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**CITY OF NEWPORT
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
AUGUST 7, 2023**

The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session Monday, August 7, 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, Carol Falwell, Kathy Green, Regina Lake, Andy May and Julie Moss. Council Members Donnie Ivie 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 Green and second by Allen to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2023 Meeting carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Green, Lake, Moss and Mayor Ratliffe.

A motion by Allen and second by Lake to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2023 Meeting carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Falwell, Green, Lake, May and Mayor Ratliffe.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Ratliffe had the following reports:

- In accordance with Arkansas Code Ann. §10-4-418, Mayor Ratliffe stated the 2022 Legislative Audit Report had been received. Mayor Ratliffe reviewed the finding which stated “No issues came to our attention that we considered necessary to report to management.” No action was needed by the Council.
- Title 2 requires a Federal Single Audit when \$750,000 or more of Federal Grant Funds are spent by a Non-Federal Entity. Welch, Couch & Company, PA Certified Public Accountants conducted the required 2022 Audit for the City. The Audit stated, “In our opinion, the accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards presents fairly, in all material respects, the expenditures of federal awards of City of Newport, Arkansas for the year ended December 31, 2022, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.” No action was needed by the Council.
- An electronic copy of the 2022 Legislative Audit, 2022 Federal Audit and June 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 July was \$184,268, County Sales Tax was \$118,588 and NEDC Sales Tax was \$92,134.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: - NONE

51 **NEW BUSINESS:**

52

53 **BID CONSIDERATION: NEWPORT STREET IMPROVEMENTS**

54

55 Mayor Ratliffe presented proof of publication from the Arkansas Gazette along with a
56 handwritten bid tabulation. One bid was received and opened on July 18, 2023 at 10 a.m.

57 The bid received was as follows:

58

59 Hawkeye Enterprises base bid was \$280,510.00

60

61 Mayor Ratliffe stated to complete the total project an additional \$9,684 was needed. After
62 discussion, a motion by Lake and second by Green to accept the bid of Hawkeye Enterprises
63 and appropriate \$9,684 from the Street Fund to complete the project carried (6/0) with “yes”
64 votes by Allen, Green, Moss, Lake, Falwell and May.

65

66 **BID CONSIDERATION: PARK IMPROVEMENTS FOR HINES AND NORMANDY**
67 **PARKS**

68

69 Mayor Ratliffe presented proof of publication from the Arkansas Gazette along with a
70 handwritten bid tabulation. Three bids were received and opened on July 27, 2023 at 10 a.m.

71 Bids received:

72

73 Hawkeye Enterprises \$69,580.00

74 M&A Jones Construction \$62,567.37

75 Wagner General Contractors \$73,700.00

76

77 Mayor Ratliffe stated that a 50/50 Grant up to \$35,401.00 from the Arkansas Department of
78 Parks, Heritage and Tourism was received. After discussion, a motion by Allen and second
79 by Falwell to accept the bid of M&A Jones Construction carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by
80 Falwell, Moss, Allen, May, Lake and Green.

81

82 **RESOLUTION: ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH HAWKEYE ENTERPRISES**
83 **FOR STREET IMPROVEMENTS**

84

85 Mayor Ratliffe stated a Resolution authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to enter into a
86 contract with Hawkeye Enterprises for street improvements was needed. City Attorney
87 Pettie read the Resolution in its entirety. After discussion, a motion by Allen and second by
88 Falwell to approve the Resolution carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Lake, Falwell, Green,
89 May, Allen and Moss.

90

91 **RESOLUTION: ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH M & A JONES**
92 **CONSTRUCTION FOR PARK IMPROVEMENTS FOR HINES AND NORMANDY**
93 **PARKS**

94

95 Tabled until the September 5, 2023 Council Meeting.

96

97 Mayor Ratliffe asked to go into executive session and to include the City Clerk to discuss a
98 personnel issue. A motion by Allen and second by Lake to go into executive session carried
99 (6/0) with all present voting yes.

100 A motion by Lake and second by Moss to return to regular session carried (6/0) with all
101 present voting yes.

102 After discussion, a motion was made by Green and seconded by Moss to appropriate up to
103 \$175,000 of the funds released from the reimbursed funds for police, fire and ambulance also
104 known as the ARPA funds to give a special bonus to full-time employees with at least a year
105 of service \$2,000, part-time with at least a year of service \$1,000, Council Members \$750,
106 and pro rate those employees with less than a year of service carried (6/0) with “yes” votes
107 by Green, Allen, May, Falwell, Lake and Moss.
108

109 **GOOD OF THE CITY**

110
111 The issue of overgrown grass all over the City was discussed.
112

113 With no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.
114

115 PASSED AND APPROVED THE 5th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2023
116

117
118 _____
MAYOR

119 ATTEST:

120
121 _____
122 CITY CLERK