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**CITY OF NEWPORT
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
OCTOBER 7, 2024**

19 The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session October 7, 2024 in
20 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, Regina Lake,
23 Leroy Mansko, Andy May, and Julie Moss. City Attorney John Pettie was present. Council
24 Member Donny Ivie was absent.

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

26 A motion by Lake and second by Falwell to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2024
27 Meeting carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Falwell, Green, Lake, Mansko, May and
28 Moss.

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REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

39 Mayor Ratliffe had the following reports:

- 40 • An electronic copy of the August 2024 Financial Statements for the General Fund,
41 Street Fund, 911 Fund, Sewer Fund, Administration of Justice Fund, Grant Fund,
42 Intoximeter Fund, District Court Cost Fund, Court Automation Fund, Drug Control
43 Fund, Advertising & Promotion Fund, Fed Aid Grant Fund, Judge/Clerk Retirement
44 Fund, NEDC Fund and Newport Airport was sent to each Council Member with their
45 council package. Mayor Ratliffe asked that if any Council Member had any questions
46 to please direct their questions to City Clerk/Treasurer Hembrey.
- 47 • City Sales Tax received in September was \$180,531, County Sales Tax was \$128,053
48 and NEDC Sales Tax was \$90,265.
- Mayor Ratliffe presented an updated personnel policies and procedures manual with a
revised date of June 2024 to review. Mayor Ratliffe stated the updated manual
included the Council approved holidays of Good Friday and Juneteenth and
clarification on “Return to Work after Serious Injury or Illness. After discussion, a
motion by Lake and second by Green to approve the updated personnel policies and
procedures manual carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Moss, May, Green,
Falwell, Lake and Mansko.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

**REAPPOINT FRANK PLEGGIE TO NEWPORT AIRPORT COMMISSION FOR
TERM EXPIRING 9/30/29**

Mayor Ratliffe stated the Newport Airport Commission had requested the reappointment of
Frank Plegge to the Newport Airport Commission with a term expiring 9/30/29. After
discussion, a motion by Falwell and second by Allen to reappoint Frank Plegge to the

49 Newport Airport Commission with a term expiring 9/30/29 carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by
50 Green, May, Mansko, Allen, Lake, Moss and Falwell.

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52 **AUTHORIZATION TO DESTROY OLD PERSONNEL TIME SHEETS FOR YEARS**
53 **2007 THROUGH 2019**

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55 Mayor Ratliffe presented an affidavit requesting authority to destroy time sheets for 2007
56 through 2019 and personnel files dating from 2016 through 2019 according to A.C.A. 14-59-
57 114. After discussion, a motion by Allen and second by Mansko to approve the affidavit of
58 destruction carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Falwell, Allen, Mansko, Moss, Lake, May and
59 Green.

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61 **RESOLUTION: AD VALOREM TAX**

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63 Mayor Ratliffe stated that the annual notification to the Jackson County Clerk’s Office for
64 the taxes of 2024 to be paid in 2025 in accordance with Statute 26-73-202 was due. The
65 taxes will remain the same Five (5) Mills for General Fund and One (1) Mill for Firemen’s
66 Pension Fund. City Attorney Pettie read the Ad Valorem Tax Resolution in its entirety. A
67 motion by Allen and second by Lake to approve the Ad Valorem Tax Resolution carried
68 (7/0) with “yes” votes by Moss, Allen, Mansko, Falwell, Green, Lake and May.

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70 **BID CONSIDERATION: GEORGE KELL PARK IMPROVEMENTS**

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72 Mayor Ratliffe presented proof of publication from the Arkansas Democrat Gazette along
73 with a bid tabulation certified by Wayne Menley, Project Engineer. Three (3) bids were
74 received and opened on September 19, 2024 at 10 a.m. The bids received were as follows:

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|----|------------------------------|--------------|
| 76 | • Cox Paving | \$143,340.00 |
| 77 | • Hawkeye Enterprises | \$ 92,850.00 |
| 78 | • Wagner General Contractors | \$138,000.00 |

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80 After discussion, a motion by Lake and second by Allen to accept the bid of Hawkeye
81 Enterprises of \$92,850.00 for the George Kell Park Improvements carried (7/0) with “yes”
82 votes by Lake, Mansko, Green, Moss, Allen, May and Falwell.

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84 **RESOLUTION: AUTHORIZATION FOR CITY TO PURCHASE REAL**
85 **PROPERTY IN DOWNTOWN NEWPORT**

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87 Mayor Ratliffe recognized Jon Chadwell, Executive Director of the Newport Economic
88 Development Commission. Chadwell gave a very informative overview for the need for the
89 property at the corner of Third and Laurel Streets. Chadwell stated that the downtown area is
90 in need of additional parking with the Tech Depot growing and with Drive Smart moving
91 into the former NEDC Building. Chadwell stated the City of Newport would own the
92 property with NEDC paying \$7,500 and D.R.I.V.E. donating \$7,627 (includes closing cost).
93 After discussion, City Attorney Pettie read the Resolution in its entirety. A motion by Lake
94 and second by Falwell to approve the Resolution carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Mansko,
95 Allen, Falwell, May, Moss, Lake and Green.

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99 **GOOD OF THE CITY**

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101 Mayor Ratliffe stated he had been approached by members of the Community requesting the
102 renaming of Calhoun Street to IMAD Way. Mayor Ratliffe and other members of the
103 Council will be reaching out to owners, family members and the Community for further
104 information.

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

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108 PASSED AND APPROVED THE 4TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2024

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MAYOR

113 ATTEST:

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CITY CLERK