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**CITY OF NEWPORT  
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL  
JANUARY 3, 2023**

The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session Tuesday, January 3, 2023 in the chambers of the Municipal Courtroom. Regular Council Meetings are being held once a month due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Newly elected Mayor Ratliffe called the meeting to order. City Clerk/Treasurer Hembrey called the roll. Council members present were Michael Allen, Donny Ivie, Regina Lake, Leroy Mansko, Andy May, Julie Moss and Marcus Simpson. Council Member Carol Falwell arrived a few minutes later. City Attorney John Pettie was present.

Mayor Ratliffe welcomed newly elected Council Member Marcus Simpson.

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

A motion by Lake and second by Allen to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2022 Meeting carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Ivie, Lake, Mansko, May, Moss and Simpson.

**REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**

Mayor Ratliffe had the following reports:

- An electronic copy of the November 2022 Financial Statements for the Newport Airport was sent to each Council Member with their council package. Mayor Ratliffe asked that if any Council Member had any questions to please direct their questions to City Clerk/Treasurer Hembrey.
- City Sales Tax received in December was \$160,734, County Sales Tax was \$106,809 and NEDC Sales Tax was \$80,367.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**ORGANIZATION OF CITY COUNCIL ACA §14-43-501**

Mayor Ratliffe stated that ACA 14-43-501 requires that at the first Council Meeting in January to assemble and organize the governing body. Mayor Ratliffe asked if the Council had any changes to the current organization of the Council. After discussion, a motion by Moss and second by Lake to keep the current organization and elect Council Member Michael Allen to be the President Pro Tempore carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Ivie, Moss, May, Lake, Simpson and Mansko. Michael Allen abstained.

**RESOLUTION: AUTHORIZING CITY TO ENTER INTO A CREDIT CARD AGREEMENT WITH MERCHANTS & PLANTERS BANK**

Mayor Ratliffe requested City Attorney Pettie to read the Resolution. City Attorney Pettie read the Resolution in its entirety. City Clerk Hembrey stated the City currently has an

50 American Express credit card which is not accepted everywhere for example the Municipal  
51 League. After discussion, a motion by Allen and second by Mansko to accept the Resolution  
52 authorizing the City of Newport to enter into a credit card agreement with Merchants &  
53 Planters Bank carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by May, Mansko, Moss, Simpson, Allen, Lake  
54 and Ivie.

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56 **RESOLUTION: ALLOW THE INCOMING MAYOR TO ACCEPT ANY**  
57 **REMAINING GRANT MONIES THAT THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE,**  
58 **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION DISTRIBUTES TO THE CITY**  
59 **OF NEWPORT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE IT BUILDING**

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61 Mayor Ratliffe requested City Clerk Hembrey to explain the proposed Resolution. City  
62 Clerk Hembrey stated the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development  
63 Administration requested through the White River Planning and Development District to  
64 pass a Resolution allowing the incoming Mayor to accept the remaining funds for the  
65 construction of the IT Building. The request was received this morning. City Attorney Pettie  
66 read the Resolution in its entirety. A motion by Allen and second by Simpson to accept the  
67 Resolution authorizing Mayor Ratliffe to accept the remaining funds from the U.S.  
68 Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration carried (7/0) with “yes”  
69 votes by Allen, Simpson, Ivie, Moss, Lake, May and Mansko.

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71 **GOOD OF THE CITY**

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73 Mayor Ratliffe stated Aaron Thomas has been hired to be the new City Inspector.

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

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77 PASSED AND APPROVED THE 6<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2023

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MAYOR

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ATTEST:

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CITY CLERK