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**CITY OF NEWPORT
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 6, 2023**

The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session Monday, March 6, 2023 in the chambers of the Municipal Courtroom. Regular Council Meetings are being held once a month due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Mayor Ratliffe called the meeting to order. City Clerk/Treasurer Hembrey called the roll. Council members present were Michael Allen, Regina Lake, Andy May, Julie Moss and Marcus Simpson. Council Members Carol Falwell, Donnie Ivie and Leroy Mansko were absent. City Attorney John Pettie was present.

Following the invocation by Regina Lake, those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion by Moss and second by Lake to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2023 and February 10, 2023 meetings carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Lake, May, Moss and Simpson.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Ratliffe had the following reports:

- An electronic copy of the January 2023 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 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 February was \$174,503, County Sales Tax was \$111,976 and NEDC Sales Tax was \$87,251.31.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

**ACCEPT CHERRY STEELE’S RESIGNATION FROM THE NEWPORT
ADVERTISING & PROMOTION COMMISSION**

Mayor Ratliffe reported Cherry Steele stated that she was resigning from the Newport Advertising and Promotion Commission due to changing jobs. A motion by Lake and second by Moss to accept the resignation of Cherry Steele from the Newport Advertising and Promotion Commission carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by Simpson, Allen, May, Lake and Moss.

RESOLUTION: AMEND 2022 BUDGETS

Mayor Ratliffe stated that the 2022 Budgets needed to be amended. City Attorney Pettie read the Resolution in its entirety. After discussion, a motion by Allen and second by Simpson to

51 accept the Resolution amending the 2022 Budgets carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by Moss,
52 Allen, Simpson, Lake and May.

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54 **STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS**

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56 Mayor Ratliffe reviewed the State of the City, as required by Arkansas Statute 14-58-302.

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58 Mayor Ratliffe gave an informative overview of each department including:

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- Police Department has 2 trainees at the academy.

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- Dog Pound Building has been completed.

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- Fire Department has received the new 2023 Fire Truck.

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- Fire Department has started training on the Grain Bin Rescue project.

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- Sewer Department is still working on the rehab projects.

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- Parks Department has completed the new Concession Stand.

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- Mayor Ratliffe and Parks Director Johnny Long went to Batesville to meet with the White River Planning and Development to discuss the request for the Parks Grant for the Normandy and Hines Parks.

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- Recycling Department is still receiving prison labor. Mayor Ratliffe stated he was

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- looking into placing the recycling trailer back at Food Smart.

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- Mayor Ratliffe stated the pool is in a state of disrepair and would require a great deal of funds to repair and with the issue of finding life guards he is considering filling in the pool.

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- Residential Sanitation is running 2 trucks 4 days a week. Commercial and Recycling

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- Department are running well.

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- Aaron Thomas is the new City Inspector.

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

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PASSED AND APPROVED THE 3RD DAY OF APRIL, 2023

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MAYOR

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ATTEST:

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CITY CLERK