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CITY OF NEWPORT
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 4, 2024

5 The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session March 4, 2024 in
6 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 Carol Falwell, Kathy Green, Donnie Ivie, Regina Lake, Leroy
10 Mansko, Andy May and Julie Moss. City Attorney John Pettie and Council Member Michael
11 Allen were absent.

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

15 A motion by Lake and second by Falwell to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2024
16 Meeting carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Falwell, Green, Ivie, Lake, Mansko, and May.
17 Moss abstained due to being absent on February 5, 2024.

19 **REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**

20 Mayor Ratliffe had the following reports:

- 21
- 22 • An electronic copy of the January 2024 Financial Statements for the General Fund,
23 Street Fund, 911 Fund, Sewer Fund, Administration of Justice Fund, Grant Fund,
24 Intoximeter Fund, District Court Cost Fund, Court Automation Fund, Drug Control
25 Fund, Advertising & Promotion Fund, Fed Aid Grant Fund, Judge/Clerk Retirement
26 Fund, NEDC Fund and Newport Airport was sent to each Council Member with their
27 council package. Mayor Ratliffe asked that if any Council Member had any questions
28 to please direct their questions to City Clerk/Treasurer Hembrey.
 - 29 • City Sales Tax received in February was \$179,148, County Sales Tax was \$117,628
30 and NEDC Sales Tax was \$89,574.
- 31

32 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE**

33
34 **NEW BUSINESS:**

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36 **STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS**

37 Mayor Ratliffe reviewed the State of the City, as required by Arkansas Statute 14-58-302.
38 Mayor Ratliffe gave an informative overview of the City including the following:

- 39
- 40 1. Police Department has applied for a USDA Grant for police vehicles and also new
41 cameras are being purchased.
 - 42 2. Fire Department is having a grain bin rescue training with a person in the grain
43 bin.
 - 44 3. Sewer Department has started the cleaning of the sewer ponds.
 - 45 4. Park Department has received a 50/50 grant for George Kell Park surfacing of the
46 parking lot, playground equipment and sidewalk to the dugout for ADA
47 compliance.
 - 48 5. Recycling Department has a new manager – Ms. Brittney Kilgore. The Arkansas
49 Department of Corrections is continuing to work at the Recycling Center.
 - 50 6. Residential Sanitation has two trucks running four days a week.

51 **PHILLIP MCDONALD TO ADDRESS COUNCIL ABOUT BITCOIN MINING ON**
52 **PECAN STREET**

53
54 Mr. McDonald was not present.

55
56 **RESOLUTION: ADOPTING THE JACKSON COUNTY MULTI-**
57 **JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN**

58
59 Mayor Ratliffe read the Resolution to adopt the Jackson County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard
60 Mitigation Plan in its entirety. After discussion, a motion by Moss and second by Lake to
61 accept the Resolution carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Moss, Ivie, May, Green, Falwell,
62 Lake and Mansko.

63
64 Mayor Ratliffe stated two other items needed to be addressed.

65
66 **ORDINANCE: PERMITTING THE CITY OF NEWPORT, ARKANSAS TO**
67 **CONDUCT BUSINESS WITH SHERIDAN CHADWELL, WIFE OF JON**
68 **CHADWELL, NEDC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

69
70 Mayor Ratliffe stated that due to the illness of an employee the NEDC needed a person to
71 help at the office at a very short notice. Sheridan Chadwell has agreed to help with office,
72 clerical and reception duties when needed. After discussion, Mayor Ratliffe read the
73 Ordinance in its entirety. A motion by Ivie and second by Lake to suspend the rules in their
74 entirety and forego the 2nd and 3rd readings carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Falwell,
75 Mansko, Moss, Lake, May, Green and Ivie.

76
77 A motion by May and second by Mansko to approve the Ordinance carried (7/0) with “yes”
78 votes by Ivie, Moss, Mansko, Falwell, Green, Lake and May.

79
80 **RESOLUTION: CORRECTING A TRANSACTION BETWEEN THE JACKSON**
81 **COUNTY DISTRICT COURT CLERK’S OFFICE AND THE JACKSON COUNTY**
82 **SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT**

83
84 Mayor Ratliffe recognized Deborah Hembrey, City Clerk. Ms. Hembrey gave an overview
85 of a transaction that occurred between the District Court Clerk’s Office and the Jackson
86 County Sheriff’s Office that resulted in a \$500 shortfall. After discussion, Mayor Ratliffe
87 read the Resolution allowing the City’s General Fund to cover \$250 of the shortfall with
88 Jackson County Sheriff’s Department covering the balance in its entirety. A motion by Lake
89 and second by Moss to approve the Resolution carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Mansko,
90 Falwell, May, Moss, Ivie, Lake and Green.

91
92 With no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

93
94 PASSED AND APPROVED THE 1ST DAY OF APRIL, 2024.

95
96
97 _____
MAYOR

98 ATTEST:

99 _____
100 CITY CLERK