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**CITY OF NEWPORT
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
OCTOBER 2, 2023**

5 The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session Monday, October
6 2, 2023 in the chambers of the Municipal Courtroom.

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

13 Following the invocation by Julie Moss, those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

15 A motion by Falwell and second by Moss to approve the minutes of the September 5, 2023
16 Meeting carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Falwell, Green, Lake, May and Moss.
17 Mansko abstained due to being absent on September 5, 2023.

19 A motion by Lake and second by Moss to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2023
20 Meeting carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Green, Lake, May and Moss. Falwell and
21 Mansko abstained due to being absent on September 18, 2023.

23 **REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**

24
25 Mayor Ratliffe had the following reports:

- 26
27
- An electronic copy of the August 2023 Financial Statements for the General Fund,
28 Street Fund, 911 Fund, Sewer Fund, Administration of Justice Fund, Grant Fund,
29 Intoximeter Fund, District Court Cost Fund, Court Automation Fund, Drug Control
30 Fund, Advertising & Promotion Fund, Fed Aid Grant Fund, Judge/Clerk Retirement
31 Fund, NEDC Fund and Newport Airport was sent to each Council Member with their
32 council package. Mayor Ratliffe asked that if any Council Member had any questions
33 to please direct their questions to City Clerk/Treasurer Hembrey.
 - Sales Taxes received in September was \$175,176 City Sales Tax, County Sales Tax
34 was \$118,872 and NEDC Sales Tax was \$87,588.
35
36

37 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE**

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39 **NEW BUSINESS:**

40
41 **DISCUSS FUNDING TO REPLACE THE CULVERTS ON COUNTRY CLUB AND**
42 **VIRGINIA**

43
44 Mayor Ratliffe stated the City had applied for a grant to replace the culverts on Country Club
45 and Virginia but the City was denied. Mayor Ratliffe received three quotes for the
46 replacement of the culverts. C. Baldwin Construction Co. Inc. - \$198,940, Spurlock, Inc. -
47 \$161,000 and Easton Excavating - \$109,120. After discussion, a motion by Lake and
48 second by Falwell to appropriate up to \$115,000 of the ARPA reimbursement funds to
49 replace the culverts on Country Club and Virginia carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Allen,
50 Green, Moss, Lake, Falwell, May and Mansko. An Ordinance will be presented at the next

51 Council Meeting for the waiver of competitive bidding due to winter weather causing
52 flooding.

53

54 **REAPPOINT JAMES MCLARTY TO AIRPORT COMMISSION FOR TERM**
55 **EXPIRING 9/30/28**

56

57 Mayor Ratliffe stated James McLarty's term on the Airport Commission expired on
58 September 30th. A motion by Lake and second by Moss to reappoint James McLarty to the
59 Airport Commission with a term expiring 9/30/28 carried (7/0) with "yes" votes by Falwell,
60 Moss, Allen, May, Lake, Green and Manko.

61

62 **JAMES MCLARTY TO ADDRESS COUNCIL ON AIRPORT COMMISSION**
63 **APPOINTMENT OF MALCOLM HAIGWOOD TO REPLACE DONNIE WASHAM**
64 **TO FILL UNEXPIRED TERM ENDING 9/30/27**

65

66 Mayor Ratliffe recognized James McLarty. McLarty gave an informative overview of the
67 progress of the Newport Municipal Airport. The Airport has received two grants one for
68 rehabilitation of runway 18-36 and the other for a building new hangar. McLarty stated that
69 Malcolm Haigwood has over 8,000 hours of pilot experience and would be excellent on the
70 Airport Commission, A motion by Green and second by Falwell to appoint Malcolm
71 Haigwood to fill the vacant position with the term expiring on 9/30/27 carried (7/0) with
72 "yes" votes by Moss, Allen, Manko, Falwell, Green, Lake and May.

73

74 **MIKE TURNER TO ADDRESS COUNCIL ABOUT TWO PROPOSED**
75 **ORDINANCES**

76

77 Mayor Ratliffe recognized Mike Turner. Turner presented an array of items he would like to
78 see in the City Ordinances to force property owners to maintain the appearance of their
79 property.

80

81 **ORDINANCE: REQUIREMENTS FOR PREMISES IN CITY TO BE KEPT FREE**
82 **FROM UNSIGHTLY AND UNSANITARY CONDITIONS**

83

84 Mayor Ratliffe stated two proposed Ordinances concerning maintaining property appearance
85 would be read for the first reading. City Attorney Pettie read the proposed Ordinance
86 addressing requirements for premises to be kept free from weeds, rank grass, garbage,
87 rubbish, and other unsightly and unsanitary articles in its entirety.

88

89 **ORDINANCE: PROVIDING FOR CONDEMNATION AND REMOVAL OF**
90 **HOUSES, BUILDINGS, AND/OR STRUCTURES THAT CONSTITUTE A**
91 **NUISANCE**

92

93 City Attorney Pettie read the first reading of the proposed Ordinance addressing the
94 condemnation and removal of houses, buildings and/or structures constituting a nuisance
95 within the City limits in its entirety.

96

97 After discussion, on different points of the Ordinances, these Ordinances will be on
98 November's agenda.

99

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101

102 **RESOLUTION: 2023 AMENDED BUDGET**

103

104 Mayor Ratliffe presented the Proposed 2023 Amended Budget. After discussion, City
105 Attorney Pettie read the Resolution adopting the presented 2023 Amended Budget in its
106 entirety. A motion by Falwell and second by Allen to accept the Resolution carried (7/0)
107 with “yes” votes by Lake, Mansko, Falwell, Green, May, Allen and Moss.

108

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

110

111 PASSED AND APPROVED THE 6TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2023

112

113

114

MAYOR

115 ATTEST:

116

117

118

CITY CLERK