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CITY OF NEWPORT
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
OCTOBER 3, 2022

The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session Monday, October 3, 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, Leroy Manko, Andy May and Julie Moss. Council Member Regina Lake was absent. City Attorney John Pettie was present.

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

A motion by Allen and second by Ivie to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2022 Meeting carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Falwell, Green, Ivie, May and Moss. Manko abstained due to being absent on September 6, 2022.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Stewart had the following reports:

- An electronic copy of the August 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 were 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.
- Cameras have been installed at the new Conner Park. The receiver should be completed this week. Police officers will be able to use an app on their phones to connect to the live cameras.
- During the Arkansas Municipal League Conference in Little Rock in September it was announced that Newport had an exceptionally good audit.
- Mayor Stewart presented a Resolution to borrow funds in the form of a construction loan, for the concession stand and restrooms at George Kell Park, from Merchants and Planters Bank. After discussion, City Attorney Pettie read the Resolution in its entirety. A motion by Green and second by Moss to accept the Resolution authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to obtain a construction loan for up to \$486,400 at the rate of 3.25% carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Falwell, Ivie, Moss, Allen, May, Green and Manko.
- City Sales Tax received in September was \$160,425, County Sales Tax was \$108,306 and NEDC Sales Tax was \$80,212.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION: REQUESTING NAMING RIGHTS FOR NEW BRIDGE

Mayor Stewart stated the Arkansas Department of Transportation requires a request from the Newport City Council to obtain the right to name the new bridge over the White River. City

51 Attorney Pettie read the Resolution requesting that the Arkansas Department of
52 Transportation allow the Newport City Council naming rights for the new bridge across the
53 White River at Newport in its entirety. A motion by Allen and second by Mansko to accept
54 the Resolution carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by May, Moss, Mansko, Falwell, Ivie, Allen
55 and Green.

56

57 **NEW BUSINESS:**

58

59 **REAPPOINT DONNIE WASHAM TO AIRPORT COMMISSION (TERM**
60 **EXPIRING 9/30/27)**

61

62 Mayor Stewart stated that he had spoken to Donnie Washam and he was willing to remain on
63 the Airport Commission. A motion by May and second by Allen to reappoint Donnie
64 Washam to the Newport Airport Commission with a term expiring 9/30/27 carried (7/0) with
65 “yes” votes by Ivie, Moss, Allen, Mansko, Falwell, Green and May.

66

67 **BID CONSIDERATION: IT CENTER PARKING LOT ON HAZEL STREET**

68

69 Mayor Stewart presented proof of publication from the Arkansas Democrat Gazette with a
70 handwritten bid tabulation. Two bids were received:

71	1. Provence Construction	\$215,900.00
72	2. Centech Services Inc.	\$257,962.00

73

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

77

78 **RESOLUTION: AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO**
79 **CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT WITH PROVENCE CONSTRUCTION FOR AN IT**
80 **CENTER PARKING LOT ON HAZEL STREET**

81

82 City Attorney Pettie read the Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a construction
83 contract with Provence Construction for the IT Center Parking Lot on Hazel Street in its
84 entirety. A motion by Falwell and second by May to approve the Resolution carried (7/0)
85 with “yes” votes by Green, Allen, May, Falwell, Ivie, Moss and Mansko.

86

87 **RESOLUTION: AMENDING THE 2022 BUDGET**

88

89 A copy of the Proposed Amended 2022 Budget was presented to the Council. City Attorney
90 Pettie read the Resolution adopting the Proposed Amended 2022 Budget in its entirety.
91 After discussion, a motion by Allen and second by Moss to approve the Resolution amending
92 the 2022 Budget carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Mansko, Falwell, Green, Moss, Allen, Ivie
93 and May.

94

95 **ORDINANCE: REZONING 3.31 ACRES ON HIGHWAY 18 OWNED BY GLOVER**
96 **HAIGWOOD FAMILY, LLC FROM A-1 TO I-1 (UNITED BITENGINE)**

97

98 The Zoning Commission has recommended the 3.31 acres on Highway 18 owned by Glover
99 Haigwood Family, LLC be rezoned from A-1 To I-1. Mayor Stewart stated that the bitcoin
100 company United Bitengine is wanting to put a bitcoin mining business on this property. After
101 discussion, City Attorney Pettie read the Ordinance in its entirety. A motion by May and

102 second by Allen to suspend the rules in their entirety and forego the 2nd and 3rd readings in
103 their entirety carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Moss, Ivie, Green, May, Mansko, Allen and
104 Falwell.

105
106 A motion by May and second by Ivie to accept the Ordinance carried (7/0) with “yes” votes
107 by Ivie, Moss, Allen, Mansko, Falwell, Green and May.

108
109 A motion by May and second by Ivie to approve the emergency clause carried (7/0) with
110 “yes” votes by May, Mansko, Moss, Green, Allen, Falwell and Ivie.

111
112 **ORDINANCE: AUTHORIZING CONTRACT WITH NEWPORT CONSTRUCTION**
113 **COMPANY, INC. FOR CONCRETE DITCH REPAIRS AND WAIVING**
114 **COMPETITIVE BIDDING**

115 Mayor Stewart presented pictures of the concrete ditch where more repairs are required. The
116 repair area is a section 720 feet south of Malcolm Avenue where erosion has allowed the
117 concrete wall to collapse in a section fifty-two feet long and ten feet high. Mayor Stewart
118 stated the repairs need to be done while the area is dry. Mayor Stewart stated Newport
119 Construction Company, Inc. has given a contract price for the repairs of \$63,180.00 and can
120 start immediately. After discussion, City Attorney Pettie read the Ordinance authorizing a
121 contract with Newport Construction Company, Inc., waiving the required competitive
122 bidding and declaring an emergency in its entirety. A motion by May and second by Ivie to
123 suspend the rules in their entirety and forego the 2nd and 3rd readings in their entirety carried
124 (7/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Green, Ivie, Moss, Falwell, May and Mansko.

125
126 A motion by May and second by Mansko to accept the Ordinance carried (7/0) with “yes”
127 votes by Falwell, Ivie, Moss, Allen, May, Green and Mansko.

128
129 A motion by Allen and second by May to approve the emergency clause carried (7/0) with
130 “yes” votes by Green, Allen, May, Falwell, Ivie, Moss and Mansko.

131
132 Mayor Stewart asked that the Council go into Executive Session on a personnel matter with
133 City Attorney Pettie and City Clerk/Treasurer Hembrey attending. A motion by Moss and
134 second by Ivie to go into Executive Session with City Attorney Pettie and City
135 Clerk/Treasurer Hembrey attending carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Ivie, Moss, Allen,
136 Mansko, Falwell, Green and May.

137
138 A motion by Allen and second by Ivie to return to regular session carried (7/0) with “yes”
139 votes by Ivie, Moss, Allen, Mansko, Falwell, Green and May.

140
141 Mayor Stewart stated that no action was needed by the Council.

142
143 With no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

144
145 PASSED AND APPROVED THE 7TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2022

146
147

148 _____
MAYOR

149 ATTEST:

150

151 _____

152 CITY CLERK