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**CITY OF NEWPORT
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 7, 2022**

The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session Monday, November 7, 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 Julie Moss. Council Member Andy May arrived a few minutes later. City Attorney John Pettie was absent.

Following the invocation by Julie Moss, those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion by Allen and second by Ivie to approve the minutes of the October 3, 2022 Meeting carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Falwell, Green, Ivie, Mansko, and Moss. Lake abstained due to being absent on October 3, 2022.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Stewart had the following reports:

- An electronic copy of the September and October 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 September 2022 Financial Statements for the 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.
- The Resolution requesting the naming rights for the new bridge to “Martin Luther King, Jr. Bridge” has been sent to the Arkansas Department of Transportation for approval.
- The construction of the new Dog Shelter has begun.
- The construction of the new George Kell Park concession stand and bathrooms is approximately 50% completed.
- Miller Newell has looked at the intersection of Highway 367 and Teresa Drive for a solution to the years of flooding. They suggested to mop out the ditch on each side and build up Teresa Drive from the highway to the back of the restaurant approximately 8” and taper back to Teresa Drive. This should allow the rain water to drain into the ditch.
- City Sales Tax received in October was \$168,409, County Sales Tax was \$111,885 and NEDC Sales Tax was \$84,205.
- A motion by Falwell and second by Mansko to appropriate \$63,180 of the ARPA funds to fund the repairs to the concrete ditch approved at the October 3, 2022 meeting carried (8/0) with “yes” votes by Green, Allen, May, Falwell, Ivie, Lake, Moss and Mansko.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: - NONE

51 **NEW BUSINESS:**

52

53 **CONSIDER PARTNERING WITH SCHOOL TO PLACE FLASHING WARNING**
54 **SIGNS AT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

55

56 Mayor Stewart stated that Newport Superintendent Bradley had requested the City partner
57 with the School to place flashing school zone signs on Commerce Drive at the Elementary
58 School. The signs would be powered by solar panels. After discussion, a motion by Ivie and
59 second by Lake to partner with the Newport Special School District to purchase one of the
60 flashing school zone signs for up to \$2,000 plus sales tax carried (8/0) with “yes” votes by
61 May, Mansko, Moss, Green, Allen, Lake, Falwell and Ivie.

62

63 Mayor Stewart stated the next six Ordinances concerned conducting business with committee
64 members or spouses of employees. After discussion, a motion by Allen and second by
65 Falwell to suspend the rules in their entirety, read each Ordinance by caption only and forego
66 the 2nd and 3rd readings of the following six Ordinances carried (8/0) with “yes” votes by
67 Allen, Green, Ivie, Moss, Lake, Falwell, May and Mansko.

68

69 **ORDINANCE PERMITTING CITY TO CONDUCT BUSINESS WITH NEWPORT**
70 **HOTEL GROUP DBA COBBLESTONE HOTEL & SUITES, CHERRY STEELE,**
71 **MANAGER**

72

73 Mayor Stewart read the Ordinance caption in its entirety for the Newport Hotel Group dba
74 Cobblestone Hotel & Suites, Cherry Steele, Manager.

75

76 **ORDINANCE PERMITTING CITY TO CONDUCT BUSINESS WITH THE JOE &**
77 **HELEN HARRIS FOUNDATION, SHERIDAN CHADWELL, EXECUTIVE**
78 **DIRECTOR**

79

80 Mayor Stewart read the Ordinance caption in its entirety for the Joe and Helen Harris
81 Foundation, Sheridan Chadwell, Executive Director.

82

83 **ORDINANCE PERMITTING CITY TO CONDUCT BUSINESS WITH DD**
84 **NEWPORT LODGING, LLC DBA FORTUNE INN & SUITES, KIM WATKINS,**
85 **MANAGER**

86

87 Mayor Stewart read the Ordinance caption in its entirety for the DD Newport Lodging, LLC
88 dba Fortune Inn & Suites, Kim Watkins, Manager.

89

90 **ORDINANCE PERMITTING CITY TO CONDUCT BUSINESS WITH SBT**
91 **NEWPORT, INC., LAUREN SAMPSON, OWNER/OPERATOR**

92

93 Mayor Stewart read the Ordinance caption in its entirety for the SBT Newport, Inc., Lauren
94 Sampson, owner/operator.

95

96 **ORDINANCE PERMITTING CITY TO CONDUCT BUSINESS WITH FATHEAD**
97 **PIZZA, MARCUS HEMBREY, OWNER/OPERATOR**

98

99 Mayor Stewart read the Ordinance caption in its entirety for Fathead Pizza, Marcus
100 Hembrey, owner/operator.

101

102 **ORDINANCE PERMITTING CITY TO CONDUCT BUSINESS WITH**
103 **MERCHANTS & PLANTERS BANK, RANDY RAMSEY, VICE-PRESIDENT AND**
104 **LOAN OFFICER**

105
106 Mayor Stewart read the Ordinance caption in its entirety for Merchants & Planters Bank,
107 Randy Ramsey, Vice –President and Loan Officer.

108
109 A motion by Allen and second by Falwell to accept the six Ordinances concerning
110 conducting business with committee members or a spouse of an employee carried (8/0) with
111 “yes” votes by Mansko, Falwell, Green, Lake, Moss, Allen, Ivie and May.

112
113 **ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF NEW KUBOTA MINI**
114 **EXCAVATOR AND WAIVING COMPETITIVE BIDDING**

115
116 After discussion, Mayor Stewart read the Ordinance in its entirety. A motion by Allen and a
117 second by Falwell to suspend the rules in their entirety and forego the 2nd and 3rd readings
118 carried (8/0) with “yes” votes by Green, Allen, May, Falwell, Ivie, Lake, Moss and Mansko.

119
120 A motion by Allen and second by Mansko to accept the Ordinance to purchase a new Kubota
121 Mini Excavator and waive competitive bidding carried (8/0) with “yes” votes by May,
122 Mansko, Moss, Green, Allen, Lake, Falwell and Ivie.

123
124 **CONSIDER AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE NO. 1133**

125
126 Mayor Stewart gave an overview of Ordinance #1133 and the amendment he would like the
127 Council to consider. After discussion, the amended Ordinance will be read at the next
128 Council Meeting for consideration.

129
130 With no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

131
132 PASSED AND APPROVED THE 5TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2022

133
134
135 _____
MAYOR

136 ATTEST:

137
138 _____
139 CITY CLERK