing dumpsters on consumers’
132 property. Mayor Stewart stated the City places the dumpsters where the garbage trucks can
133 service the dumpster and the dumpster is only to be moved by the City.

134
135 With no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

136
137 PASSED AND APPROVED THE 3RD DAY OF JANUARY, 2022

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MAYOR

141 ATTEST:
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143 _____
144 CITY CLERK