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

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

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

15 A motion by Lake and second by Allen to approve the minutes of the June 3, 2024 Meeting
16 carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Ivie, Lake, May and Moss. Mansko abstained due to
17 being absent on June 3, 2024.

19 A motion by Lake and second by Allen to approve the minutes of July 1, 2024 Meeting
20 carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Lake, May, Moss and Mayor Ratliffe. Ivie and
21 Mansko abstained due to being absent on July 1, 2024.

23 **REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**

24 Mayor Ratliffe had the following reports:

- 25
- 26 • An electronic copy of the June 2024 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,
29 Advertising & Promotion Fund, Fed Aid Grant Fund, Judge/Clerk Retirement Fund,
30 NEDC Fund and Newport Airport was sent to each Council Member with their
31 council package. Mayor Ratliffe asked that if any Council Member had any questions
32 to please direct their questions to City Clerk/Treasurer Hembrey.
 - 33 • City Sales Tax received in July was \$175,048, County Sales Tax was \$113,110 and
34 NEDC Sales Tax was \$87,524.
- 35

36 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE**

37
38 **NEW BUSINESS:**

39
40 **CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF WENDELL GREEN TO CITY COUNCIL WARD**
41 **3, POSITION 1 TO FILL REMAINING TERM OF KATHY GREEN (12/31/24)**

42
43 Mayor Ratliffe stated Mr. Wendell Green was retired from Entergy after over 30 years of
44 service. Mr. Green lives in Ward 3 and also sets on the Newport Housing Authority Board.

45 After discussion, a motion by Lake and second by Ivie to appoint Mr. Wendell Green to the
46 Newport City Council – Ward 3 Position 1 – to fill the remaining term of Kathy Green
47 carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Moss, Ivie, May, Lake and Mansko.
48

49 Mr. Green joined the Council members table.
50

51 **RESOLUTION: AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO ENTER INTO ADMINISTRATIVE**
52 **AGREEMENT WITH WHITE RIVER PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**
53 **DISTRICT, INC. FOR EDA GRANT FOR RENOVATION OF NEDC BUILDING**
54

55 Mayor Ratliffe read the Resolution in its entirety. Mayor Ratliffe recognized NEDC
56 Executive Director Chadwell. Chadwell gave a very informative overview of the renovations
57 planned for the NEDC Building. After discussion, a motion by Allen and second by Ivie to
58 approve the Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an administrative agreement with
59 White River Planning and Development carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Moss, Ivie,
60 May, Green, Lake and Mansko.
61

62 **RESOLUTION: APPROVING VARIANCE FOR R3 STRATEGIES, LLC**
63

64 Mayor Ratliffe read the Resolution approving the findings of the Board of Zoning for a
65 variance on parcel 013-00090-001, owned by R3 Strategies, LLC. After discussion, a motion
66 by Allen and second by Ivie to approve the Resolution approving the zoning variance for the
67 construction and operation of a travel trailer park on parcel 013-00090-001 carried (7/0) with
68 “yes” votes by Allen, Mansko, Moss, Lake, May, Green and Ivie.
69

70 **ORDINANCE: REZONING PROPERTY AT 2590 COMMERCE BOULEVARD**
71 **FROM AGRICULTURAL-1 TO RESIDENTIAL-3**
72

73 Mayor Ratliffe recognized Edward Boyce, Attorney at Law. Boyce gave a very informative
74 overview of the request for rezoning of the property at 2590 Commerce Boulevard. After
75 discussion, a motion by Allen and second by Mansko to suspend the rules in their entirety,
76 read the Ordinance by caption only and forego the 2nd and 3rd readings carried (7/0) with
77 “yes” votes by Ivie, Moss, Allen, Mansko, Green, Lake and May.
78

79 Mayor Ratliffe read the Ordinance by caption only. A motion by Allen and second by Ivie to
80 approve the Ordinance rezoning the property at 2590 Commerce Boulevard from
81 Agricultural-1 to Residential-3 carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Mansko, Allen, May, Moss,
82 Ivie, Lake and Green.
83

84 A motion by May and second by Allen to approve the emergency clause on the Ordinance
85 carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by May, Allen, Green, Ivie, Mansko, Lake and Moss.
86

87 **ORDINANCE: PERMITTING THE CITY OF NEWPORT TO CONDUCT**
88 **BUSINESS WITH MALCOLM HAIGWOOD WHO SERVES AS A NON-PAID**
89 **MEMBER OF THE NEWPORT AIRPORT COMMISSION**
90

91 Mayor Ratliffe read the Ordinance in its entirety. After discussion, a motion by Moss and
92 second by Allen to suspend the rules in their entirety and forego the 2nd and 3rd readings of
93 the Ordinance carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by May, Allen, Green, Ivie, Mansko, Lake and
94 Moss.

95
96 A motion by Lake and second by Mansko to accept the Ordinance carried (7/0) with “yes”
97 votes by Moss, Allen, Ivie, May, Mansko, Lake and Green.

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

99

100 PASSED AND APPROVED THE 3RD DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2024

101

102

103

104

MAYOR

105 ATTEST:

106

107

108

CITY CLERK