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CITY OF NEWPORT
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
JULY 1, 2024

The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session July 1, 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, Carol Falwell, Regina Lake, Andy May, and Julie Moss. City Attorney John Pettie was present. Council Members Donnie Ivie and Leroy Manko were absent. Council Member Kathy Green has moved away from Newport.

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

A motion by Lake and second by Allen to approve the minutes of the June 3, 2024 Meeting did not pass. “Yes” votes were cast by Allen, Lake, May and Mayor Ratliffe – Falwell and Moss abstained. The June 3, 2024 Minutes will be presented at the August Meeting for approval.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Ratliffe had the following reports:

- An electronic copy of the May 2024 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 Tax received in June was \$176,312, County Sales Tax was \$114,778 and NEDC Sales Tax was \$88,156.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

REAPPOINTMENTS TO NEWPORT PLANNING COMMISSION

- KENNY THAXTON III (TERM EXP. JULY 2027)
- PENN STAFFORD (TERM EXP. JULY 2027)

After discussion, a motion by Lake and second by Moss to reappoint Kenny Thaxton III to the Newport Planning Commission with a term expiring July 2027 carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by Moss, May, Falwell, Allen and Lake.

After discussion, a motion by Lake and second by Falwell to reappoint Penn Stafford to the Newport Planning Commission with a term expiring July 2027 carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by May, Moss, Allen, Falwell and Lake.

49 **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CITY TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH**
50 **SAFE HAVEN BABY BOXES, INC. REGARDING PLACEMENT OF A NEWBORN**
51 **SAFETY DEVICE AT FIRE DEPARTMENT**

52
53 Mayor Ratliffe recognized Lieutenant Jason Tarwater of the Newport Fire Department.
54 Lieutenant Tarwater gave an informative overview of the mechanics, financial support and
55 operations of a Safe Haven Baby Box. After discussion, City Attorney Pettie read the
56 Resolution in its entirety. A motion by Allen and second by Moss to approve the Resolution
57 approving and authorizing the City of Newport to enter into an agreement with Safe Haven
58 Baby Boxes, Inc. carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by Falwell, May, Lake, Allen and Moss.
59

60 **GOOD OF THE CITY**

61
62 Mayor Ratliffe reported that Executive Director Chadwell, County Judge Phillips, White
63 River Planning and Development District and he accepted the Star of the Southwest Award
64 for the Newport Tech Depot Project. U.S. Economic Development Administration’s Austin
65 Regional Office awarded this award at the SWREDA Annual Conference. Tech Depot
66 joined winners from five other states. Mayor Ratliffe recognized NEDC Executive Director
67 Chadwell. Chadwell gave a very informative overview of the prestigious award “Star of the
68 Southwest”.

69
70 Mayor Ratliffe stated that Community Development Block Grants are based on low to
71 moderate income (LMI) ratings of 51% or greater. The success of economic development in
72 Newport has reduced our low to moderate income rating to 48%, which makes us not eligible
73 for some Community Development Block Grants for a period of 5 years. The reduction in
74 low to moderate income rating is great news for the development of successful employees of
75 Jackson County.

76
77 Mayor Ratliffe reported that Council Member Kathy Green had moved out of her Ward and
78 was no longer eligible to be a Council Member. After discussion, a motion by Allen and
79 second by Moss to declare the position of Kathy Green vacant carried (5/0) with “yes” votes
80 by Lake, Moss, May, Falwell and Allen.

81
82 Areas of unsightly or unsanitary conditions on real estate inside the city limits were
83 discussed.

84
85 With no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

86
87 PASSED AND APPROVED THE 5TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2024
88
89
90

91 _____
MAYOR

92 ATTEST:

93
94 _____
95 CITY CLERK