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**CITY OF NEWPORT**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL**  
**APRIL 4, 2022**

The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session Monday April 4, 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, Carol Falwell, Kathy Green, Donny Ivie, Regina Lake, Leroy Mansko and Andy May. City Attorney John Pettie was present. Council Member Julie Moss was absent.

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

A motion by Allen and second by Mansko to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2022 Meeting carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Lake, Mansko, May and Mayor Stewart. Those abstaining were Falwell, Green and Ivie.

**REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**

Mayor Stewart had the following reports:

- In accordance with Arkansas Code Ann. §14-59-116 the annual publication of the 2021 City Financial Statement was published in the Newport Independent on March 17, 2022.
- The February 2022 Financial Statements for the General Fund, Street Fund, 911 Fund, Fed Aid Grant 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.
- Mayor Stewart presented a bid tabulation and proof of publication for a Sewer rehab project from 4<sup>th</sup> Street down to part of Beech Street, Newport Avenue under 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and Plum Street. Two bids were received:

Carl Baldwin Construction -	\$416,438.00
NLS Construction -	\$674,915.00

Miller Newell suggested that the low bid of Carl Baldwin be accepted for \$416,438.00. A motion by Falwell and second by Lake to accept the bid of Carl Baldwin Construction for \$416,438.00 carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Falwell, Green, Ivie, Lake, Mansko and May.
- University of Arkansas has a prestigious class called LeadAR. LeadAR is held over a two year period and is designed to provide leadership training for Arkansans. Newport is honored to host these participants every other year since 2010. Newport’s NEDC hosted the LeadAR 19 class at the end of March. Mayor Stewart received an email from Lisa Davis with the University of Arkansas listing the LeadAR Class 19 evaluation comments expressing their views of their visit and classes. The email expressed appreciation to the community of Newport for the hospitality, the sessions on Community Economic Development and sharing of knowledge and experience.
- City Sales tax received in March was up over the same period last year by approximately \$8,110, County Sales tax was up approximately \$8,724 and NEDC Sales tax was up approximately \$4,055.

51 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

52  
53 **APPROVE EMERGENCY CLAUSE ON ORDINANCE NO. 1203 THAT AMENDS**  
54 **SECTION 3.04.02 FOR PURCHASING REQUIREMENTS FOR BIDDING**

55 Mayor Stewart stated the emergency clause on Ordinance #1203 needed to be approved. The  
56 required 2/3 votes were not available at the March Council Meeting due to lack of members  
57 present. A motion by Mansko and second by Ivie to approve the emergency clause on  
58 Ordinance #1203 carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Green, Allen, Falwell, Mansko, Ivie, May  
59 and Lake.

60  
61 **NEW BUSINESS:**

62  
63 **ACCEPT RESIGNATION FROM RANDY RAMSEY FROM NEWPORT AIRPORT**  
64 **COMMISSION**

65  
66 Mayor Stewart and Airport Commissioner McLarty expressed their appreciation for Randy  
67 Ramsey’s service on the Airport Commission. A motion by Lake and second by Falwell to  
68 accept the resignation of Randy Ramsey from the Newport Airport Commission carried (7/0)  
69 with “yes” votes by May, Mansko, Green, Allen, Lake, Falwell and Ivie.

70  
71 **ACCEPT RESIGNATION FROM TERRY DILLON FROM THE NEWPORT**  
72 **WATER COMMISSION AND APPOINT RANDY RAMSEY TO THE NEWPORT**  
73 **WATER COMMISSION TO FULFILL THE TERM EXPIRING APRIL 9, 2024**

74  
75 Jim McLarty expressed the appreciation of the Newport Water Commission for Terry  
76 Dillion’s service on the Commission from September 1995 through the present. A motion  
77 by Ivie and second by Allen to accept the resignation of Terry Dillon from the Newport  
78 Water Commission and appoint Randy Ramsey to the Newport Water Commission with the  
79 term expiring 4/9/2024 carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Ivie, Allen, Green, Falwell, Mansko,  
80 Lake and May.

81  
82 **BID CONSIDERATION: GARBAGE BAGS**

83 Mayor Stewart presented proof of publication in the Newport Independent and the  
84 handwritten bid tabulation for the garbage bags. Three bids were received:

85

86	Sigma Supply, Inc.	\$10.32/per roll includes sales tax
87	Central Poly-bag Corp.	\$11.32/per roll includes sales tax
88	Unipak Corp.	\$10.19/per roll includes sales tax

89

90 Mayor Stewart stated the Unipak Corporation and Central Poly-bag Corporation bids were  
91 not to specifications. The Central Poly-bag had no animal repel, not on pallets and wrong  
92 bag. The Unipak Corporation was the wrong bag and not the correct thickness. A motion by  
93 Allen and second by Mansko to accept the bid of Sigma Supply, Inc. at \$10.32 per roll  
94 carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Ivie, Green, May, Lake, Mansko, Allen and Falwell.

95  
96 **CONSIDER SALE OF CESSNA AGTRUCK AIRPLANE**

97  
98 After discussion, a motion by Allen and second by Falwell to allow the auction sale of the  
99 1982 Cessna Agtruck Airplane with a reserve of \$50,000 carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by  
100 Lake, Mansko, Falwell, Green, Ivie, May and Allen.

102 **CONSIDER PURCHASE OF USED GARBAGE TRUCK**

103  
104 Mayor Stewart stated the garbage truck that we have been renting for several months could  
105 be bought for \$27,000. A motion by Allen and second by Green to purchase the garbage  
106 truck for \$27,000 carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Falwell, Green, Ivie, Lake, Mansko  
107 and May.

108  
109 **RESOLUTION: AMEND 2021 BUDGET FOR ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION**  
110 **FUND**

111  
112 City Attorney Pettie read the Resolution amending the 2021 Advertising and Promotion Fund  
113 in its entirety. A motion by Falwell and second by Lake to accept the Resolution carried  
114 (7/0) with “yes” votes by Mansko, Falwell, Green, Lake, Allen, Ivie and May.

115  
116 **ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING CONTRACT WITH NEWPORT CONSTRUCTION**  
117 **CO., INC. AND WAIVING COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR EMERGENCY**  
118 **REPAIRS TO GEORGE KELL PARK FROM TORNADO DAMAGES**

119  
120 Mayor Stewart stated, due to the damages caused by the tornado at George Kell Park, an  
121 Ordinance was needed to waive the competitive bidding for the repairs to the George Kell  
122 Park. With High School baseball and youth baseball and softball activities beginning in early  
123 February a safe venue was needed as soon as possible. City Attorney Pettie read the  
124 Ordinance in its entirety.

125  
126 A motion by May and second by Falwell to suspend the rules in their entirety and forego the  
127 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> readings in their entirety carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Falwell, Ivie, Mansko,  
128 Lake, May, Allen and Green.

129  
130 A motion by May and second by Green to accept the Ordinance carried (7/0) with “yes”  
131 votes by Mansko, Falwell, Green, Lake, Allen, Ivie and May.

132  
133 A motion by May and second by Green to approve the emergency clause carried (7/0) with  
134 “yes” votes by Allen, Green, Ivie, Lake, Falwell, May and Mansko.

135  
136 **STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS**

137  
138 Mayor Stewart reviewed the State of the City, as required by Arkansas Statute 14-58-302.  
139 Mayor Stewart gave an informative overview of each department including:

- 140  
141
- 142 • State Sales Tax Revenue continues to increase over the same period a year ago.
  - 143 • Construction has begun on the Regional Technology Center. Construction should be  
144 completed in approximately 1 year.
  - 145 • A new fire truck has been ordered and will be paid for with Act 833 funds. The fire  
146 truck should be delivered in late November.
  - 147 • Ambulance Department is short one Paramedic. Ambulance revenue was less in 2021  
148 than in 2020.
  - 149 • Police Department is short one Officer with one individual graduating from the  
150 academy next week. The 2022 Budgeted Tahoes have been ordered. USDA grant is  
in the approval stage.

- 151 • Residential Sanitation Department is running 2 trucks 4 days a week. Rates will be  
152 reviewed at the end of this year.
- 153 • Commercial Sanitation, Mosquito Control and Inspection Departments are running  
154 well.
- 155 • Swimming Pool has been closed for 3 years. Mayor Stewart stated we might look at  
156 demolishing the pool in the future.
- 157 • George Kell Park tornado damages are all repaired with the exception of the lighting.  
158 Parks Director Long and crew have the park looking very good with the funds for  
159 projects coming from the Advertising and Promotion Tax.
- 160 • Recycling Department has returned to receiving prisoner labor. The prisoners are  
161 doing a good job. A new pickup truck has been ordered for the Recycling  
162 Department.
- 163 • Sewer Department has a rehab project in progress. Sewer Superintendent Stewart  
164 saves the City funds by doing the road repairs, cleanup and other things that the  
165 contractors charge for in the contracts.

166  
167 **GOOD OF THE CITY**

168  
169 Council Member Allen inquired about the green film on the Lake. Mayor Stewart stated a  
170 sample had been sent to ASU-N to analyze.

171  
172 With no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

173  
174 PASSED AND APPROVED THE 2<sup>ND</sup> DAY OF MAY, 2022

175  
176 \_\_\_\_\_  
177 MAYOR

178 ATTEST:  
179  
180 \_\_\_\_\_  
181 CITY CLERK