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**CITY OF NEWPORT
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
JANUARY 6, 2025**

The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session January 6, 2025 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, Allen Edwards, Carol Falwell, Wendell Green, Regina Lake, Leroy Mansko, and Julie Moss. Mayor Ratliffe welcomed Allen Edwards to the Council. City Attorney John Pettie was present. Council Member Andy May was absent.

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

A motion by Moss and second by Lake to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2024 Meeting carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Green, Lake, Moss and Mayor Ratliffe. Edwards and Mansko abstained.

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REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Ratliffe had the following reports:

- An electronic copy of the November 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 December was \$171,656, County Sales Tax was \$118,441 and NEDC Sales Tax was \$85,828.
- Mayor Ratliffe recognized Glynis Dunham. Ms. Dunham gave an overall report on the ambulance billing along with the balances owed by each insurance carriers and a total owed by individuals.
- Mayor Ratliffe recognized Joey Hembrey owner of Fathead Pizza. Mr. Hembrey stated he was against the ordinance authorizing the sale of alcoholic beverages for on premises consumption. NEDC Executive Director Chadwell stated the reasons the ordinance would benefit the City. Ms. Hopkins, owner of the Angry Possum, stated she was for the ordinance authorizing the sale of alcoholic beverages for on premises consumption.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALES OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES FOR ON PREMISES CONSUMPTION

Mayor Ratliffe stated a 2nd reading of the Ordinance for authorizing the sales of alcoholic beverages for on premises consumption would be read by City Attorney Pettie. City Attorney Pettie read the 2nd reading of the Ordinance in its entirety.

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51 **NEW BUSINESS:**

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53 **ORGANIZATION OF CITY COUNCIL ACA §14-43-501**

54 Mayor Ratliffe stated ACA §14-43-501 requires the organization of the City Council at the
55 first meeting of the year. Mayor Ratliffe asked the Council how they would like the City
56 Council Meetings to be organized for 2025. After discussion, a motion by Allen and second
57 by Falwell to keep the same organization carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Moss,
58 Edwards, Green, Falwell, Lake and Manko.

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60 **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CITY TO BORROW FUNDS FOR PURCHASE OF**
61 **NEW FREIGHTLINER GARBAGE TRUCK FROM MERCHANTS & PLANTERS**
62 **BANK**

63 Mayor Ratliffe stated a new freightliner garbage truck had been on order since January 2024.
64 The truck has been completed and is listed on the 2025 Budget with payments monthly. City
65 Attorney Pettie read the Resolution in its entirety. After discussion, a motion by Allen and
66 second by Manko to approve the Resolution authorizing the city to borrow funds for the
67 purchase of new freightliner garbage truck carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Falwell, Allen,
68 Manko, Moss, Lake, Green and Edwards.

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70 **ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF 2023 FORD F450 AMBULANCE**
71 **AND WAIVING COMPETITIVE BIDDING REQUIREMENTS**

72 Mayor Ratliffe stated our 2008 backup ambulance needed repairs costing more than the
73 ambulance was worth. A replacement ambulance was needed as quickly as possible to serve
74 the people of Newport. American Specialty Vehicles, Inc. has a 2023 Ford F450 ambulance
75 available for \$154,841.00. City Attorney Pettie read the Ordinance in its entirety. After
76 discussion, a motion by Allen and second by Edwards to suspend the rules in their entirety
77 and forego the 2nd and 3rd readings carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Green, Edwards,
78 Manko, Allen, Lake, Moss and Falwell.

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80 A motion by Allen and second by Manko to accept the Ordinance carried (7/0) with “yes”
81 votes by Manko, Allen, Falwell, Moss, Edwards, Lake and Green.

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83 A motion by Allen and second by Edwards to approve the emergency clause carried (7/0)
84 with “yes” votes by Lake, Edwards, Manko, Green, Moss, Allen and Falwell.

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86 **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CITY TO BORROW FUNDS FOR PURCHASE OF**
87 **2023 FORD F450 AMBULANCE FROM MERCHANTS & PLANTERS BANK**

88 City Attorney Pettie read the Resolution in its entirety. After discussion, a motion by Allen
89 and second by Edwards to approve the Resolution authorizing the City to borrow funds for
90 the purchase of a 2023 Ford F450 ambulance carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Green,
91 Edwards, Manko, Lake, Falwell and Moss.

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93 **ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING EL PUENTE MEXICAN RESTAURANT TO**
94 **SUBMIT APPLICATION FOR A PRIVATE CLUB LICENSE TO ALCOHOLIC**
95 **BEVERAGE CONTROL DIVISION**

96 Mayor Ratliffe stated the first reading of an Ordinance for El Puente Mexican Restaurant to
97 submit application for a private club license to the Arkansas Alcoholic Beverage Control
98 Division would be read. City Attorney Pettie read the Ordinance in its entirety.

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

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102 PASSED AND APPROVED THE 3RD DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2025

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MAYOR

107 ATTEST:

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CITY CLERK