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CITY OF NEWPORT
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
JULY 10, 2023

The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session Monday, July 10, 2023 in the chambers of the Municipal Courtroom.

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

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

A motion by Green and second by Ivie to approve the minutes of the May 1, 2023 Meeting carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Green, Ivie, Lake, Mansko, and Moss.

A motion by Allen and second by Lake to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2023 Meeting will be presented at the August Meeting. The vote was as follows “yes” by Allen, Ivie and Green “abstain” by Lake, Mansko and Moss.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Ratliffe had the following reports:

- An electronic copy of the May 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 June was \$195,442 County Sales Tax was \$121,915 and NEDC Sales Tax was \$97,721.
- Mayor Ratliffe presented a copy of an e-mail he received from William Howard the instructor at the Arkansas Firefighters Standards Course where Newport Firefighters Brooke Bennett and Mike Wagenblast attended. The email commended Bennett and Wagenblast for their professional response during a real-life medical emergency that occurred during the course.
- Mayor Ratliffe stated the Swimming Pool at George Kell Park is being filled due to several issues such as lack of lifeguards, lack of community interest, cost of repairing and maintaining the pool and other dangers. Mayor Ratliffe asked the Council to approve up to \$5,000 for loads of dirt to complete the process of filling in the pool. After discussion, a motion by Allen and second by Lake to approve up to \$5,000 for loads of dirt to fill in the City Pool carried (6/0) with ‘yes” votes by Lake, Mansko, Green, Ivie, Allen and Moss.
- Mayor Ratliffe recognized Parks Director Long. Long stated the process of putting the lights up on the Softball Field began today with the equipment being delivered.

51 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

52
53 **APPROVE EMERGENCY CLAUSE ON ORDINANCE NO. 1230 (911 CAD**
54 **SYSTEM)**

55
56 Mayor Ratliffe stated not enough Council Members were present to pass the emergency
57 clause on Ordinance 1230 – the purchase of a 911 Computer Aided Dispatch System. City
58 Attorney Pettie read the Ordinance caption and the emergency clause. After discussion, a
59 motion by Ivie and second by Allen to approve the emergency clause on Ordinance 1230
60 carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Lake, Mansko, Green, Ivie, Allen and Moss.

61
62 **NEW BUSINESS:**

63
64 **REAPPOINT MARY BRATCHER REID TO NEWPORT PLANNING**
65 **COMMISSION (term expiring July 2026)**

66
67 Mayor Ratliffe stated Mary Bratcher Reid’s term is expiring and she is willing to continue to
68 serve. A motion by Lake and second by Green to reappoint Mary Bratcher Reid to the
69 Newport Planning Commission with a term expiring July 2026 carried (6/0) with “yes” votes
70 by Moss, Allen, Green, Ivie, Mansko and Lake.

71
72 **DISCUSS BUDGETED TRUCK FOR RECYCLING CENTER**

73
74 Mayor Ratliffe stated the City received a 75/25 Recycling Grant in January 2022 for a new
75 2022 pickup truck for \$25,000. The pickup was ordered but it did not get manufactured until
76 2023 with an increase in price to \$33,551. After discussion, a motion by Allen and second by
77 Mansko to approve the City’s additional cost of \$8,551 to purchasing the 2023 pickup truck
78 for \$33,551 carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Mansko, Moss, Green, Allen, Lake and Ivie.

79
80 **RESOLUTION: FIX AMBULANCE RATES EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2023**

81
82 Mayor Ratliffe stated due to increase in cost of fuel, equipment, salaries and other costs that
83 an increase in Ambulance Rates was needed. City Attorney Pettie read the Resolution
84 adjusting the Ambulance Rates in its entirety. After discussion, a motion by Ivie and second
85 by Allen to accept the Resolution carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Green, Allen, Ivie, Lake,
86 Moss and Mansko.

87
88 **ORDINANCE: REZONING 7 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, ON THE CORNER OF**
89 **STEGALL AND COMMERCE TO COMMERCIAL FROM AGRICULTURAL (JRM**
90 **4, LLC)**

91
92 Mayor Ratliffe stated the Planning Commission had recommended a rezoning of 7 acres,
93 more or less, at the corner of Stegall and Commerce Drive to Commercial for the
94 development of a travel center by JRM 4, LLC. A motion by Allen and second by Moss to
95 suspend the rules in their entirety, read the Ordinance by caption only and forego the 2nd and
96 3rd readings carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Green, Ivie, Moss, Lake and Mansko.
97 City Attorney Pettie read the Ordinance by caption only. After discussion, a motion by Allen
98 and second by Mansko to accept the Ordinance carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Ivie, Moss,
99 Allen, Lake, Green and Mansko.

101 A motion by Ivie and second by Lake to approve the emergency clause carried (6/0) with
102 “yes” votes by Ivie, Moss, Allen, Mansko, Green and Lake.

103

104 **ORDINANCE: CONDUCT BUSINESS WITH CHARLOTTE SANDERS AS**
105 **CONTRACT LABOR FOR NEWPORT MUNICIPAL AIRPORT**

106

107 Mayor Ratliffe stated the Airport is having trouble finding part-time workers for the Airport.
108 Mayor Ratliffe stated from time to time Airport Manager Sanders needs someone to work at
109 the office/reception area while he is working on the Airport grounds. City Attorney Pettie
110 read an Ordinance permitting Charlotte Sanders, from time to time, to do contract labor in the
111 office/reception area in its entirety. After discussion, a motion by Allen and second by Lake
112 to suspend the rules in their entirety and forego the 2nd and 3rd readings carried (6/0) with
113 “yes” votes by Lake, Mansko, Green, Ivie, Allen and Moss.

114

115 A motion by Allen and second by Mansko to approve the Ordinance carried (6/0) with “yes”
116 votes by Mansko, Green, Lake, Moss, Allen and Ivie.

117

118 **ORDINANCE: CONDUCT BUSINESS WITH RICKEY HEMBREY, HUSBAND OF**
119 **DEBORAH HEMBREY, CITY CLERK**

120

121 City Attorney read the Ordinance in its entirety. A motion by Allen and second by Ivie to
122 suspend the rules in their entirety and forego the second and third readings carried (6/0) with
123 “yes” votes by Mansko, Moss, Green, Allen, Lake and Ivie.

124

125 A motion by Lake and second by Moss to approve the Ordinance carried (6/0) with “yes”
126 votes by Moss, Allen, Green, Ivie, Mansko and Lake.

127

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

129

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

131

132

133

MAYOR

134

ATTEST:

135

136

CITY CLERK

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