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**CITY OF NEWPORT
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 3, 2025**

5 The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session February 3, 2025
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, Wendell Green, Leroy Mansko, and Andy
10 May. City Attorney John Pettie was present. Council Members Allen Edwards, Carol
11 Falwell, Regina Lake and Julie Moss were absent.

13 Following the invocation by Andy May, those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

15 A motion by Allen and second by Green to approve the minutes of January 6, 2025 Meeting
16 failed with “yes” votes by Allen, Green, Mansko and Mayor Ratliffe – Andy May abstained
17 due to being absent on the 6th of January. These minutes will be presented again at the
18 March 3, 2025 Meeting.

20 A motion by May and second by Mansko to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2025
21 Meeting carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Green, Mansko, May and Mayor Ratliffe.

23 **REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**

25 Mayor Ratliffe had the following reports:

- 26 • An electronic copy of the December 2024 Financial Statements for the General Fund,
27 Street Fund, 911 Fund, Sewer Fund, Administration of Justice Fund, Grant Fund,
28 Intoximeter Fund, District Court Cost Fund, Court Automation Fund, Drug Control
29 Fund, Advertising & Promotion Fund, Fed Aid Grant Fund, Judge/Clerk Retirement
30 Fund, 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 January was \$169,599, County Sales Tax was \$114,612
34 and NEDC Sales Tax was \$84,800.
- 35 • Mayor Ratliffe recognized President Jim McLarty of the Newport Airport
36 Commission. Mr. McLarty gave a very informative overview of the progress at the
37 Newport Municipal Airport.

39 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

41 **ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES FOR**
42 **ON PREMISES CONSUMPTION**

44 City Attorney Pettie read the 3rd reading of the Ordinance authorizing the sale of alcoholic
45 beverages for on premises consumption in its entirety. After several questions and a lengthy
46 discussion, a motion by May and second by Green to approve the Ordinance carried (5/0)
47 with “yes” votes by Mansko, Allen, May, Green and Mayor Ratliffe.

50 **ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING EL PUENTE MEXICAN RESTAURANT TO**
51 **SUBMIT APPLICATION FOR A PRIVATE CLUB LICENSE TO ALCOHOLIC**
52 **BEVERAGE CONTROL DIVISION**

53
54 City Attorney Pettie read the 2nd reading of the Ordinance authorizing El Puente Mexican
55 Restaurant to submit application for a private club license to the Alcoholic Beverage Control
56 Division in its entirety. After discussion, a motion by Allen and second by Mansko to
57 suspend the rules in their entirety and forego the 3rd reading carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by
58 May, Allen, Green, Mansko and Mayor Ratliffe.

59
60 A motion by Allen and second by Mansko to approve the Ordinance carried (5/0) with “yes”
61 votes by May, Green, Allen, Mansko and Mayor Ratliffe.

62
63 **NEW BUSINESS:**

64
65 **REAPPOINTMENT OF BARBARA MENLEY TO NEWPORT HOUSING**
66 **AUTHORITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING 5/1/2029**

67
68 Mayor Ratliffe presented a request from the Newport Housing Authority requesting Barbara
69 Menley be reappointed to the Newport Housing Authority for a term of 5/1/2024 through
70 5/1/2029. A motion by Allen and second by May to reappoint Barbara Menley to the
71 Newport Housing Authority with a term from 5/1/2024 through 5/1/2029 carried (5/0) with
72 “yes” votes by Mansko, Green, Allen, May and Mayor Ratliffe.

73
74 **BID CONSIDERATION: NEW BACKHOE FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT**
75 **PLANT**

76
77 Mayor Ratliffe presented proof of publication in the Jonesboro Sun and the handwritten bid
78 tabulation for the backhoe. One sealed bid was received:

79
80 Stribling Equipment – Jonesboro Arkansas
81 320 P-Tier Backhoe \$111,638.49
82 310 P-Tier Backhoe \$106,831.73

83
84 After discussion, a motion by Allen and second by Mansko to accept the bid for the 320 P-
85 Tier Backhoe for \$111,638.49 carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by May, Allen, Green, Mansko
86 and Mayor Ratliffe.

87
88 With no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

89
90 PASSED AND APPROVED THE 3RD DAY OF MARCH, 2025

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94 _____
MAYOR

95 ATTEST:
96 _____
97
98 CITY CLERK