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**CITY OF NEWPORT
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 3, 2024**

19 The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session September 3, 2024
20 in the chambers of the Municipal Courtroom.

21 Mayor Ratliffe called the meeting to order. City Clerk/Treasurer Hembrey called the roll.
22 Council members present were Michael Allen, Carol Falwell, Wendell Green, Donnie Ivie,
23 Regina Lake, Leroy Mansko, Andy May, and Julie Moss. City Attorney John Pettie was
24 present.

25 Following the invocation by Wendell Green, those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

26 A motion by Lake and second by Moss to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2024
27 Meeting carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Green, Ivie, Lake, Mansko, May and Moss.
28 Falwell abstained due to being absent on August 5, 2024.

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REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

49 Mayor Ratliffe had the following reports:

- 50 • In accordance with Arkansas Code Ann. §10-4-418, Mayor Ratliffe stated the 2023 Legislative Audit Report had been received. Mayor Ratliffe reviewed the finding which stated “In our opinion, the accompanying regulatory basis financial statements, referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the regulatory basis financial position of the general fund, street fund and other funds in the aggregate of the City of Newport, Arkansas as of December 31, 2023; the regulatory basis revenues, expenditures, and changes in net position; and budgetary comparisons for the general fund and street for the year then ended, in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of Ark. Code Ann. § 10-4-412 described in Note 1.” No action was needed by the Council.
- A copy of the 2023 Sewer Department Audit Report was given to each Council Member. The report stated “In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the modified cash basis financial position of the City of Newport, Arkansas Sewer Department as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the respective changes in modified cash basis financial position and modified cash basis cash flows for the years then ended, in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting as described in Note 1(B) to the financial statements.” No action was required by the Council.
- An electronic copy of the July 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 August was \$169,988, County Sales Tax was \$115,592 and NEDC Sales Tax was \$84,999.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

51 **NEW BUSINESS:**

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53 **ORDINANCE: REZONING PT SE ¼ SECTION 6 TOWNSHIP 11 NORTH RANGE 2**
54 **WEST COMMERCE DRIVE FROM A-1 TO R-1**

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56 Mayor Ratliffe recognized Attorney Randy Rudisill. Rudisill gave a very informative
57 overview of the request, approved by the Planning Commission, for the rezoning of PT SE ¼
58 Section 6 Township 11 North Range 2 West Commerce Drive. After a lengthy discussion
59 with questions fielded by Attorney Rudisill, NEDC Executive Director Chadwell and
60 Superintendent Bradley, a motion by Allen and second by Ivie to suspend the rules in their
61 entirety and forego the second and third readings carried (6/2) with “yes” votes by Allen,
62 Mansko, Lake, May, Green and Ivie – “no” votes by Falwell and Moss.

63
64 A motion by Allen and second by May to read the Ordinance by caption only carried (8/0)
65 with “yes” votes by Falwell, Allen, Mansko, Moss, Lake, May, Green and Ivie.

66
67 City Attorney Pettie read the Ordinance by caption only.

68
69 A motion by Allen and second by Moss to accept the Ordinance carried (8/0) with “yes”
70 votes by Green, Ivie, May, Mansko, Allen, Lake, Moss and Falwell.

71
72 A motion by Allen and second by Mansko to approve the emergency clause carried (7/1)
73 with “yes” votes by Moss, May, Lake, Green, Allen, Mansko and Ivie. Falwell voted “no”.

74
75 **RESOLUTION: USDA GRANT FOR TWO NEW POLICE VEHICLES AND**
76 **EQUIPMENT**

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78 Mayor Ratliffe stated the USDA had informed the City that funds had been approved for a
79 grant of up to \$50,000 to provide a portion of the cost of two (2) new police vehicles. City
80 Attorney Pettie read the Resolution in its entirety. A motion by Allen and second by Ivie to
81 accept the Resolution to authorize the acceptance of the USDA grant carried (8/0) with
82 “yes” votes by Lake, Ivie, Mansko, Green, Moss, Allen, May and Falwell. Mayor Ratliffe
83 stated the request for the two (2) police vehicles would be on the 2025 Budget.

84
85 **RESOLUTION: CONTRACT OF OBLIGATION WITH ARKANSAS**
86 **DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT, DIVISION OF**
87 **ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (DEQ) FOR SOLID WASTE FACILITY**

88
89 City Attorney Pettie read the Resolution in its entirety. A motion by Lake and second by
90 Moss to accept the Resolution to execute the contract agreement carried (8/0) with “yes”
91 votes by May, Allen, Green, Ivie, Mansko, Lake, Falwell and Moss.

92
93 Mayor Ratliffe requested the Council go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel
94 request.

95
96 A motion by Moss and second by Falwell to go into Executive Session carried (8/0) with
97 “yes” votes by Allen, Moss, Ivie, May, Green, Falwell, Lake and Mansko.

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99 A motion by Allen and second by Mansko to return to Regular Session carried (8/0) with
100 “yes” votes by Mansko, Allen, Falwell, May, Moss, Ivie, Lake and Green.

102 Mayor Ratliffe requested a special bonus for employees, up to \$81,000, from the remaining
103 balance of the reimbursement funds from APRA. A motion by Ivie and second by Moss to
104 approve the special bonus carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Ivie, Moss, Mansko, Falwell,
105 Green, Lake and May. Allen abstained.

106

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

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109 PASSED AND APPROVED THE 7TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2024

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MAYOR

114 ATTEST:

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CITY CLERK