

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50

**CITY OF NEWPORT  
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL  
JANUARY 3, 2022**

The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session Monday January 3, 2022 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, Regina Lake, Leroy Mansko, Andy May and Julie Moss. City Attorney John Pettie was present. Council Member Carol Falwell was absent.

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

A motion by Allen and second by May to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2021 meeting carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Green, Ivie, Lake, Mansko, May and Moss.

**REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**

Mayor Stewart had the following reports:

- The November 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.
- On December 10, 2021, high winds/tornado hit the George Kell Park causing extensive damage. The ballpark lights were damaged or destroyed, the shingles were blown off concession stand building, tops of dugouts were blown off, large trees were uprooted, fences destroyed and batting cage was destroyed. The Municipal League Property Insurance was notified. An adjustor has surveyed the damage and will report back to the Mayor.
- Workers Compensation Insurance premiums for 2022 were down from \$101,600 in 2021 to \$79,458 in 2022. Mayor Stewart stated our workers are to be commended for working in a safe manner which decreases our workers compensation claims.
- The National Guard Armory has a monument that lists the National Guard Members that served in Iraq and Egypt. Mayor Stewart asked that the Council give its permission to move the monument to the Front Street Veterans Park. A motion by Moss and second by Green to allow the monument to be placed in the Front Street Veterans Park carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Moss, Mansko, Green, Lake, Ivie and May.
- The City of Newport has been approved for a 2022 Recycling Grant of \$34,875. This grant requires a 25% match from the City. The 2022 Budget includes a pickup truck partially financed with this grant.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**ORGANIZATION OF CITY COUNCIL ACA §14-43-501**

After discussion, a motion by Mansko and second by Ivie to leave the organization of the City Council the same carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Green, Ivie, Allen, May, Mansko, Moss and Lake.

51 **ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING 2022 SALARIES FOR CITY CLERK/TREASURER**  
52 **AND CITY ATTORNEY**

53 Mayor Stewart stated that the 2022 City Clerk/Treasurer’s and City Attorney’s salaries had  
54 been approved with the 2022 Budget Resolution; however, Arkansas Code Ann. 14-43-313  
55 requires these two salaries be authorized by Ordinance. City Attorney John Pettie read the  
56 Ordinance in its entirety.

57  
58 A motion by Allen and second by Mansko to suspend the rules in their entirety and forego  
59 the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> readings carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Moss, Mansko, Green, Lake,  
60 Ivie and May.

61  
62 A motion by May and second by Green to accept the Ordinance carried (7/0) with “yes”  
63 votes by Mansko, Green, Lake, Moss, Allen, Ivie and May.

64  
65 **ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THAT THE OFFICE OF CITY ATTORNEY SHALL**  
66 **BE AN APPOINTED POSITION**

67 City Attorney John Pettie reported the Arkansas Legislature has amended A.C.A § 14-42-122  
68 to allow cities of the first class with a population of 10,000 or less to adopt an Ordinance  
69 establishing the office of City Attorney as an appointed position. After discussion, City  
70 Attorney Pettie read the 1<sup>st</sup> reading in its entirety of an Ordinance changing the City Attorney  
71 position from an elected position to an appointed position by the City Council.

72  
73 **KENNY GOODWIN WITH SKYFI INTERNET SERVICE TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**  
74 **ABOUT INTERNET SERVICE TO RESIDENTIAL PART OF TOWN**

75 Mayor Stewart recognized Kenny Goodwin from Skyfinet Internet Service. Mr. Goodwin  
76 distributed literature concerning an executive summary of the project planned for Newport,  
77 an overview of the technology and experience of Skyfinet Internet Service. Mr. Goodwin  
78 gave an informative overview of the infrastructure that would be placed in Newport for  
79 residential services.

80  
81 **RODERICK ROBINSON TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

82 Mayor Stewart recognized Roderick Robinson. Robinson stated he wanted to talk about a  
83 dumpster that he requested and a refund he felt like he was due. Mayor Stewart and  
84 Robinson clashed during discussions. Mayor Stewart stated Robinson’s charges would be  
85 reviewed. Mayor Stewart stated that Derrick Ratliffe would be Robinson’s point of contact  
86 in the future due to the conflict between Robinson and himself.

87  
88 With no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

89  
90 PASSED AND APPROVED THE 7<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2022

91  
92  
93 \_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

94 ATTEST:  
95  
96 \_\_\_\_\_  
97 CITY CLERK