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**CITY OF NEWPORT
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
DECEMBER 2, 2024**

5 The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session December 2, 2024
6 in 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, Wendell Green, Regina Lake,
10 Andy May and Julie Moss. City Attorney John Pettie was present. Council Members Leroy
11 Manko and Donny Ivie were absent.

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

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

19 **REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**

20 Mayor Ratliffe had the following reports:

- 21 • An electronic copy of the October 2024 Financial Statements for the General Fund,
22 Street Fund, 911 Fund, Sewer Fund, Administration of Justice Fund, Grant Fund,
23 Intoximeter Fund, District Court Cost Fund, Court Automation Fund, Drug Control
24 Fund, Advertising & Promotion Fund, Fed Aid Grant Fund, Judge/Clerk Retirement
25 Fund, NEDC Fund and Newport Airport was sent to each Council Member with their
26 council package. Mayor Ratliffe asked that if any Council Member had any questions
27 to please direct their questions to City Clerk/Treasurer Hembrey.
- 28 • City Sales Tax received in November was \$176,110, County Sales Tax was \$117,800
29 and NEDC Sales Tax was \$88,055.
- 30 • Human Resources Officer/Mayor’s Assistant Rita Cooper will be retiring as of
31 December 20th. The City and Mayor wish Ms. Cooper a very happy retirement with
32 gratitude for her 39 years and one month of service to the City.
- 33 • Wastewater Superintendent Martin Steward has stated he will be retiring from the
34 City in January of 2025.
- 35 • Mayor Ratliffe will be requesting Deanna Long give a report monthly to the Council
36 on ambulance billing.

38 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE**

40 **NEW BUSINESS:**

42 **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO EXECUTE DOCUMENTS FOR**
43 **DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY PROJECT FOR PARKING LOT**
44 **IMPROVEMENTS**

46 Mayor Ratliffe asked City Attorney Pettie to read the Resolution. City Attorney Pettie read
47 the Resolution in its entirety. Mayor Ratliffe recognized Jon Chadwell, Executive Director
48 of Newport Economic Development Commission. Mr. Chadwell gave a very informative
49 overview of the project. A motion by Allen and second by Moss to accept the Resolution
50 authorizing the Mayor to execute all documents for the Delta Regional Authority project for

51 parking lot improvements carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Moss, May, Green,
52 Falwell and Lake.

53

54 **ORDINANCE PERMITTING CITY TO CONDUCT BUSINESS WITH ALDERMAN**
55 **ELECT ALLEN EDWARDS**

56

57 City Attorney Pettie read the Ordinance in its entirety. A motion by Allen and second by
58 Lake to suspend the rules in their entirety and forego the 2nd and 3rd readings carried (6/0)
59 with “yes” votes by Green, May, Allen, Lake, Moss and Falwell.

60

61 A motion by Allen and second by Lake to approve the Ordinance carried (6/0) with “yes”
62 votes by Falwell, Allen, Moss, Lake, May and Green.

63

64 **ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES FOR**
65 **ON PREMISES CONSUMPTION**

66

67 Mayor Ratliffe recognized City Attorney Pettie and Executive Director of Newport
68 Economic Development Commission Chadwell. They gave an informative overview of the
69 need and reasons for the Ordinance. After discussion, City Attorney Pettie read the 1st
70 reading of the Ordinance authorizing the sale of alcoholic beverages for on premises
71 consumption in its entirety. A motion by Allen and second by Green to remove the
72 emergency clause of the Ordinance carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by May, Allen, Green,
73 Lake, Falwell and Moss.

74

75 **ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF PRIVATE CLUB LICENSE CLASS**
76 **B FROM DANNY’S SILVER BULLET OF TUCKERMAN, AR TO CITY LIMITS OF**
77 **NEWPORT, AR – FATHEAD PIZZA**

78

79 Mayor Ratliffe stated Fathead Pizza had requested the Ordinance be removed from
80 consideration at this time.

81

82 **RESOLUTION: REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF NEWPORT ECONOMIC**
83 **DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION 2025 BUDGET**

84

85 Mayor Ratliffe reviewed the Newport Economic Development Commission Proposed 2025
86 Budget. City Attorney Pettie read the Resolution in its entirety. After discussion, a motion
87 by Moss and second by Falwell to approve the Proposed 2025 Newport Economic
88 Development Commission Budget carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Moss, Allen, Falwell,
89 Green, Lake and May.

90

91 **RESOLUTION: REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF NEWPORT AIRPORT**
92 **COMMISSION 2025 BUDGET**

93

94 Mayor Ratliffe reviewed the Newport Airport Commission Proposed 2025 Budget. City
95 Attorney Pettie read the Resolution in its entirety. After discussion, a motion by Allen and
96 second by Moss to approve the Proposed 2025 Newport Airport Commission Budget carried
97 (6/0) with “yes” votes by Lake, Green, Moss, Allen, May and Falwell.

98

99 **RESOLUTION: ADOPT 2025 CITY BUDGET**

100

101 Mayor Ratliffe reviewed the Proposed 2025 City Budget. City Attorney Pettie read the
102 Resolution in its entirety. After discussion, a motion by Allen and second by Falwell to

103 approve the Proposed 2025 City Budget carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Falwell,
104 May, Moss, Lake and Green.

105

106 **ORDINANCE RATIFYING AND AUTHORIZING ANNUAL SALARIES OF CITY**
107 **CLERK/TREASURER AND CITY ATTORNEY FOR 2025**

108

109 Mayor Ratliffe stated A.C.A.§14-43-313 requires the salaries of the City Clerk/Treasurer and
110 City Attorney be set by Ordinance. City Attorney Pettie read the Ordinance in its entirety.

111 A motion by Allen and second by Falwell to suspend the rules in their entirety and forego the
112 second and third readings carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by May, Allen, Green, Lake, Falwell
113 and Moss.

114

115 A motion by Allen and second by Falwell to approve the Ordinance carried (6/0) with “yes”
116 votes by Moss, May, Falwell, Lake, Green and Allen.

117

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

119

120 PASSED AND APPROVED THE 6TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2025

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123

124

MAYOR

125 ATTEST:

126

127

128 _____
CITY CLERK