

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN
CITY OF NEWPORT, TENNESSEE
REGULAR SESSION
APRIL 12, 2016**

April 12, 2016

The City of Newport Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in the Newport City Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, April 12, 2016 at 5:45 p.m. in Regular Session.

Rev. Alvin Watts led the invocation. Alderman Roger Gribble led the Pledge to the Flag.

The following officials were present: Vice Mayor Mike Proffitt, Alderman Jeff Fancher, Alderman Roger Gribble, Alderman Mike Hansel, Alderman Bobby Knight, City Administrator James Finchum, and City Attorney Terry Hurst.

The following officials were not present: Mayor Connie Ball.

Vice Mayor Proffitt declared a Quorum.

Minutes

March 8, 2016 Regular Session

Motion by Alderman Gribble and second by Alderman Knight for minutes of the March 8, 2016 Regular Session to be approved as submitted.

All Ayes- Vice Mayor Proffitt declared the motion passed and approved.

Communications from the City Administrator

City Administrator James Finchum reported the budget for fiscal year 2016-2017 is ready. Mr. Finchum asked the Board when they would like to have a budget workshop. The Board decided on Monday, April 25th a 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Finchum stated he has meet with TDOT on railroad safety plan. TDOT has offered to pay for a new traffic light on Main Street. TDOT is waiting on an engineer plan.

Mr. Finchum reported the Farmer's Market has requested to extend their hours & days. The Farmer's Market has requested to be open Monday-Saturday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on Sunday's from 1-6 p.m. Vice Mayor Proffitt asked if there will be someone there to be responsible. Ms. Diana Hicks stated there would be someone there to be responsible and they would get insurance to cover their extended hours. The Board agreed with the Farmer's Market to extend their hours and days.

Mr. Finchum reported of the surplus auction for the City of Newport on Govdeals.com. New items have been added. It has also been advertised on the City's website and facebook.

Alderman Gribble asked about the sales tax. Finance Director Tina Matthews stated sales tax was up 12% ahead of last year but the 1st quarter was lower.

Vice Mayor Proffitt spoke of City employees and the good job the employees are doing. Vice Mayor Proffitt stated the employees are thankful for the new equipment they have got to do their jobs. Vice Mayor Proffitt stated putting the \$100,000 in the building for the distillery was an investment.

Mr. Finchum asked for permission for public safety emergency to go on the property at the Memorial Building and secure the roof. After much discussion, City Attorney Hurst suggested to make a motion to suspend the rules and add this item to the agenda.

Motion was made by Alderman Fancher and second by Alderman Hansel to suspend the rules and add this item to the agenda for an emergency vote.

Roll Call

Alderman Fancher	AYE
Alderman Gribble	AYE
Alderman Hansel	AYE
Alderman Knight	AYE
Vice Mayor Proffitt	AYE

All Ayes- Vice Mayor Proffitt declared the motion passed and approved.

Motion was made by Alderman Fancher and second by Alderman Knight to give City Administrator James Finchum the ability to take care of the Memorial Building roof to prevent any public endangerment up to \$5,000.

Roll Call

Alderman Fancher	AYE
Alderman Gribble	AYE
Alderman Hansel	AYE
Alderman Knight	AYE
Vice Mayor Proffitt	AYE

All Ayes- Vice Mayor Proffitt declared the motion passed and approved.

Appointment of Boards

Consideration of appointment to the Equalization Board-Ray Kiefer.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Proffitt and second by Alderman Hansel to reappoint Ray Kiefer to the Equalization Board.

Roll Call

Alderman Fancher	AYE
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Alderman Gribble	ABSTAIN
Alderman Hansel	AYE
Alderman Knight	AYE
Vice Mayor Proffitt	AYE

Vote 4-0- Vice Mayor Proffitt declared the motion passed and approved.

Reports from Committees

The Library Board requested an increase in funds of 10-12%. The Board asked to wait for the budget workshop for discussion.

New Business

Request for Annual Events from Cocke County Partnership

Consideration of request for annual events from the Cocke County Partnership as follows: Rhythm on the River June 2, 16, 30 & July 7 & 21; Harvest Street Festival October 1 & 2; and Christmas Parade December 10th with the request to waive the parade fee.

Motion was made by Alderman Knight and second by Alderman Fancher to approve the request for annual events from the Cocke County Partnership as follows: Rhythm on the River June 2, 16, 30 & July 7 & 21; Harvest Street Festival October 1 & 2; and Christmas Parade December 10th with the parade fee waived.

Roll Call

Alderman Fancher	AYE
Alderman Gribble	AYE
Alderman Hansel	AYE
Alderman Knight	AYE
Vice Mayor Proffitt	AYE

All Ayes- Vice Mayor Proffitt declared the motion passed and approved.

Beat the Heat Alliance Request of Funds

Consideration of funds for Beat the Heat Alliance in the amount of \$1,250. There was no one at the meeting to represent Beat the Heat Alliance. Mr. Finchum stated the animal shelter does spaying and neutering.

Motion was made by Alderman Gribble and second by Alderman Fancher to postpone this request to next month's meeting.

Roll Call

Alderman Fancher	AYE
Alderman Gribble	AYE

Alderman Hansel	NAY
Alderman Knight	AYE
Vice Mayor Proffitt	NAY

Vote 3-2- Vice Mayor Proffitt declared the motion passed and approved.

Property Tax Decrease

Alderman Gribble made a request to decrease the property tax to .59. Vice Mayor Proffitt suggested waiting to the budget workshop.

Alderman Fancher stated the tax increase from last year has accomplished several things for the City of Newport. 1. Get rid of the \$600,000 tax anticipation note. 2. Provide the money to pay our bills on time. 3. Pay vendors with no bad credit. 4. Create capital fund for the City's needs. Alderman Fancher stated, "if we decrease the taxes we will go back to where we've been. I don't like the taxes either but it's the only way. There's progress being made with the 4 year plan."

Alderman Gribble stated, "people can't afford to pay their taxes. This is a poor community taxing people to death." Alderman Hansel stated he would love to cut taxes. Alderman Fancher asked Alderman Gribble what was his plan. Alderman Gribble stated, "we didn't have to do it so extravagantly in one year." Alderman Fancher asked what's extravagant. Alderman Gribble replied, "instead of purchasing two mowers buy one this year and one next year."

Motion was made by Alderman Gribble to decrease property taxes. Motion died for lack of second.

Home Owners Assistant Grant

Consideration of approval of the City of Newport Home Owners Assistant Grant. Mr. Finchum stated the moneys for this grant has already been approved. This grant will be set up for the applicants the same way as the tax relief. This is a 50% matching grant for property owners to improve their property with the help from the city. The city will pay up to \$500 on projects with this grant. 60% of costs of the project up to \$1,000 (10,000 total in funds).

Motion was made by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Knight to approve the City of Newport Home Owners Assistant Grant

Roll Call

Alderman Fancher	ABSTAIN
Alderman Gribble	ABSTAIN
Alderman Hansel	AYE
Alderman Knight	AYE
Vice Mayor Proffitt	AYE

Vote 3-0- Vice Mayor Proffitt declared the motion passed and approved.

Bids

New Playground Equipment for the City Park

Consideration of new equipment for the City Park. Finance Director Tina Matthews explained the City Park has not had new playground equipment in 20 years. From Parks & Recreation Director Tim Dockery’s evaluation and experience, the addition of a new play set to the City Park recreation area would have the biggest impact on the largest number of citizens in the community. The bid submitted by Playpower Inc. for a Kidbuilders Playground set in the amount of \$76,015.10 price includes set, surface, freight and installation. The surface is a no fault sport proof surface that is ADA accessible.

Motion by Alderman Gribble and second by Alderman Knight to accept the bid from Playpower Inc. for a Kidbuilders Playground set in the amount of \$76,015.10 price that includes set, surface, freight and installation.

Roll Call

Alderman Fancher	AYE
Alderman Gribble	AYE
Alderman Hansel	AYE
Alderman Knight	AYE
Vice Mayor Proffitt	AYE

All Ayes- Vice Mayor Proffitt declared the motion passed and approved.

Repair for Fire Hall #2 on Smith Street

Consideration of bids for repair to Fire Hall #2 on Smith Street. Bids were submitted as follows: McSpadden Inc. \$52,328; Andrews \$61,522.45; and RLS Builders \$59,757.00.

Motion by Alderman Gribble and second by Alderman Hansel to accept the bid from McSpadden Inc. in the amount of \$52,328 for the repairs to Fire Hall #2 on Smith Street.

Roll Call

Alderman Fancher	AYE
Alderman Gribble	AYE
Alderman Hansel	AYE
Alderman Knight	AYE
Vice Mayor Proffitt	AYE

All Ayes- Vice Mayor Proffitt declared the motion passed and approved.

Purchase of a Vehicle for the Fire Department

Consideration of bids for a vehicle for the Fire Department from the State contract. Fire Chief Randy Ragan stated this vehicle will be a replacement for a 1999 Crown Victoria. The bid

submitted from Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram of Columbia for a 2016 Dodge Durango SSV All-Wheel-Drive.

Motion by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Fancher to accept the bid for a vehicle for the Fire Department from the State contract Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram of Columbia for a 2016 Dodge Durango SSV All-Wheel-Drive in the amount up to \$32,000

Roll Call

Alderman Fancher	AYE
Alderman Gribble	AYE
Alderman Hansel	AYE
Alderman Knight	AYE
Vice Mayor Proffitt	AYE

All Ayes- Vice Mayor Proffitt declared the motion passed and approved.

Citizens Comments

Carlene Robinson from the Senior Citizens' office requested \$2,500 for their transportation program. Vice Mayor Proffitt suggested waiting to the budget workshop.

Ben Huffhines stated his gratitude and support of the Board for the distillery. Mr. Huffhines stated this could lead to growth in our community.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board of Mayor & Alderman, **a motion was made by Alderman Gribble and second by Alderman Fancher** to adjourn.

All Ayes- Vice Mayor Proffitt declared the motion passed and approved.

Mayor Connie Ball

James Finchum, City Administrator

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