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CITY OF NEWPORT
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
APRIL 3, 2023

The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session Monday, April 3, 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, Carol Falwell, Donnie Ivie, Regina Lake, Leroy Mansko, Andy May and Julie Moss. Council Member Marcus Simpson was absent. City Attorney John Pettie was present.

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

A motion by Allen and second by May to approve the minutes of the March 6th, 2023 Meeting carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Lake, May, Moss and Mayor Ratliffe. Council Members Falwell, Ivie and Mansko abstained due to being absent on March 6th.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Ratliffe had the following reports:

- An electronic copy of the February 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 March was \$159,472, County Sales Tax was \$104,380 and NEDC Sales Tax was \$79,736.
- Bids for the Mosquito chemicals will be opened on Thursday, April 6th at 10 a.m. in the Mayor’s Boardroom at City Hall.
- Mayor Ratliffe discussed making Good Friday a holiday for the City. He stated we could substitute one of the other holidays or make it a new holiday for the City. After discussion, a motion by Ivie and second by Moss to make Good Friday an additional holiday beginning in 2024 carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Moss, May, Allen, Ivie, Mansko, Falwell and Lake.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

REAPPOINT ALLEN EDWARDS TO NEWPORT HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR TERM EXPIRING 5/1/27

Mayor Ratliffe reported David Gates, Executive Director of the Newport Housing Authority, had requested Allen Edwards be reappointed to the Newport Housing Authority Board with a

50 term ending 5/1/27. A motion by Lake and second by Moss to reappoint Allen Edwards to
51 the Newport Housing Authority Board with a term expiring 5/1/27 carried (7/0) with “yes”
52 votes by Mansko, Falwell, Lake, Moss, Allen, Ivie and May.

53
54 **REAPPOINT KIM WATKINS TO NEWPORT ADVERTISING & PROMOTION**
55 **COMMISSION FOR TERM EXPIRING MARCH 2026**

56
57 Mayor Ratliffe stated that Kim Watkins’ appointment to the Newport Advertising and
58 Promotion Commission had expired and she had agreed to continue serving on the board.
59 After discussion, a motion by Lake and second by Moss to reappoint Kim Watkins to the
60 Newport Advertising and Promotion Commission with a term expiring 3/26 carried (7/0)
61 with “yes” votes by Allen, Ivie, Moss, Lake, Falwell, May and Mansko.

62
63 **APPOINT DR. JABEZ JACKSON AND DR. PATTI MULLINS TO THE NEWPORT**
64 **PLANNING COMMISSION TO FULFILL VACANT POSITIONS WITH TERMS**
65 **EXPIRING JULY 2023 AND APPOINT EACH TO ANOTHER TERM TO EXPIRE**
66 **JULY 2026**

67
68 Mayor Ratliffe stated that the Newport Planning Commission had two vacant positions that
69 needed to be filled. After speaking to both Dr. Jabez Jackson and Dr. Patti Mullins they both
70 had agreed to be Commissioners for the remaining term and another term ending 7/26. After
71 discussion, a motion by Allen and second by Falwell to appoint Dr. Jabez Jackson to the
72 Newport Planning Commission to fulfill the vacant position with a term expiring 7/23 and to
73 an additional term expiring 7/26 carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Moss, May, Allen, Ivie,
74 Mansko, Falwell and Lake.

75
76 A motion by Lake and second by Moss to appoint Dr. Patti Mullins to the Newport Planning
77 Commission to fulfill the vacant position with a term expiring 7/23 and to an additional term
78 expiring 7/26 carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Lake, May, Moss, Mansko, Falwell, Ivie and
79 Allen.

80
81 **DISCUSS LIGHTING ON SOFTBALL FIELD**

82
83 Mayor Ratliffe recognized Johnny Long, Parks Director. Director Long stated Arkansas
84 State University-Newport (ASUN) would be starting their new softball program in August of
85 this year at George Kell Park. The Softball Field is in need of good lighting for night games.
86 Director Long stated the lights and electrical work would cost approximately \$140,000.
87 Director Long requested that the Council consider appropriating \$70,000 toward the project.
88 Director Long stated the remaining \$70,000 would be requested from the Advertising and
89 Promotion Committee. After discussion, a motion by Lake and second by Mansko to
90 appropriate \$70,000 toward the purchase of lighting on the Softball Field at George Kell Park
91 from the funds received from ARPA carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Lake, May, Moss,
92 Mansko, Falwell, Ivie and Allen.

93
94 **BID CONSIDERATION: GARBAGE BAGS**

95
96 Mayor Ratliffe presented proof of publication in the Newport Independent and the
97 handwritten bid tabulation for the garbage bags. Two bids were received:

98
99 Sigma Supply, Inc. \$9.54/per roll includes sales tax
100 Unipak Corp. \$16.80/per roll includes sales tax

101

102 After discussion, a motion by Allen and second by Moss to accept the bid of \$9.54 per roll
103 from Sigma Supply, Inc. carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Lake, Mansko, Falwell, Ivie, May,
104 Allen and Moss.

105
106 **JULIE ALLEN TO ADDRESS COUNCIL ABOUT RESOLUTION FOR GRANGES**
107 **AMERICAS, INC. TO PARTICIPATE IN TAX BACK PROGRAM**

108
109 Mayor Ratliffe recognized Jon Chadwell, Newport Economic Development Director.
110 Chadwell stated he would be addressing the Council instead of Julie Allen due to illness.
111 Chadwell gave an informative overview of the \$20,000,000 expansion that Granges
112 Americas, Inc. began in December 2022. Chadwell stated that the Resolution being
113 presented certifies local government endorsement for Granges Americas, Inc. to participate
114 in the Tax Back Program. This program would allow the refund of sales and use taxes as
115 provided by Section 15-4-2706(d) of the Consolidated Incentive Act of 2003. City Attorney
116 Pettie read the Resolution in its entirety. After discussion, a motion by Allen and second by
117 May to accept the Resolution carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Mansko, Falwell, Lake, Moss,
118 Allen, Ivie and May.

119
120 Mayor Ratliffe stated a Resolution was needed to authorize the submittal of an application
121 for ACEDP Grant funds to the State of Arkansas for the benefit of Granges expansion
122 project. City Attorney Pettie read the Resolution in its entirety. After discussion, a motion
123 by Lake and second by Allen to accept the Resolution carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Lake,
124 Mansko, Falwell, Ivie, May, Allen and Moss.

125
126 Mayor Ratliffe stated a Resolution was needed to authorize the Mayor to enter into an
127 administrative agreement with White River Planning and Development District, Inc. for the
128 ACEDP Grant. City Attorney Pettie read the Resolution in its entirety. After discussion, a
129 motion by Allen and second by Lake to accept the Resolution carried (7/0) with “yes” votes
130 by Allen, Ivie, Moss, Lake, Falwell, May and Mansko.

131
132 With no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

133
134 PASSED AND APPROVED THE 1ST DAY OF MAY, 2023

135
136
137 _____
MAYOR

138 ATTEST:

139
140 _____
141 CITY CLERK