

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN
CITY OF NEWPORT, TENNESSEE
REGULAR SESSION
APRIL 14, 2015**

Public Hearing

Mayor Connie Ball opened the public hearing for discussion on Resolution #2015-05 Acquisition and Renovation of Suncrest Apartments. There was no one to comment.

Mayor Ball closed the Public Hearing.

April 14, 2015

The City of Newport Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in the Newport City Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at 5:30 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: Mayor Connie Ball, 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.

Mayor Ball declared a Quorum.

Minutes

March 10, 2015 Regular Session

Motion by Alderman Fancher and second by Alderman Gribble for minutes of the March 10, 2015 Regular Session to be approved as submitted.

All Ayes- Mayor Ball declared the motion passed and approved.

March 30, 2015 Special Called Meeting

Motion by Vice Mayor Proffitt and second by Alderman Fancher for minutes of the March 30, 2015 Special Called Meeting to be approved as submitted.

All Ayes- Mayor Ball declared the motion passed and approved.

Proclamations and or Recognition of Citizens by the Mayor

Communications from the City Administrator

City Administrator James Finchum reported Animal Shelter Director Brandy Hensley turning in her two week notice to resign. After posting this job in house, Animal Control Officer Lisa Layman has agreed to take the director’s position on a 90 day trial.

The Chamber has asked for permission to do a concert series behind the City Hall. There will be two concerts per month for three months starting in June. Mayor Ball recommended suspending the rules and adding this item to the agenda.

Motion by Alderman Gribble and second by Alderman Knight to suspend the rules and add to the agenda the Chamber’s request to have concert series behind the City Hall.

All Ayes- Mayor Ball declared the motion passed and approved.

Mr. Finchum reported that he and Finance Director Tina Matthews was working on the budget preliminary and working with meeting each department director. Mr. Finchum asked when the Board would like a budget workshop. The Board agreed on April 28th at 5:30 p.m.

Fire Chief Randy Ragan gave a report of the ISO (Insurance Services Offices) that rates the fire departments. The Newport Fire Department received a rating of 4 out of 10 and has kept this rating since 1998. The Newport Fire Department is in the top 20% in the country and the state.

Mayor Ball stated the new members of City Council has went to the MTAS Elected Officials Academy and received both level 1 & 2 in training all except Vice Mayor Proffitt who has completed only level 1 due to illness.

Appointment of Boards, Commissions, and Committees

Consideration of appointment for the Newport Utilities Board – William Whitson appointment. Nominations began from Alderman Fancher who nominated Claude Gatlin. Alderman Hansel nominated Craig Wilds.

Motion by Alderman Gribble and second by Alderman Fancher to cease nominations.

Roll Call for Claude Gatlin

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

Vote was 3-2. Mayor Ball declared the motion passed and approved.

Reports from Committees, Members of Council, & Other Officers

Cathy Moscato with the Tanner Preservation Alliance gave a report.

Parks and Recreation Director Tim Dockery and Athletic Director Brandon Norton gave a report to the Board on sports tourism that was requested by Alderman Fancher. Mr. Norton told the Board to contact him if they had any questions.

Old Business

New Business

Resolution #2015-05 Acquisition & Renovation of Suncrest Apartments

Consideration of Resolution #2015-05 Acquisition & Renovation of Suncrest Apartments. Such approval shall be solely for the purposes of Section 147(f) of the Code and Title 48 of the TN Code. The City shall have no liabilities for the payment of the Bonds nor shall any of its assets be pledged to the payment of the Bonds.

Motion was made by Alderman Knight and second by Alderman Fancher to approve Resolution #2015-05 Acquisition & Renovation of Suncrest Apartments.

Roll Call

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

All Ayes- Mayor Ball declared the motion passed and approved.

Resolution #2015-06 General Obligation Bond for Newport Utilities

Consideration of Resolution #2015-06 General Obligation Bond for Newport Utilities not to exceed \$2,000,000.

Motion was made by Alderman Gribble and second by Alderman Hansel to approve Resolution #2015-06 General Obligation Bond for Newport Utilities not to exceed \$2,000,000.

Roll Call

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

All Ayes- Mayor Ball declared the motion passed and approved.

Resolution #2015-07 General Obligation Bond for Newport Utilities

Consideration of Initial Resolution #2015-07 General Obligation Bond for Newport Utilities not to exceed \$2,000,000.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Proffitt and second by Alderman Knight to approve Initial Resolution #2015-07 General Obligation Bond for Newport Utilities not to exceed \$2,000,000.

Roll Call

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

All Ayes- Mayor Ball declared the motion passed and approved.

2015 Amended Bylaws of Cocke County Partnership submitted by Cocke County Legislative Body

Consideration of 2015 Amended Bylaws of Cocke County Partnership submitted by Cocke County Legislative Body. Alderman Gribble stated there is a conflict with articles of incorporation with EDC. Mr. Gribble asked the attorney’s to look at this again. After much discussion, Parrottsville Attorney Jeff Greene, Cocke County Attorney Carter Moore and City of Newport Attorney Terry Hurst all recommended to proceed with the bylaws.

Motion was made by Alderman Fancher and second by Vice Mayor Proffitt to approve 2015 Amended Bylaws of Cocke County Partnership submitted by Cocke County Legislative Body.

Roll Call

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

Vote was 4-1. Mayor Ball declared the motion passed and approved.

Final payment to Robert Campbell & Associates for Engineering Services

Consideration of final payment to Robert Campbell & Associates for engineering services in the amount of \$15,000 for preliminary engineering report for the downtown library project. Mr. Finchum has renegotiated with the original bill of \$30,000.

Motion was made by Alderman Knight and second by Alderman Hansel to approve final payment to Robert Campbell & Associates for engineering services in the amount of \$15,000.

Roll Call

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

All Ayes- Mayor Ball declared the motion passed and approved.

Contract Package With Auditors Brown Jake & McDaniel

Consideration of contract package with auditors Brown Jake & McDaniel with a cost of living increase of 3%. Alderman Gribble asked how long the City has used auditors Brown Jake & McDaniel with a response of 10 years. Alderman Gribble asked to bid out the auditor contract. Finance Director Matthews explained if the City takes bids on the auditors it could make our audit late. Ms. Matthews stated the estimate cost of this contract is \$50,000. Alderman Fancher asked to negotiate the 3% cost of living increase. After much discussion Mayor Ball suggested to leave alone this year and look in on bidding out in an appropriate date that wouldn't cause problems.

Motion was made by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Fancher to approve contract with auditors Brown Jake & McDaniel without a cost of living increase of 3%.

Roll Call

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

Vote was 4-1. Mayor Ball declared the motion passed and approved.

Adding Taser Policy to the Police Department General Orders

Consideration of adding Taser Policy to the Police Department General Orders. Chief of Police Maurice Shults reported to the Board the tasers have been purchased and ready for training.

Motion was made by Alderman Gribble and second by Alderman Knight to approve adding Taser Policy to the Police Department General Orders.

All Ayes- Mayor Ball declared the motion passed and approved.

Replacing a Firefighter

Consideration of replacing a firefighter that had resigned in March 2015. The top two on the Civil Service test list is Robert Bowers and Steven Fine.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Proffitt and second by Alderman Fancher for Robert Bowers to be hired to the Fire Department.

Roll Call

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

All Ayes- Mayor Ball declared the motion passed and approved.

Discussion of Cutting and Revenue Savings

Alderman Gribble handed out a report for cutting and revenue savings for the upcoming budget. Mr. Gribble asked for lowering paid positions by \$100 a month, the Aldermen give up their insurance, freeze hiring and review all positions to see if any need to be abolished, establish committees to review property tax, and sale any real estate owned by the City.

Concert Series Behind City Hall

Consideration of approving the Chamber to host concert series behind City Hall. The concerts will be two per month for three months starting in June.

Motion was made by Alderman Knight and second by Alderman Hansel to approve the Chamber to host concert series behind City Hall.

All Ayes- Mayor Ball declared the motion passed and approved.

Bids, Purchases, and Expenses

Recycling Bins

Consideration of approval of recycling bins for the Street Department. Two bids came in from Municipal Equipment, Inc. and Big Orange Sales & Services, LLC both for the amount of \$8.96 per bin. Ms. Matthews reported Big Orange Sales had withdrawn their bid.

Motion was made by Alderman Gribble and second by Alderman Fancher to approve the bid from Municipal Equipment, Inc for the amount of \$8.96 per bin.

Roll Call

Alderman Fancher AYE
Alderman Gribble AYE
Alderman Hansel AYE
Alderman Knight AYE

All Ayes- Mayor Ball declared the motion passed and approved.

Citizens Comments

April Clevenger explained there were problems with the new bylaws for the Partnership. Ms. Clevenger said there was a conflict with the EDC articles of incorporation. Ms. Clevenger said there needed to be two Boards. Cocke County Mayor Crystal Ottinger said according to Cocke County Attorney Carter Moore there are no problems with the boards with the new bylaws.

Wayne Williamson spoke of establishing a train ride for passengers from Newport to Ashville, North Carolina for tourism.

Alderman Gribble asked for the citizen's comments to be moved to the beginning of the meeting to get the peoples input before voting.

Rev. Watts invited and announced the open house to the Memorial Baptist Church is April 26th from 2-4.

Adjournment

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

All Ayes- Mayor Ball declared the motion passed and approved.

Mayor Connie Ball

James Finchum, City Administrator

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