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**CITY OF NEWPORT
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 7, 2022**

9 The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session Monday February
10 7, 2022 in the chambers of the Municipal Courtroom. Regular Council Meetings are being
11 held once a month due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.
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13 Mayor Stewart called the meeting to order. City Clerk/Treasurer Hembrey called the roll.
14 Council members present were Michael Allen, Carol Falwell, Kathy Green, Regina Lake,
15 Leroy Mansko, Andy May and Julie Moss. Council Member Donny Ivie and City Attorney
16 John Pettie were absent.

17 Following the invocation by Carol Falwell, those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
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19 A motion by May and second by Allen to approve the minutes of the January 3, 2022
20 meeting carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Green, Lake, Mansko, May and Moss.
21 Falwell abstained due to being absent on January 3, 2022.
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REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

37 Mayor Stewart had the following reports:

- 38 • The December 2021 Financial Statements for the General Fund, Street Fund, 911 Fund,
39 Fed Aid Grant Fund, Sewer Fund and Newport Airport Commission were given to each
40 Council Member. Mayor Stewart asked that each Council Member review the
41 financial statements and direct any questions to City Clerk/Treasurer Hembrey or to
42 him.
- 43 • The traffic light at 3rd and Walnut has been repaired. Parking in front of the Library
44 is being changed back to parallel parking.
- 45 • With the exception of the lighting, George Kell Park repairs from the December 10,
46 2021 storm are almost complete. The lighting for the Legion Field requires metal
47 poles and LED lights. The cost to replace the lights on the Legion Field is estimated
48 to be \$252,640. Municipal League Property Program paid \$182,303.50 for all the
49 lighting. Mayor Stewart spoke to Superintendent Bunch requesting the school
50 consider paying half of the difference. Superintendent Bunch stated he would bring
this before the School Board.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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

45 Mayor Stewart read in its entirety the second (2nd) reading of the Ordinance to establish the
46 office of City Attorney as an appointed office rather than an elected position. The 3rd and
47 final reading of this Ordinance will be held at the next regular meeting of the City Council.
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NEW BUSINESS:

**PHILLIP MCDONALD TO ADDRESS COUNCIL FOR REMMEL PARK
ASSOCIATION FUND REQUEST FOR LEGION HUT RESTORATION**

Mayor Stewart recognized Phillip McDonald from the Rammel Park Association. Mr.
McDonald gave a very informative overview of the history of the Legion Hut and the plans

51 to restore the Legion Hut. After discussion, a motion by Green and second by Falwell to
52 allow the Mayor to enter into a contract with the Rimmel Park Association for \$20,000 for
53 services of the Legion Hut to the City of Newport carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Allen,
54 Green, Moss, Falwell, Mansko, Lake and May.

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56 **KEVIN LEE TO ADDRESS COUNCIL FOR:**

- 57 • Discuss changing a street name to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Street
- 58 • Discuss removing gates on Calhoun Circle
- 59 • Follow up on flooding

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61 Mayor Stewart stated Mr. Lee was satisfied with both the gates on Calhoun Circle and
62 flooding at this time but would like to address the Council concerning the changing of a
63 street name to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Street. Mayor Stewart recognized Kevin Lee. Mr.
64 Lee requested that Rimmel Avenue be renamed after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. After
65 discussion, Mayor Stewart will prepare an Ordinance for the Council to consider at the next
66 Council Meeting.

67

68 **GOOD OF THE CITY**

69 Council Member May suggested we look into putting heating and air conditioning in the now
70 City owned National Guard Amory. Mayor Stewart stated he would speak with Sheridan
71 Chadwell to see if the Joe and Helen Harris Foundation would want to take on the extra cost
72 of utilities.

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

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76 PASSED AND APPROVED THE 7TH DAY OF MARCH, 2022

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MAYOR

80 ATTEST:

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CITY CLERK