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**CITY OF NEWPORT  
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL  
JANUARY 2, 2024**

The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session January 2, 2024 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, Regina Lake, Leroy Mansko Andy May and Julie Moss. City Attorney John Pettie was present. Council Members absent were Carol Falwell and Donny Ivie.

Following the invocation by Andy May, those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion by Green and second by Moss to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2023 Meeting carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Green, Mansko, Moss and Mayor Ratliffe. May abstained due to being absent on December 4, 2023.

Regina Lake arrived.

**REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**

Mayor Ratliffe had the following reports:

- An electronic copy of the November 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 December was \$183,706 City Sales Tax, County Sales Tax was \$126,268 and NEDC Sales Tax was \$91,853.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**ORGANIZATION OF CITY COUNCIL ACA §14-43-501**

Mayor Ratliffe stated ACA §14-43-501 requires the organization of the City Council at the first meeting of the year. Mayor Ratliffe asked the Council how they would like the City Council Meetings to be organized for 2024. After discussion, a motion by Moss and second by Green to keep the same organization carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by Moss, Allen, Mansko, Green and May.

51 **Resolution: DriveSmart Auto Care, Inc. Tax Back**

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53 Mayor Ratliffe stated DriveSmart Auto Care, Inc. is seeking to participate in the Tax Back  
54 Program as authorized by ACA §15-4-2706(d). Mayor Ratliffe recognized NEDC Executive  
55 Director Chadwell. Chadwell gave an informative overview of the Tax Back Program and  
56 the need for DriveSmart Auto Care, Inc. to participate in this program. After discussion, City  
57 Attorney Pettie read the Resolution in its entirety. A motion by Allen and second by Mansko  
58 to approve the Resolution carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Moss, May, Green, Lake  
59 and Mansko.

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61 **GOOD OF THE CITY:**

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63 NEDC Executive Director Chadwell presented a list of 2023 Tech Depot Training Sessions  
64 and a current Tech Depot Schedule for 2024. Director Chadwell gave a very informative  
65 breakdown of the work done by Newport Economic Development Commission in 2023.

66 Director Chadwell stated Newport’s Tech Depot was selected by the Center on Rural  
67 Innovation to participate in this year’s cohort for their planning process. The Center on Rural  
68 Innovation typically work with 4 to 6 towns per year from across the nation. The process  
69 will help Tech Depot develop a comprehensive plan and enable grant applications for future  
70 funding.

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72 Mayor Ratliffe stated the Newport New Vision Class will be at City Hall on Thursday at 2  
73 p.m. Mayor Ratliffe requested that any Council Member that is available to please attend the  
74 overview of City Government that will be given.

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

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78 PASSED AND APPROVED THE 5<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2024

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MAYOR

83 ATTEST:

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CITY CLERK