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

The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session March 3, 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, Wendell Green, Andy May, and Julie Moss. City Attorney Pettie, Council Members Carol Falwell, Regina Lake and Leroy Mansko were absent.

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

A motion by Allen and second by May to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2025 Meeting carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Edwards, Green, Moss and Mayor Ratliffe.

A motion by Allen and second by Green to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2025 Meeting failed with “yes” votes by Allen, Green, May and Mayor Ratliffe. Edwards and Moss abstained. February 3, 2025 Minutes will be presented at the April 7th Meeting.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Ratliffe had the following reports:

- An electronic copy of the January 2025 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 February was \$176,932, County Sales Tax was \$116,104 and NEDC Sales Tax was \$88,466.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

Mayor Ratliffe reviewed the State of the City, as required by Arkansas Statute 14-58-302. Mayor Ratliffe gave an informative overview of the City including the following:

1. Fire Chief Alan Gansz retired. Lieutenant Perry Callahan has been promoted to Fire Chief. Mayor Ratliffe reported on the January 28, 2025 grain bin rescue. The Fire Department completed a successful recovery in one hour and forty-five minutes.
2. Wastewater treatment facility’s sludge removal will be completed as soon as the rain water subsides.
3. Recycling Center continues to use women prison inmates to assist in the operation of the Recycling Center. The Recycling Center is doing a good job.

- 50 4. Residential Sanitation has 2 trucks running 4 days a week. Public Works
51 Superintendent Scudder is doing a great job. The Public Works Department started
52 cleaning out storm drains today.
53 5. Mayor Ratliffe stated he expects to remove between 10 to 15 more depilated houses
54 in 2025.
55 6. Police Department reported the crime rate is decreasing in Newport.
56

57 **REVISED NEWPORT FIRE DEPARTMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

58
59 Mayor Ratliffe stated Fire Chief Callahan was not present due to the death of his mother.
60 Mayor Ratliffe gave an informative overview of the changes to the Fire Department revised
61 Policies and Procedures. After discussion, a motion by Allen and second by Green to
62 approve the revised Fire Department Policies and Procedures carried (5/0) with “yes” votes
63 by Edwards, Green, May, Moss and Allen.
64

65 **RESOLUTION: AUTHORIZING CITY TO BORROW FUNDS FOR PURCHASE**
66 **OF NEW BACKHOE (SEWER DEPARTMENT) FROM MERCHANTS AND**
67 **PLANTERS BANK**

68
69 Mayor Ratliffe read the Resolution in its entirety. After discussion a motion by Allen and
70 second by Moss to approve the Resolution authorizing the City to borrow funds for the
71 purchase of a 2025 John Deere 320P Backhoe carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by Edwards,
72 Green, Moss, Allen, and May.
73

74 **RESOLUTION: APPROVE 2024 AMENDED BUDGET**

75
76 After review and discussion, Mayor Ratliffe read the Resolution amending the 2024 Budget
77 in its entirety. A motion by Edwards and second by Allen to approve the Resolution carried
78 (5/0) with “yes” votes by Green, Edwards, May, Allen and Moss.
79

80 With no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.
81

82 PASSED AND APPROVED THE 7TH DAY OF APRIL, 2025
83
84
85

86 _____
MAYOR

87 ATTEST:
88
89

90 _____
CITY CLERK