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**CITY OF NEWPORT  
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL  
SEPTEMBER 6, 2022**

22 The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session Tuesday,  
23 September 6, 2022 in the chambers of the Municipal Courtroom. Regular Council Meetings  
24 are being held once a month due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

25 Mayor Stewart called the meeting to order. City Clerk/Treasurer Hembrey called the roll.  
26 Council members present were Michael Allen, Carol Falwell (arrived at 6:05), Kathy Green,  
27 Donny Ivie, Regina Lake, Andy May and Julie Moss. Council Member Leroy Mansko was  
28 absent. City Attorney John Pettie was present.

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

30 A motion by Lake and second by Green to approve the minutes of the August 1, 2022  
31 Meeting carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Green, Ivie, Lake and May. Moss abstained  
32 due to being absent on August 1, 2022.

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**REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**

Mayor Stewart had the following reports:

- Mayor Stewart stated that the annual notification to the Jackson County Clerk’s Office for the taxes of 2022 to be paid in 2023 in accordance with Statute 26-73-202 was due. The taxes will remain the same Five (5) Mills for General Fund and One (1) Mill for Firemen’s Pension Fund. City Attorney Pettie read the Ad Valorem Tax Resolution in its entirety. A motion by Allen and second by Moss to approve the Resolution carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by May, Moss, Green, Allen, Lake, Falwell and Ivie.
- Mayor Stewart presented a letter he sent to Bruce Street with ARDOT concerning an official request to allow the Newport City Council to name the new bridge across the White River, inside Newport city limits, to “Martin Luther King, Jr. Bridge”. Mr. Street contacted Mayor Stewart and stated a Resolution from the Council requesting the naming of the bridge was needed. Mayor Stewart stated he would have one ready for the Council to consider at the next meeting.
- An electronic copy of the July 2022 Financial Statements for the General Fund, Street Fund, 911 Fund, Sewer Fund, 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, NEDC Fund and Newport Airport was sent to each Council Member with their council package. Mayor Stewart asked that if any Council Member had any questions to please direct their questions to City Clerk/Treasurer Hembrey or himself.
- In accordance with Arkansas Code Ann. §10-4-418, Mayor Stewart stated the 2021 Legislative Audit Report had been received. Mayor Stewart reviewed the finding which stated “No issues came to our attention that we considered necessary to report to management.” No action was needed by the Council.
- Mayor Stewart stated he received a letter stating the \$300,000 grant for the repaving of 4<sup>th</sup> and Village Drive has been approved.

48 • City Sales Tax received in August was \$175,271, County Sales Tax was \$115,163  
49 and NEDC Sales Tax was \$87,636.

50

51 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE**

52

53 **NEW BUSINESS:**

54

55 **BID CONSIDERATION: CONSTRUCTION OF CONCESSION STAND AND**  
56 **RESTROOMS AT GEORGE KELL PARK**

57

58 Mayor Stewart presented proof of publication from the Arkansas Democrat Gazette with a  
59 handwritten bid tabulation. Six bids were received:

60

61	1. Dennis Allen Construction	\$644,250.00
62	2. Carl Baldwin Construction	\$554,750.00
63	3. John Brown Construction	\$507,000.00
64	4. Provence Construction	\$486,400.00
65	5. Frank A. Rogers & Co.	\$506,500.00
66	6. Wagner General Contractors	\$687,800.00

67

68 After discussion, a motion by Moss and second by Green to accept the bid of Provence  
69 Construction carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Green, Allen, May, Falwell, Ivie, Lake and  
70 Moss.

71

72 **BID CONSIDERATION: CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ANIMAL SHELTER**

73

74 Mayor Stewart presented proof of publication from the Newport Independent with a  
75 handwritten bid tabulation. Two bids were received:

76

77	1. Frank A. Rogers & Company, Inc.	\$112,179.29
78	2. D.T. Allen & Company, Inc.	\$ 89,900.00

79

80 After discussion, a motion by Falwell and second by Moss to accept the bid of D.T. Allen &  
81 Company, Inc. carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Falwell, Ivie, Moss, May, Lake and Green.  
82 Allen abstained.

83

84 A motion by Green and second by Falwell to appropriate \$89,900 from the funds released  
85 from the ARPA funds to construct an animal shelter carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Green,  
86 Ivie, Moss, Lake, Falwell and May. Allen abstained.

87

88 **RESOLUTION: AMENDING 2022 BUDGET FOR RECEIVING AND EXPENDING**  
89 **\$5,000.00 STIPEND FOR ELIGIBLE FULL-TIME LAW ENFORCEMENT**  
90 **OFFICERS**

91

92 Mayor Stewart stated the Arkansas Legislature had given a \$5,000 stipend to eligible full-  
93 time law enforcement officers and the 2022 Budget needs to reflect the funds. City Attorney  
94 Pettie read the Resolution in its entirety. A motion by Allen and second by Ivie to accept the  
95 Resolution amending the 2022 General Fund Budget to reflect these funds carried (7/0) with  
96 “yes” votes by Allen, Green, Ivie, Moss, Lake, Falwell and May.

97 **RESOLUTION: U.S.D.A. GRANT FOR TWO (2) POLICE VEHICLES AND**  
98 **EQUIPMENT**  
99

100 Mayor Stewart stated the City of Newport had received a \$50,000 grant from the U.S.D.A.  
101 for the purpose of providing a portion of the cost of purchasing and outfitting two police  
102 vehicles. City Attorney Pettie read the Resolution authorizing the acceptance of the  
103 U.S.D.A. Grant in the amount of \$50,000 in its entirety. A motion by Ivie and second by  
104 Falwell to accept the Resolution carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Falwell, Ivie, Moss, Allen,  
105 May, Lake and Green.  
106

107 **RESOLUTION: U.S.D.A. GRANT FOR AN EXCAVATOR AND EQUIPMENT**  
108

109 Mayor Stewart stated the Street Department is in need of a small excavator for daily projects.  
110 A U.S.D.A. grant of \$53,000 is available to us for the purpose of providing a portion of the  
111 cost of purchasing a small excavator and equipment for the Street Department. City Attorney  
112 Pettie read the Resolution authorizing the acceptance of the U.S.D.A. Grant in the amount of  
113 \$53,000.  
114

115 After discussion, a motion by Allen and second by Falwell to accept the Resolution carried  
116 (7/0) with “yes” votes by Green, Allen, May, Falwell, Ivie, Lake and Moss.  
117

118 A motion by Allen and second by Moss to appropriate up to \$44,739 from the funds released  
119 from the ARPA funds to purchase a small excavator carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by May,  
120 Moss, Green, Allen, Lake, Falwell and Ivie.  
121

122 **ORDINANCE: AUTHORIZING CONTRACT WITH NEWPORT CONSTRUCTION**  
123 **COMPANY, INC. FOR CONCRETE STREET REPAIRS AT THE INTERSECTION**  
124 **OF JETTA DRIVE AND JAN CIRCLE AND WAIVING COMPETITIVE BIDDING**  
125

126 Mayor Stewart gave an overview of the issue at the intersection of Jetta Drive and Jan Circle  
127 and what is required to fix the intersection. After discussion, an Ordinance authorizing a  
128 contract with Newport Construction Company, Inc., without competitive bidding, was read in  
129 its entirety by City Attorney Pettie. A motion by Allen and second by Falwell to suspend the  
130 rules in their entirety and forego the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> readings carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by  
131 Ivie, Moss, Allen, Falwell, Green, Lake and May.  
132

133 A motion by Allen and second by Lake to accept the Ordinance carried (7/0) with “yes”  
134 votes by Lake, May, Moss, Falwell, Ivie, Allen and Green.  
135

136 A motion by Allen and second by Moss to approve the emergency clause carried (7/0) with  
137 “yes” votes by Falwell, Green, Lake, Moss, Allen, Ivie and May.  
138

139 A motion by May and second by Green to appropriate \$48,600 from the funds released from  
140 the ARPA funds for the repair of the intersection at Jetta Drive and Jan Circle carried (7/0)  
141 with “yes” votes by May, Moss, Green, Allen, Lake, Falwell and Ivie.  
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146 **PRESENTATION FROM FIRE CHIEF ALAN GANSZ ON THE GRAIN BIN**  
147 **RESCUE TEAM**

148  
149 Mayor Stewart recognized Fire Chief Gansz. Chief Gansz gave an informative overview of  
150 the formation of a grain bin rescue team with financial assistance from Jackson County and  
151 other sponsors.

152  
153 **PRESENTATION FROM LARRY BRIGHT, FARMERS ELECTRIC MANAGER,**  
154 **ON INTERNET CONNECTION TO LOCAL FARMERS ELECTRIC CUSTOMERS**

155  
156 Mayor Stewart recognized Farmers Electric Manager Larry Bright. Mr. Bright gave a very  
157 informative overview of their new subsidiary Farmers Rural Connect. This new subsidiary's,  
158 Farmers Rural Connect, mission is to supply available internet service to every  
159 household/business in Jackson County.

160  
161 **GOOD OF THE CITY**

162  
163 Mayor Stewart asked to go into executive session to discuss a personnel issue. A motion by  
164 Allen and second by Ivie to go into executive session carried (7/0) with all present voting  
165 yes. A motion by Falwell and second by Lake to return to regular session carried (7/0) with  
166 all present voting yes.

167  
168 After discussion, a motion was made by Green and seconded by Lake to appropriate up to  
169 \$168,000 of the funds released from the ARPA funds to give a special bonus to full-time  
170 employees with at least a year of service \$2,500, part-time with at least a year of service  
171 \$1,250, Council Members \$1,000, and pro rate those employees with less than a year of  
172 service and to excluding those employees that received the \$5,000 stipend. The motion  
173 carried (7/0) with "yes" votes by Lake, May, Moss, Falwell, Ivie, Allen and Green.

174  
175 With no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

176  
177 PASSED AND APPROVED THE 3<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER, 2022

178  
179 \_\_\_\_\_  
180 MAYOR

181 ATTEST:  
182 \_\_\_\_\_  
183 \_\_\_\_\_  
184 CITY CLERK