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**CITY OF NEWPORT
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
JULY 11, 2022**

5 The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session Monday July 11,
6 2022 in the chambers of the Municipal Courtroom. Regular Council Meetings are being held
7 once a month due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

9 Mayor Stewart was unable to attend due to illness. President Pro Tempore Michael Allen
10 called the meeting to order. City Clerk/Treasurer Hembrey called the roll. Council members
11 present were Kathy Green, Regina Lake, Leroy Mansko and Andy May. City Attorney John
12 Pettie was present. Council Members Carol Falwell, Donny Ivie and Julie Moss were
13 absent.

15 Following the Lord's Prayer, those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

17 A motion by May and second by Green to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2022 Meeting
18 carried (5/0) with "yes" votes by Allen, Green, Lake, Mansko and May.

20 A motion by Green and second by May to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2022 Meeting
21 carried (5/0) with "yes" votes by Allen, Green, Lake, Mansko and May.

23 **REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**

25 President Pro Tempore Allen had the following reports:

- 26 • An electronic copy of the May and June 2022 Financial Statements for the General
27 Fund, Street Fund, 911 Fund, Sewer Fund, Administration of Justice Fund, Grant Fund,
28 Intoximeter Fund, District Court Cost Fund, Court Automation Fund, Drug Control
29 Fund, Advertising & Promotion Fund, Fed Aid Grant Fund, Judge/Clerk Retirement
30 Fund, and NEDC Fund was sent to each Council Member with their council package.
31 President Pro Tempore Allen asked that if any Council Member had any questions to
32 please direct their questions to City Clerk/Treasurer Hembrey.

34 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE**

36 **NEW BUSINESS:**

38 **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO SUBMIT GRANT APPLICATION TO**
39 **ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, HERITAGE AND TOURISM FOR HINES**
40 **AND NORMANDY PARK IMPROVEMENTS**

41
42 Parks Director Long stated the project would be for some fencing and parking at Normandy
43 Park and a new swing set for Hines Street. After discussion, City Attorney Pettie read the
44 Resolution to authorize the Mayor to submit an application to the Arkansas Department of
45 Parks, Heritage and Tourism in its entirety. A motion by May and second by Lake to
46 approve the Resolution carried (5/0) with "yes" votes by Green, May, Lake, Mansko and
47 President Pro Tempore Allen.
48

49 **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CITY TO BORROW FUNDS FOR PURCHASE**
50 **PRICE AND LOAN AMOUNT OF A NEW 2023 FREIGHTLINER KNUCKLEBOOM**
51 **TRUCK**

52
53 City Attorney Pettie read the Resolution authorizing the City to borrow funds for the
54 purchase price and loan amount of a new 2023 Freightliner Knuckleboom Truck in its
55 entirety. After discussion, a motion by Green and second by Lake to approve the Resolution
56 authorizing the City to borrow the funds for a new 2023 Freightliner Knuckleboom approved
57 in the 2022 Budget carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by Manko, Green, Lake, President Pro
58 Tempore Allen and May.

59
60 **ORDINANCE PERMITTING CITY TO CONDUCT BUSINESS WITH GRADY’S**
61 **AUCTIONS AND REALTY, INC.**

62
63 City Attorney Pettie read the Ordinance permitting the City to conduct business with Grady’s
64 Auction and Realty, Inc. in its entirety. After discussion, a motion by Green and second by
65 Manko to suspend the rules in their entirety and forego the 2nd and 3rd readings of the
66 Ordinance carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by Green, President Pro Tempore Allen, May, Lake
67 and Manko.

68
69 A motion by Green and second by Lake to accept the Ordinance carried (5/0) with “yes”
70 votes by May, Manko, Green, President Pro Tempore Allen and Lake.

71
72 **ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING CONTRACT WITH NEWPORT CONSTRUCTION**
73 **COMPANY, INC. AND WAIVING COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR REPAIRS TO**
74 **CONCRETE DITCH 220 FEET NORTH OF GALERIA DRIVE**

75
76 President Pro Tempore Allen stated 3 informal quotes were obtained. The lowest quote
77 could not give a start date for the repairs. Newport Construction Company, Inc. was the next
78 to the lowest quote and could start immediately. City Attorney Pettie read the Ordinance
79 authorizing a contract with Newport Construction Company, Inc. and waiving competitive
80 bidding for repairs to the concrete ditch 220 feet North of Galeria Drive in its entirety. After
81 discussion, a motion by May and second by Manko to suspend the rules in their entirety and
82 forgo the 2nd and 3rd readings of the Ordinance carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by Manko,
83 Green, Lake, President Pro Tempore Allen and May.

84
85 A motion by May and second by Green to accept the Ordinance carried (5/0) with “yes”
86 votes by President Pro Tempore Allen, May, Lake, Green and Manko.

87
88 The Ordinance has an emergency clause that will need to be approved when at least 6
89 members of the Council are present.

90
91 **ORDINANCE REZONING PROPERTY AT PECAN & DAUGHERTY STREET**
92 **FROM A-2 TO C-2 (JUICE TECH, INC.)**

93
94 President Pro Tempore Allen stated Juice Tech, Inc. was asking to rezone approximately 20.6
95 acres at Pecan & Daugherty Street from A-2 to C-2 for a Data Center for data mining.
96 President Pro Tempore Allen recognized Shane Stovall, Construction Project Manager and
97 James Babb from Ibanera. Mr. Babb gave each member a copy of the drawings for the
98 facilities and a copy of a study by Diversified Environmental Consulting Service, Inc. on
99 noise levels. The study stated “there are no inherent noise risks associated with the property

100 and recommend that the property be re-zoned to accommodate this development”. Mr. Babb
101 gave an informative overview of the process of data mining and addressed the issue of noise
102 created by the cooling fans. Mr. Babb stated a letter from Juice Tech, Inc. would be issued
103 stating sound deadening measures would be added to the building if noise levels became an
104 issue. Mr. Shane Stovall gave an informative overview of the layout of buildings. After
105 discussion, City Attorney Pettie read the Ordinance in its entirety. A motion by May and
106 second by Mansko to suspend the rules in their entirety and forego the 2nd and 3rd readings of
107 the Ordinance carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by Green, May, Lake, Mansko and President
108 Pro Tempore Allen.

109
110 A motion by May and second by Green to accept the Ordinance carried (5/0) with “yes”
111 votes by President Pro Tempore Allen, Mansko, Green, Lake and May.

112
113 The Ordinance has an emergency clause that will need to be approved when at least 6
114 members of the Council are present.

115
116 **DISCUSSION ON CONSTRUCTION OF NEW DOG POUND BUILDING**

117
118 President Pro Tempore Allen stated 3 estimates have been made for the construction of a new
119 dog pound. The estimates were all more than the \$50,000 limit making the bidding process
120 required. President Pro Tempore Allen stated specifications will be drawn and will be placed
121 in the paper for bids.

122
123 **GOOD OF THE CITY**

124
125 President Pro Tempore Allen recognized Fire Chief Gansz. Chief Gansz stated 6 medics are
126 needed to fully staff the Ambulance Service. Chief Gansz stated he lost 3 Medics in April
127 and May to the private services and currently have only 3 Medics. Chief Gansz stated while
128 he cannot compete with the private services pay scale he would like to increase the Medics
129 base salary. After discussion, a motion by Green and a second by Lake at the discretion of
130 the Mayor to increase the base salary of the Medics retroactive to the beginning of the year
131 carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by President Pro Tempore Allen, May, Lake, Green and
132 Mansko.

133
134 President Pro Tempore Allen recognized Mr. Melvin Blevins. Mr. Blevins stated his
135 concerns about his property on Malcolm Avenue. After discussion, the matter will be
136 discussed at the next meeting.

137
138 With no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

139
140 PASSED AND APPROVED THE 1ST DAY OF AUGUST, 2022

141
142
143 _____
MAYOR

144 ATTEST:

145
146 _____
147 CITY CLERK