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**CITY OF NEWPORT
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
DECEMBER 4, 2023**

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The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session Monday, December 4, 2023 in the chambers of the Municipal Courtroom.

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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 absent were Carol Falwell and Andy May. City Attorney John Pettie was present.

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

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

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Ratliffe had the following reports:

- An electronic copy of the October 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 Taxes received in November was \$184,482 City Sales Tax, County Sales Tax was \$127,037 and NEDC Sales Tax was \$92,241.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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

Mayor Ratliffe stated the 3rd and final reading of the Ordinance requiring premises within the City to be kept free from unsightly and unsanitary conditions would be read. A motion by Allen and second by Mansko to suspend the rules in their entirety and read the Ordinance by caption only carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Green, Ivie, Moss, Lake and Mansko. City Attorney Pettie read the Ordinance by caption only. Mayor Ratliffe asked for any additional comments, there were none.

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

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

50 **ORDINANCE: PROVIDING FOR CONDEMNATION AND REMOVAL OF**
51 **HOUSES, BUILDINGS, AND/OR STRUCTURES THAT CONSTITUTE A**
52 **NUISANCE**

53
54 Mayor Ratliffe stated the 3rd and final reading of the Ordinance providing for condemnation
55 and removal of houses, buildings, and/or structures that constitute a nuisance would be read.
56 A motion by Allen and second by Ivie to suspend the rules in their entirety and read the
57 Ordinance by caption only carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Green, Allen, Ivie, Lake, Moss
58 and Mansko. City Attorney Pettie read the Ordinance by caption only. Mayor Ratliffe asked
59 for any additional comments, there were none.

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

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

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67 **NEW BUSINESS:**

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69 **RESOLUTION: REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF NEWPORT ECONOMIC**
70 **DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION 2024 BUDGET**

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72 Mayor Ratliffe stated the 2024 Proposed Budgets for the Newport Economic Development
73 Commission, Airport Commission and the City of Newport had been hand delivered to each
74 Council Member on December 1, 2023 for their review.

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76 Mayor Ratliffe presented the 2024 Newport Economic Development Commission Proposed
77 Budget. After discussion, City Attorney Pettie read the Resolution acknowledging the
78 review and approval of Proposed 2024 Budget in its entirety. A motion by Allen and second
79 by Moss to approve the Resolution carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Green, Allen, Ivie,
80 Lake, Moss and Mansko.

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82 **RESOLUTION: REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AIRPORT COMMISSION 2024**
83 **BUDGET**

84
85 Mayor Ratliffe presented the 2024 Newport Airport Commission Proposed Budget. After
86 discussion, City Attorney Pettie read the Resolution acknowledging review and approval of
87 Proposed 2024 Budget in its entirety. A motion by Allen and second by Moss to approve the
88 Resolution carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Green, Ivie, Moss, Lake and Mansko.

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90 **RESOLUTION: ADOPT 2024 CITY BUDGET**

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92 Mayor Ratliffe stated the proposed 2024 City Budget included a 3% increase to full time
93 employees making more than \$14.00 per hour. All other full time employees hourly rate will
94 increase to \$14.00 per hour. Mayor Ratliffe gave a detailed review of the proposed 2024
95 revenues and 2024 expenses by each department and answered questions from the Council.
96 After the review, City Attorney Pettie read the Resolution to adopt the Proposed 2024 City
97 Budget in its entirety. A motion by Allen and second by Ivie to approve the Resolution
98 carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Ivie, Moss, Allen, Lake, Green and Mansko.

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100 **ORDINANCE: AUTHORIZING 2024 SALARIES FOR CITY CLERK/TREASURER**
101 **AND CITY ATTORNEY**

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103 Mayor Ratliffe stated Arkansas Code Ann. 14-43-313 requires these two salaries be
104 authorized by Ordinance even though they are approved in the City Budget. City Attorney
105 read the Ordinance ratifying and authorizing the annual salaries of the Newport City
106 Clerk/Treasurer and Newport City Attorney in its entirety. A motion by Allen and second by
107 Moss to suspend the rules in their entirety and forego the 2nd and 3rd readings carried (6/0)
108 with “yes” votes by Ivie, Moss, Allen, Mansko, Green and Lake.

109
110 A motion by Ivie and second by Allen to accept the Ordinance carried (6/0) with “yes” votes
111 by Lake, Mansko, Green, Ivie, Allen and Moss.

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

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115 PASSED AND APPROVED THE 2ND DAY OF JANUARY, 2024

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MAYOR

120 ATTEST:

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CITY CLERK