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**CITY OF NEWPORT  
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL  
FEBRUARY 5, 2024**

5 The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session February 5, 2024 in the  
6 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, Donnie Ivie, Regina  
10 Lake, Leroy Mansko and Andy May. City Attorney John Pettie was present. Council Member  
11 Julie Moss was absent.

13 Following the invocation by Carol Falwell, those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

15 A motion by Lake and second by Green to approve the minutes of the January 2, 2024 Meeting  
16 carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Green, Lake Mansko, and May. Falwell and Ivie  
17 abstained due to being absent on January 2, 2024.

19 A motion by Green and second by Allen to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2024 Special  
20 Meeting carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Falwell, Lake, Mansko and Mayor Ratliffe.  
21 Green, Ivie and May abstained due to being absent on January 23, 2024.

23 **REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**

24 Mayor Ratliffe had the following reports:

- 25
- 26 • An electronic copy of the December 2023 Financial Statements for the General Fund, Street  
27 Fund, 911 Fund, Sewer Fund, Administration of Justice Fund, Grant Fund, Intoximeter  
28 Fund, District Court Cost Fund, Court Automation Fund, Drug Control Fund, Advertising  
29 & Promotion Fund, Fed Aid Grant Fund, Judge/Clerk Retirement Fund, NEDC Fund and  
30 Newport Airport was sent to each Council Member with their council package. Mayor  
31 Ratliffe asked that if any Council Member had any questions to please direct their  
32 questions to City Clerk/Treasurer Hembrey.
  - 33 • City Sales Tax received in January was \$169,375 City Sales Tax, County Sales Tax was  
34 \$113,669 and NEDC Sales Tax was \$84,687.
  - 35 • Mayor Ratliffe gave an overview of the injuries our Public Works Director Kerry Tharpe  
36 obtained while closing the flood gates during the rain storm we had on January 27, 2024.  
37 Mayor Ratliffe stated he had hired Michael Scudder to be the interim Public Works  
38 Director until Mr. Tharpe is able to return to work.
  - 39 • Mayor Ratliffe stated in the early hours of Friday morning a robbery at the Citgo at the  
40 corner of Air Base Road and Highway 367 N occurred. Mayor Ratliffe recognized Police  
41 Chief Dulaney and CID Lieutenant Harmon. Chief Dulaney and Lieutenant Harmon gave  
42 a brief report on the robbery and gave an overview of how they identified a suspect with  
43 new equipment approved in the budget.
- 44

45 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

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47 **APPROVE EMERGENCY CLAUSE ON ORDINANCE NO. 1240**

48 After discussion, a motion by Allen and second by Lake to approve the emergency clause on the  
49 Ordinance authorizing RV and Trailer Camping within City limits temporarily during and

50 surrounding the total solar eclipse expected April 8, 2024 carried (6/0/1) with “yes” votes by  
51 May, Allen, Green, Mansko, Lake and Falwell. Ivie abstained.

52

53 **NEW BUSINESS:**

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55 **BID CONSIDERATION: TWO (2) POLICE 2024 DODGE DURANGOS**

56 Mayor Ratliffe stated an application to the USDA for a grant to help purchase 2 police vehicles is  
57 in process by the Police Department. Mayor Ratliffe presented proof of publication from the  
58 Jonesboro Sun along with a handwritten bid tabulation. One bid was received and opened on  
59 January 24, 2024 at 10 a.m. The bid received was as follows:

60

61 Red River Dodge – Heber Springs, Arkansas

62 2-2024 Dodge Durangos – AWD pursuit - \$42,690.00 each for a total of \$85,380.00.

63

64 After discussion, a motion by Green and second by Ivie to award the bid to Red River Dodge of  
65 Heber Springs, Arkansas with the stipulation of receiving the USDA grant carried (7/0) with  
66 “yes” votes by Allen, Ivie, May, Green, Falwell, Lake and Mansko.

67

68 Mayor Ratliffe stated a quote from Paragould Communications to outfit the Dodge Durangos with  
69 the required equipment was \$10,733.24 per vehicle.

70

71 **RESOLUTION: AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO EXECUTE DOCUMENTS IN**  
72 **CONNECTION WITH FUNDING THROUGH ARKANSAS NATURAL RESOURCES**  
73 **COMMISSION**

74 Mayor Ratliffe recognized Wayne Menley, President/Project Manager for Miller-Newell  
75 Engineers. Mr. Menley stated the Newport Municipal Water Company had applied and received  
76 a grant from Arkansas Natural Resources Commission for improvements to the Newport Water  
77 system. Mr. Menley stated the project would cost \$459,224 with the grant paying \$344,418 and  
78 the Newport Water Company paying the remainder of \$114,806. Mr. Menley stated the  
79 Resolution was needed to authorize the Mayor to execute certain documents. After discussion,  
80 City Attorney Pettie read the Resolution in its entirety. A motion by Allen and second by  
81 Mansko to accept the Resolution carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Falwell, Allen, Mansko, Lake,  
82 May, Green and Ivie.

83

84 **RESOLUTION: AMEND 2023 BUDGET**

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

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

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92 PASSED AND APPROVED THE 4<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MARCH, 2024

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MAYOR

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ATTEST:

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CITY CLERK