

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18

**CITY OF NEWPORT
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
JUNE 5, 2023**

19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32

The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session Monday, June 5, 2023 in the chambers of the Municipal Courtroom.

33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48

Mayor Ratliffe called the meeting to order. City Clerk/Treasurer Hembrey called the roll. Council members present were Michael Allen, Carol Falwell, Donnie Ivie, Andy May and Kathy Green. Council Members Julie Moss, Regina Lake and Leroy Mansko were 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 Ivie to approve the minutes of the May 1, 2023 Meeting will be presented at the July meeting. The vote was as follows “yes” Allen, Ivie and May and those abstaining were Falwell and Green.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Ratliffe had the following reports:

- An electronic copy of the April 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 May was \$180,075 County Sales Tax was \$115,262 and NEDC Sales Tax was \$90,037.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

APPOINTMENTS TO INDEPENDENT PARKS COMMITTEE

- **MARCUS HEMBREY (TERM EXP. JUNE 2025)**
- **CANDICE LONG (TERM EXP. JUNE 2025)**
- **LATONYA ANDERS (TERM EXP. JUNE 2025)**

Mayor Ratliffe stated a new Independent Parks Committee needed to be appointed for a grant to the Arkansas Department of Parks Heritage and Tourism. Mayor Ratliffe recognized Parks Director Johnny Long. Director Long gave an informative overview of the need for the Independent Parks Committee. After discussion, a motion by Allen and second by Green to appoint Marcus Hembrey (term exp. June 2025) to the Independent Parks Committee carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Green, Ivie, Falwell and May.

49 A motion by Falwell and second by Green to appoint Candice Long (term exp. June 2025) to
50 the Independent Parks Committee carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by Falwell, Ivie, Allen, May
51 and Green.

52
53 A motion by Green and second by Falwell to appoint LaTonya Anders (term exp. June 2025)
54 to the Independent Parks Committee carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by Ivie, Allen, Falwell,
55 Green and May.

56
57 **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO SUBMIT APPLICATION TO**
58 **ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF PARKS HERITAGE AND TOURISM FOR PARKS**
59 **GRANT FOR GEORGE KELL PARK**

60
61 Mayor Ratliffe stated the grant request is for improvements to the George Kell Park Parking
62 Lot and playground equipment for George Kell Park. City Attorney Pettie read the
63 Resolution in its entirety. After discussion, a motion by Allen and second by Falwell to
64 approve the Resolution authorizing the Mayor to submit an application to the Arkansas
65 Department of Parks Heritage and Tourism for a Parks Grant for George Kell Park carried
66 (5/0) with “yes” votes by Falwell, Green, Ivie, May and Allen.

67
68 **BID CONSIDERATION: TWO NEW 2023 GMC SIERRAS FOR POLICE**
69 **DEPARTMENT**

70
71 Mayor Ratliffe presented proof of publication from the Jonesboro Sun along with a
72 handwritten bid tabulation. One bid was received and opened on May 15, 2023 at 10 a.m.
73 The bid received was as follows:

74
75 George Kell Motors, Inc. – Newport, Arkansas
76 2023 GMC 1500 Sierra- 2 ½ ton four wheel drive crew cab - \$44,750.35 each for a total of
77 \$89,750.70.

78
79 After discussion, a motion by Green and second by May to award the bid to George Kell
80 Motors, Inc. for two (2) 2023 GMC 1500 Sierra – 2 ½ ton four wheel drive crew cab for
81 \$44,750.35 each carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by Falwell, Green, Allen, Ivie and May.

82
83 **ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF 911 COMPUTER AIDED**
84 **DISPATCH (CAD) SYSTEM FROM RELATIVITY, INC. AND WAIVING**
85 **COMPETITIVE BIDDING REQUIREMENTS**

86
87 Mayor Ratliffe stated a 911 Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) System by Relativity, Inc. is
88 being used by all other Jackson County law enforcement agencies, fire departments and
89 emergency agencies in the surrounding areas. Mayor Ratliffe stated the City also needed to
90 use the same system. City Attorney Pettie read the Ordinance authorizing the purchase of the
91 CAD System from Relativity, Inc., and waiving competitive bidding being retroactive to
92 March 29, 2023 in its entirety. City Attorney Pettie stated that due to not having 2/3 of the
93 Council present, the Emergency Clause would need to be voted on at the next meeting. After
94 discussion, a motion by Allen and second by Ivie to suspend the rules in their entirety and
95 forego the 2nd and 3rd readings carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by May, Green, Allen, Falwell
96 and Ivie.

97
98 A motion by Ivie and second by Allen to accept the Ordinance authorizing the purchase of
99 the CAD system from Relativity, Inc., and waiving competitive bidding being retroactive to
100 March 29, 2023 carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by May, Allen, Green, Ivie and Falwell.

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

102

103 PASSED AND APPROVED THE 7TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2023

104

105

106

MAYOR

107 ATTEST:

108

109

110

CITY CLERK