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**CITY OF NEWPORT**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL**  
**APRIL 1, 2024**

5 The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session April 1, 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 Michael Allen, Carol Falwell, Kathy Green, Donnie Ivie,  
10 Andy May and Julie Moss. City Attorney John Pettie was present. Council Members Regina  
11 Lake and Leroy Mansko were absent.

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

15 A motion by May and second by Green to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2024  
16 Meeting carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by Falwell, Green, Ivie, May and Moss. Allen  
17 abstained due to being absent on March 4, 2024.

19 A motion by Moss and second by Falwell to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2024  
20 Special Meeting carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Falwell, May, Moss and Mayor  
21 Ratliffe. Green and Ivie abstained due to being absent on March 15, 2024.

23 **REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**

25 Mayor Ratliffe had the following reports:

- 27
- An electronic copy of the 2023 Financial Statements Publication was sent to each  
28 Council Member with their council package.
  - An electronic copy of the February 2024 Financial Statements for the General Fund,  
29 Street Fund, 911 Fund, Sewer Fund, Administration of Justice Fund, Grant Fund,  
30 Intoximeter Fund, District Court Cost Fund, Court Automation Fund, Drug Control  
31 Fund, Advertising & Promotion Fund, Fed Aid Grant Fund, Judge/Clerk Retirement  
32 Fund, NEDC Fund and Newport Airport was sent to each Council Member with their  
33 council package. Mayor Ratliffe asked that if any Council Member had any questions  
34 to please direct their questions to City Clerk/Treasurer Hembrey.
  - City Sales Tax received in March was \$156,385, County Sales Tax was \$105,510 and  
36 NEDC Sales Tax was \$78,192.
- 37  
38

39 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE**

41 **NEW BUSINESS:**

43 **MARTIN STEWARD, WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT SUPERINTENDENT,**  
44 **TO ADDRESS COUNCIL ABOUT WWTP FACILITY**

46 Mayor Ratliffe recognized Martin Steward, Wastewater Superintendent. Steward gave a  
47 very informative overview of the Wastewater Treatment Plant processes. Steward stated the  
48 type of facility that we have will produce odor and this is partly weather related. Our facility  
49 (due to Covid and the permit disposal application process) has not been cleaned of sludge

50 since 2019. Normally, the ponds are cleaned of sludge every 3 years. Steward stated a  
51 different type of facility that would reduce odor would cost more than \$30,000,000 and  
52 require annual cleaning of the sludge from the ponds. Cleaning of the ponds is a costly  
53 process that also requires land disposal contracts with land owners.

54

55 **REAPPOINTMENTS TO NEWPORT ADVERTISING & PROMOTION**  
56 **COMMISSION**

57

- 58 • **RANDY RAMSEY (TERM EXP. MARCH 2027)**
- 59 • **LAUREN SAMPSON (TERM EXP. MARCH 2027)**
- 60 • **LATONYA ANDERS (TERM EXP. MARCH 2027)**

61

62 Mayor Ratliffe stated that the above commissioners had agreed to be reappointed to the  
63 Newport Advertising & Promotion Commission.

64

65 After discussion, a motion by Green and second by Falwell to reappoint Randy Ramsey to  
66 the Newport Advertising & Promotion Commission with a term expiring March 2027 carried  
67 (6/0) with “yes” votes by Falwell, Allen, Moss, May, Green and Ivie.

68

69 A motion by Moss and second by Falwell to reappoint Lauren Sampson to the Newport  
70 Advertising & Promotion Commission with a term expiring March 2027 carried (6/0) with  
71 “yes” votes by Ivie, Moss, Allen, Falwell, Green and May.

72

73 A motion by Green and second by Falwell to reappoint Latonya Anders to the Newport  
74 Advertising & Promotion Commission with a term expiring March 2027 carried (6/0) with  
75 “yes” votes by Allen, Falwell, May, Moss, Ivie and Green.

76

77 **RESOLUTIONS REAPPOINTING RANDY RAMSEY AND H. BENJAMIN HARRIS**  
78 **TO NEWPORT WATER COMMISSION FOR APRIL 10, 2024 – APRIL 9, 2032**  
79 **TERMS**

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81 Mayor Ratliffe stated the Newport Water Commission had requested the reappointments of  
82 Randy Ramsey and H. Benjamin Harris to the Newport Water Commission.

83

84 City Attorney Pettie read the Resolution approving the reappointment of H. Benjamin Harris  
85 to the Waterworks Commission with a term expiring April 9, 2032 in its entirety. A motion  
86 by Moss and second by Green to approve the Resolution carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by  
87 Ivie, Green, Moss, Allen, May and Falwell.

88

89 City Attorney Pettie read the Resolution approving the reappointment of Randy Ramsey to  
90 the Waterworks Commission with a term expiring April 9, 2032 in its entirety. A motion by  
91 Allen and second by Green to approve the Resolution carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by May,  
92 Allen, Green, Ivie, Falwell and Moss.

93

94 **RESOLUTION: CITY GIVING EASEMENT FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLE**  
95 **CHARGING STATION AT 321 THIRD STREET – TECH DEPOT PARKING LOT**

96

97 Mayor Ratliffe recognized Jon Chadwell, Executive Director of the Newport Economic  
98 Development Commission. Chadwell stated Entergy is putting in 15 DC electric vehicle  
99 chargers in rural Arkansas. The DC chargers can charge almost any electric vehicle in 30

100 minutes. Entergy is requesting easement for two parking spaces in the Tech Depot Parking  
101 Lot. After discussion, City Attorney Pettie read the Resolution authorizing the Mayor and  
102 City Clerk to execute any and all documents necessary to grant an easement to Entergy  
103 Arkansas, LLC for an electric vehicle charging station in its entirety. A motion by Ivie and  
104 second by Allen to approve the Resolution carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Moss, May,  
105 Falwell, Green, Allen and Ivie.

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**BID CONSIDERATION: GARBAGE BAGS**

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Mayor Ratliffe presented proof of publication in the Newport Independent and the  
handwritten bid tabulation for the garbage bags. Three bids were received:

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Sigma Supply, Inc.	\$9.54/per roll includes sales tax
Unipak Corp.	\$10.36/per roll includes sales tax
Archie Supply	\$9.68/per roll includes sales tax

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After discussion, a motion by Green and second by Moss to accept the bid of \$9.54 per roll  
from Sigma Supply, Inc. carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Ivie, Green, Moss, Allen, May and  
Falwell.

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**GOOD OF THE CITY**

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Mayor Ratliffe stated that with the expectation of several visitors coming to Newport to  
watch the April 8, 2024 Eclipse the City might have to use contract labor to help with the  
mowing.

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Council discussed the problem of trash pickup.

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

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PASSED AND APPROVED THE 6<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MAY, 2024

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MAYOR

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ATTEST:

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CITY CLERK