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**CITY OF NEWPORT
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
APRIL 7, 2025**

5 The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session April 7, 2025 in
6 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, Regina Lake, Leroy Mansko,
10 Andy May, and Julie Moss. City Attorney Pettie was present. Council Member Allen
11 Edwards was absent.

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

15 A motion by Allen and second by May to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2025
16 Meeting carried with “yes” votes by Allen, Green, Lake, Mansko, May and Mayor Ratliffe.

18 A motion by Allen and second by May to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2025 Meeting
19 carried with “yes” votes by Allen, Green, May, Moss and Mayor Ratliffe.

21 **REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**

23 Mayor Ratliffe had the following reports:

- 24 • An electronic copy of the 2024 Financial Statements publication was sent to each
25 Council Member with their council package.
- 26 • An electronic copy of the February 2025 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 March was \$153,832, County Sales Tax was \$103,494 and
34 NEDC Sales Tax was \$76,916.
- 35 • Parks Director Long and Newport Superintendent Bradley gave an overview of a
36 possible partnership between the City of Newport and the Newport School District to
37 upgrade the old Babe Ruth Field at George Kell Park for high school softball.

38
39 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE**

40
41 **NEW BUSINESS:**

42
43 **AUTHORIZATION FOR DESTRUCTION OF EMS RUN FORMS FOR MEDICARE**
44 **AND MEDICAID FOR YEARS 1997-2015**

45
46 After discussion, City Attorney Pettie read the affidavit of destruction. A motion by Allen
47 and second by Mansko to approve the affidavit of destruction for EMS run forms for
48 Medicare and Medicaid for years 1997 through 2015 carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Moss,
49 May, Green, Allen, Lake and Mansko.

50 **REAPPOINT MARCUS HEMBREY TO NEWPORT ADVERTISING &**
51 **PROMOTION COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING MARCH 2028**

52
53 After discussion, a motion by Lake and second by Green to reappoint Marcus Hembrey to the
54 Advertising and Promotion Commission carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by May, Green, Moss,
55 Allen, Mansko and Lake.

56
57 **APPOINT DIANNE CLARK TO NEWPORT HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD OF**
58 **COMMISSIONERS TO FULFILL UNEXPIRED TERM OF KATHY ROBINSON**
59 **(TERM EXP. 5/1/26)**

60
61 Mayor Ratliffe presented a letter from the Newport Housing Authority requesting the
62 Council appoint Dianne Clark to the Newport Housing Authority with a term beginning
63 March 28, 2025 and expiring on May 1, 2026. After discussion, a motion by Mansko and
64 second by Allen to appoint Ms. Clark to the Newport Housing Authority carried (6/0) with
65 “yes” votes by Mansko, Green, May, Lake, Allen and Moss.

66
67 **RESOLUTION: DECLARING STRUCTURES AND PROPERTY AT 701 HAZEL**
68 **STREET A NUISANCE**

69
70 Mayor Ratliffe gave an overview of the house condition and City Attorney Pettie gave an
71 overview of the remaining legal process. City Attorney Pettie read the Resolution in its
72 entirety. After discussion, a motion by Allen and second by Mansko to approve the
73 Resolution to declare the structure(s) and property at 701 Hazel Street a nuisance carried
74 (6/0) with “yes” votes by Lake, Moss, Mansko, Green, May and Allen.

75
76 Council Member Carol Falwell arrived.

77
78 **ORDINANCE: AMEND FEES AND CHARGES MADE BY NEWPORT**
79 **MUNICIPAL WATER COMPANY (FIRST READING)**

80
81 Mayor Ratliffe stated the Newport Water Commission is requesting to amend certain fees
82 and charges. City Attorney Pettie read the Ordinance in its entirety for the first reading.
83 Mayor Ratliffe recognized Attorney Jim McLarty. Mr. McLarty gave a very informative
84 overview of the request for amending the fees and charges. After discussion, a motion by
85 Allen and second by Falwell to delete the emergency clause from the Ordinance carried (7/0)
86 with “yes” votes by Lake, Moss, Mansko, Green, May, Falwell and Allen.

87
88 **ORDINANCE: FIXING NEW WATER RATES (FIRST READING)**

89
90 City Attorney Pettie read the first reading of an Ordinance fixing rates for services rendered
91 by the water system of the City of Newport, Arkansas in its entirety. After discussion, a
92 motion by Allen and second by Mansko to delete the emergency clause carried (7/0) with
93 “yes” votes by Green, May, Lake, Falwell, Moss, Allen and Mansko.

94
95 **ORDINANCE: ESTABLISHING A PERMANENT ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT**
96 **IN DOWNTOWN NEWPORT**

97
98 City Attorney Pettie read the Ordinance establishing a permanent entertainment district in
99 downtown Newport in its entirety. A motion by Allen and second by Falwell to delete the

100 emergency clause carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, May, Green, Moss, Falwell,
101 Mansko and Lake. Mayor Ratliffe recognized Newport Economic Director Chadwell.
102 Chadwell presented a map of the proposed entertainment district and gave a very informative
103 overview of an entertainment district and the location.

104

105 **GOOD OF THE CITY**

106

107 A work session between Newport City Council Members and Newport Special School
108 District to discuss the possibility of a partnership to create a girl softball field will be
109 scheduled.

110

111 Mayor Ratliffe gave a report on the flood waters.

112

113 Mayor Ratliffe introduced the new Assistant Fire Chief Gerald Nash.

114

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

116

117 PASSED AND APPROVED THE 5TH DAY OF MAY, 2025

118

119

120

121

MAYOR

122 ATTEST:

123

124

125

CITY CLERK