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CITY OF NEWPORT
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
JUNE 6, 2022

The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session Monday June 6, 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, Donny Ivie, Leroy Mansko, Andy May and Julie Moss. City Attorney John Pettie was present. Council Members Kathy Green and Regina Lake were absent.

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

A motion by May and second by Mansko to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2022 Meeting carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Falwell, Ivie, Mansko, May and Moss.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Stewart had the following reports:

- A copy of the 2021 Sewer Department Audit Report was given to each Council Member. The report stated “In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the modified cash basis financial position of the City of Newport, Arkansas Sewer Department as of December 31, 2021, and the respective changes in modified cash basis financial position and modified cash basis cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting as described in Note 1(B) to the financial statements.”
- A paper copy of the April 2022 Financial Statements for the General Fund, Street Fund, 911 Fund, Sewer Fund and Newport Airport Commission was given to each Council Member. An electronic copy of April 2022 Financial Statements of the Administration of Justice Fund, Grant Fund, Intoximeter Fund, District Court Cost Fund, Court Automation Fund, Drug Control Fund, Advertising & Promotion Fund, Fed Aid Grant Fund, Judge/Clerk Retirement Fund, and NEDC Fund was sent to each Council Member with their council package. After discussion, all Financial Statements for all funds will be sent electronically monthly to each Council Member with their council package. Mayor Stewart asked that each Council Member review the financial statements and direct any questions to City Clerk/Treasurer Hembrey or to him.
- The Quorum Court of Jackson County has appropriated \$75,000 of their ARPA Funds to the establishment of a grain bin rescue team. The Newport Fire Department, being the only full time fire department in Jackson County, is in the planning stage of being the grain bin rescue team. A vehicle is needed along with other equipment for the rescue process. Mayor Stewart asked the Council to approve the use of a third ambulance vehicle that has not been used in a while. The funds from Jackson County’s ARPA appropriation would upgrade the ambulance vehicle and purchase other equipment needed for the grain bin rescue team. A motion by Allen and second by Falwell to approve the use of the spare ambulance for the grain bin rescue program carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Falwell, Ivie, Mansko, May and Moss.
- The Arkansas Division of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) requires funds to be budgeted each year for the post closure cleanup of our transfer station in the event of a closure. The Contract of Obligation being presented requires a budget amount of \$5,500. The previous contract required \$10,000 be budgeted each year. City

53 Attorney Pettie read the Resolution authorizing Mayor Stewart to enter into the
54 Contract of Obligation with ADEQ in its entirety. A motion by Allen and second by
55 Ivie to accept the Resolution carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Ivie, Moss,
56 Falwell, May and Mansko.
57 • Mayor Stewart stated Dr. Johnny Moore, ASU-N Chancellor, has moved to Newport.
58 Mayor Stewart requested Dr. Moore be appointed to the Newport Economic
59 Development Commission. A motion by Mansko and second by Falwell to appoint
60 Dr. Johnny Moore, ASU-N Chancellor to the Newport Economic Development
61 Commission with a term expiring on 5/6/2025 carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by
62 Allen, Falwell, Ivie, Mansko, May and Moss.
63

64 **ACCEPT DEED TRANSFER – MARY ALICE HOLDEN CONNER MEMORIAL**
65 **PARK**

66 A conditional grant from John Conner, Jr. to the City of Newport for the Mary Alice Holden
67 Conner Memorial Park was presented to the Council. The grant has a conditional clause that
68 if the park ceases to be used as a park the land reverts back to Holden Conner Commercial
69 Investments. A motion by Moss and second by Allen to accept the conditional deed transfer
70 of the Mary Alice Holden Conner Memorial Park to the City of Newport carried (6/0) with
71 “yes” votes by Moss, Ivie, May, Mansko, Allen and Falwell.
72

73 **CONSTRUCTION OF NEW DOG POUND BUILDING**

74 Mayor Stewart asked to table this item until the next meeting.
75

76 **ORDINANCE PERMITTING CITY TO CONDUCT BUSINESS WITH RICKEY**
77 **HEMBREY**

78 An Ordinance was presented to allow Rickey Hembrey to purchase a dilapidated lawn
79 mower. Rickey Hembrey is the husband of Deborah Hembrey, City Clerk. City Attorney
80 Pettie read the Ordinance in its entirety. A motion by Allen and second by Falwell to
81 suspend the rules in their entirety and forego the second and third readings carried (6/0) with
82 “yes” votes by Falwell, Ivie, Moss, Allen, May and Mansko. A motion by Allen and second
83 by Moss to accept the Ordinance carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, May, Falwell, Ivie,
84 Moss and Mansko.
85

86 **ORDINANCE PERMITTING CITY TO CONDUCT BUSINESS WITH TERRY S.**
87 **ROGERS**

88 An Ordinance was presented to the Council to allow Terry S. Rogers, a Newport Police
89 Sergeant, to purchase a dilapidated lawn mower. City Attorney Pettie read the Ordinance in
90 its entirety. A motion by Allen and second by Moss to suspend the rules in their entirety and
91 forego the second and third readings carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Ivie, Moss, Allen,
92 Mansko, Falwell and May. A motion by Allen and second by Falwell to accept the
93 Ordinance carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Mansko, Falwell, Moss, Allen, Ivie and May.
94

95 With no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.
96

97 PASSED AND APPROVED THE 11TH DAY OF JULY, 2022
98

99 _____
100 MAYOR

101 ATTEST:
102

103 _____
104 CITY CLERK