

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN  
CITY OF NEWPORT, TENNESSEE  
REGULAR SESSION  
APRIL 13, 2021**

**Public Hearing**

Mayor Roland Dykes, III opened the public hearing for discussion of 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2021-01 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport. There was no one to comment.

Mayor Dykes closed the Public Hearing.

**April 13, 2021**

The City of Newport Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in the Newport City Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. in Regular Session.

Alderman Bobby Knight led the invocation. Alderwoman Louanna Ottinger led the Pledge to the Flag.

The following officials were present: Mayor Roland Dykes, III, Vice Mayor Mike Proffitt, Alderman Mike Hansel, Alderman Bobby Knight, Alderwoman Louanna Ottinger, Alderman Steve Smith, City Attorney Terry Hurst, and City Administrator James Finchum.

Mayor Dykes declared a Quorum.

**Minutes**

**March 9, 2021 Regular Session**

**Motion by Vice Mayor Proffitt and second by Alderman Knight**, for minutes of the March 9, 2021 Regular Session to be approved as amended.

**All Ayes- Mayor Dykes declared the motion passed and approved.**

**Proclamations and/or Recognition of Citizens by the Mayor**

Mayor Dykes recognized WNPC News Director Ray Snader who is retiring after 42 years of service. Alderwoman Louanna Ottinger spoke of the many years of service of News Director Ray Snader.

## **Communications from the City Administrator**

City Administrator James Finchum gave an update on the COVID. Mr. Finchum stated there has been a few employees in quarantine and with one employee as a positive case. Currently 35% of city employees have had at least one dose. Mr. Finchum stated he hopes more employees will get the vaccine but will not make it mandatory.

Mr. Finchum reported the proposed budget for fiscal year 2021-22 are in the packets that were handed out at tonight's meeting. Mr. Finchum asked if the Board wanted a budget workshop. Keep Cocke County Beautiful sent a request for more funding that is not in the proposed budget due to receiving the request late. Keep Cocke County Beautiful currently receives \$3,750 funding and have asked to raise the annual contribution to \$7,500. Mr. Finchum stated if this is something the Board wants to do to let Finance Director Tina Matthews know so she can add this to the budget.

Mr. Finchum reported Public Entity Partners, the city's workers comp and liability insurance, will give the city a rebate of \$56,397.

Mr. Finchum stated that today was his 8<sup>th</sup> anniversary as City Administrator. Mr. Finchum stated this was his toughest job ever but also his most fulfilling job. Mr. Finchum thanked the Board for their support and his staff for his success.

## **Appointment of Boards, Commissions & Committees**

### **Appointment to the Newport Utilities Board – Claude Gatlin's Term**

Appointment to the Newport Utilities Board – Claude Gatlin's Term.

**Motion was made by Alderwoman Ottinger and second by Alderman Hansel, to appoint Dr. Emily Eisenhower to the Newport Utilities Board.**

**All Aye- Mayor Dykes declared the motion passed and approved.**

### **Discussion to the Fire Civil Service Board – Kenneth Calfee's Term**

Discussion to the Fire Civil Service Board – Kenneth Calfee's Term. The Fire Civil Service appointed Mike Overholt on April 6, 2021. Mr. Overholt will serve the remainder of Kenneth Calfee's term May 2023.

## **Old Business**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2021-01 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport**

Consideration of 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2021-01 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport.

**Motion was made by Alderman Smith and second by Alderman Knight, to approve 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2021-01 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport.**

**Roll Call**

Alderman Hansel AYE  
Alderman Knight AYE  
Alderwoman Ottinger AYE  
Alderman Smith AYE  
Vice Mayor Proffitt AYE

**All Ayes- Mayor Dykes declared the motion passed and approved.**

**New Business**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2021-02 Amending the Privilege of Occupancy in Hotel/Motel Tax**

Consideration of 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2021-02 Amending the Privilege of Occupancy in Hotel/Motel Tax. When the first hotel/motel privilege tax was voted in, the city could only justify a 2% tax due to the tax has to be tourism related expense. Staff has recommended an increase from 2% to 4% to fund the Tanner Building welcome center and museum.

**Motion was made by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderwoman Ottinger, to approve 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2021-02 Amending the Privilege of Occupancy in Hotel/Motel Tax.**

**Roll Call**

Alderman Hansel AYE  
Alderman Knight AYE  
Alderwoman Ottinger AYE  
Alderman Smith AYE  
Vice Mayor Proffitt AYE

**All Ayes- Mayor Dykes declared the motion passed and approved.**

**Resolution #2021-02 Authorizing the City of Newport to Open a New Bank Account for the American Rescue Act Grant at Newport Federal Bank**

Consideration of Resolution #2021-02 Authorizing the City of Newport to Open a New Bank Account for the American Rescue Act Grant at Newport Federal Bank.

**Motion was made by Alderman Knight and second by Alderman Smith, to approve Resolution #2021-02 Authorizing the City of Newport to Open a New Bank Account for the American Rescue Act Grant at Newport Federal Bank.**

**All Ayes- Mayor Dykes declared the motion passed and approved.**

**Annual Highway Maintenance Contract Between the State of Tennessee and the City of Newport**

Consideration of the Annual Highway Maintenance Contract Between the State of Tennessee and the City of Newport.

**Motion was made by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Smith,** to approve the Annual Highway Maintenance Contract Between the State of Tennessee and the City of Newport.

**All Ayes- Mayor Dykes declared the motion passed and approved.**

**Discussion of Liquor Stores in the City of Newport**

Discussion of Liquor Stores in the City of Newport. The Board wants to maintain the number of liquor stores in the city to three (3) stores. Mr. Finchum stated he has prepared a request for permission to apply for a Certificate of Compliance for liquor stores. Those interested in applying will submit a resume to be reviewed and voted on at the May 11<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting.

**Motion was made by Alderwoman Ottinger and second by Alderman Knight,** to approve the request for permission to apply for a Certificate of Compliance for liquor stores.

**All Ayes- Mayor Dykes declared the motion passed and approved.**

**Bids**

**Storage Buildings for the City of Newport**

Consideration of bids for storage buildings for the City of Newport. These storage buildings are for Animal Control, Parks & Recreation and Fire Department for their records. There was only one bid from Old Hickory Buildings in the amount of \$5,264 per unit.

**Motion was made by Alderman Knight and second by Alderman Smith,** to approve the bid from Old Hickory Buildings in the amount of \$5,264 per unit.

**All Ayes- Mayor Dykes declared the motion passed and approved.**

**Two Zero Turn Mowers for Parks & Recreation**

Consideration of bids for two zero turn mowers for Parks & Recreation. There was only one bid received from Burchette Enterprise Western Auto Newport for two (2) Husqvarna Z460 mowers in the amount of \$12,799.98.

**Motion was made by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderwoman Ottinger,** to approve the bid from Burchette Enterprise Western Auto Newport for two (2) Husqvarna Z460 mowers in the amount of \$12,799.98.

**All Ayes- Mayor Dykes declared the motion passed and approved.**

**Fencing for the Newport City Park Maintenance Area**

Consideration of bids for fencing for the Newport City Park maintenance area. There were two bids: Shoemaker’s Fencing, Inc in the amount of \$27,499 and Stanley Fencing in the amount of \$37,778.

**Motion was made by Alderman Smith and second by Alderman Knight,** to approve the low bid from Shoemaker’s Fencing, Inc in the amount of \$27,499.

**Roll Call**

Alderman Hansel AYE  
Alderman Knight AYE  
Alderwoman Ottinger AYE  
Alderman Smith AYE  
Vice Mayor Proffitt AYE

**All Ayes- Mayor Dykes declared the motion passed and approved.**

**Drop-Down Gym Divider Curtain for the Community Center**

Consideration of bids for a drop-down gym divider curtain for the Community Center. There was only one bid from AJ Sports Company in the amount of \$15,259.40.

**Motion was made by Alderwoman Ottinger and second by Alderman Hansel,** to approve the bid from AJ Sports Company in the amount of \$15,259.40.

**Roll Call**

Alderman Hansel AYE  
Alderman Knight AYE  
Alderwoman Ottinger AYE  
Alderman Smith AYE  
Vice Mayor Proffitt AYE

**All Ayes- Mayor Dykes declared the motion passed and approved.**

**Citizens Comments**

Newport Medical Center CEO Scott Williams introduced himself to the Board.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board of Mayor & Alderman, **motion was made by Alderman Knight and second by Alderwoman Ottinger** adjourned the meeting.

**All Ayes- Mayor Dykes declared the motion passed and approved.**

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Mayor Roland Dykes, III

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James Finchum, City Administrator

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