

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN  
CITY OF NEWPORT, TENNESSEE  
REGULAR SESSION  
APRIL 15, 2014**

**Public Hearing**

Vice Mayor Bill Costner opened the public hearing for discussion on Ordinance #2014-01 Amending the Zoning Regulations to Permit and Regulate Sales for Tents. There was no one to comment.

Vice Mayor Costner opened the public hearing for discussion on Ordinance #2014-02 Amending the Municipal Code to Permit and Regulate Sales for Tents. There was no one to comment.

Vice Mayor Costner closed the Public Hearing.

Vice Mayor Costner asked for a moment of silence for Mayor Connie Ball and his family for the loss of Mayor Ball's father Lon Ball.

**April 15, 2014**

The City of Newport Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in the Newport City Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, April 15, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. in Regular Session.

Rev. Alvin Watts led the invocation. Alderman Freddie Gregg led the Pledge to the Flag.

The following officials were present: Vice Mayor Bill Costner, Alderman John Bugg, Alderman Freddie Gregg, Alderwoman Kathy Holt, Alderman Kenny Morgan, City Attorney Terry Hurst, and City Administrator James Finchum.

The following officials were not present: Mayor Connie Ball.

Vice Mayor Costner declared a Quorum.

**Minutes**

**March 11, 2014 Regular Session**

**Motion by Alderwoman Holt and second by Alderman Gregg** for minutes of the March 11, 2014 Regular Session to be approved as submitted.

**All Ayes- Vice Mayor Costner 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 on the delinquent property tax issue the City Hall staff is facing with waiving penalty & interest when the system has a glitch. At the end of tax season, tax payers would come in to pay on the last day. The system would say they owed back taxes when they really didn't. It would be after the first of the month before they tax payers could bring in proof of payment. The system would automatically add penalty & interest to their tax payment. City Tax Attorney Jeff Greene asked from the Council to set a limit or dollar amount of what you would like before we bring every issue to the City Council. After much discussion, City Attorney Terry Hurst stated there was no need in a limit or dollar amount if the computer makes a mistake.

**Motion by Alderman Gregg and second by Alderman Morgan** to let the City Administrator and City Tax Attorney take care of delinquent penalty & interest and then report to City Council instead of bringing this issue every time to the City Council with no dollar amounts in place.

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

Mr. Finchum reported the check request for City Council Public Relations that was sent in their packets from Finance Director Tina Matthews was for the finance records.

Rolling Rescue is a side project that Dr. Hood started and she raised the funds for this project. We are asking for changes by decreasing vaccines by one shot, keep dogs for less time, and an increase of charges on adoptable animals but local adoption will stay the same amount. The City is losing money by continuing to do this project. This project does not need to be funded by tax payers. It needs to be self sufficient. The Friends of the Animal Shelter are not happy with the new changes that we are requesting. My suggestion to the Friends would to raise more money for Rolling Rescue.

The demolition on the Riverwalk properties is completed. The City will begin landscaping this property.

Newport Utilities has referred the City to hang banners across the street on Broadway when necessary. Mr. Finchum stated we put up the National Day of Prayer and that is the only one we will do without City Council feedback. Alderwoman Holt stated NUB didn't give the City the bucket truck we bought it. Alderwoman Holt stated NUB is not community friendly. Mr. Finchum asked what organizations the Board wants, civic or non-profit. Alderman Gregg requested more information or the criteria for hanging banners like what NUB has used in the past to determine which banners to be allowed to be hung. After much discussion the Board asked to put this issue in a workshop.

Mr. Finchum reported a budget workshop on May 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall. This will cover the audit, insurance and the budget. Mr. Finchum stated he would like the 1<sup>st</sup> reading in May if possible.

Mr. Finchum reported the request of early voting use on City property for signs. The policy reads not to place signs on this property but the last City Administrator gave permission for the signs at the last election. Mr. Finchum stated he wanted to stay with the policy. The Board agreed to stay with the policy of no political signs to be on this property.

Mr. Finchum reported Johnson Control has started working on the lights. Johnson Control wants to be finish with this part of the project in a couple of weeks. The voice mail at City Hall is having problems. If you try to get me and I'm not responding it's because the voice mail isn't working.

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

Mayor Connie Ball has recommended Ray Kiefer to the Equalization Board.

### **Reports from Committees, Members of Council, & Other Officers**

Report from Roland Dykes III on the Tanner Preservation Alliance.

### **Alley Opening on Hiwassee Street Into Heritage Boulevard**

Vice Mayor Costner asked to start the business with the alley opening on Hiwassee Street into Heritage Boulevard. Mayor Ball received a petition from residents in the community for the alley opening on Hiwassee Street into Heritage Boulevard. Mr. Finchum suggested to let the people in support to speak first and then let the people who opposed to speak. Vice Mayor Costner asked for a motion to hear the alley opening. There was no motion.

**Vice Mayor Costner declared the motion dead for lack of motion.**

### **Old Business**

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2014-01 Amending the Zoning Regulations to Permit and Regulate Sales for Tents**

Consideration of approval of 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2014-01 Amending the Zoning Regulations to Permit and Regulate Sales for Tents.

**Motion was made by Alderman Bugg and second by Alderman Morgan** to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2014-01 Amending the Zoning Regulations to Permit and Regulate Sales for Tents.

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

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2014-02 to Amend the Municipal Code to Permit and Regulate Sales from Tents**

Consideration of approval of 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2014-02 to Amend the Municipal Code to Permit and Regulate Sales from Tents.

**Motion was made by Alderman Bugg and second by Alderman Morgan** to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2014-02 to Amend the Municipal Code to Permit and Regulate Sales from Tents.

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

### **New Business**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2014-03 Amending the Beer Ordinance**

Consideration of approval of 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2014-03 Amending the Beer Ordinance. An Ordinance amending Beer Ordinance #2007-19 enabling the City Recorder to issue a temporary beer permits and giving the Beer Board permission to issue Special Events Permits.

**Motion was made by Alderman Gregg and second by Alderman Morgan** to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2014-03 Amending the Beer Ordinance.

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

#### **Donating \$2,800 to the Tanner Preservation Alliance**

Consideration of donating \$2,800 to the Tanner Preservation Alliance for the conceptual design for the Tanner Cultural Center. Roland Dykes III reported Community Design Center had quoted \$2,800 for the conceptual design at a discounted price. Alderman Morgan asked Mr. Finchum if he would be involved in the process of the layout of the building. Mr. Finchum replied yes, I am willing. Alderman Morgan asked if there was money from the borrowed funds in building repairs for this donation. Mr. Finchum replied yes.

**Motion was made by Alderman Morgan and second by Alderman Bugg** to approve the requested donation for the conceptual design for the Tanner Cultural Center to Community Design Center in the amount of \$2,800.0

Alderwoman Holt and Alderman Gregg did not vote.

**Vice Mayor Costner declared the motion passed and approved.**

### **Christmas Parade**

Consideration of approval of the annual Christmas parade Saturday, December 13, 2014 sponsored by the Cocke County Partnership with all fees waived.

**Motion was made by Alderman Morgan and second by Alderman Bugg** to approve the annual Christmas parade Saturday, December 13, 2014 sponsored by the Cocke County Partnership with all fees waived.

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

**Consent Agenda**

Consideration of approval of the Consent agenda for the following:

- a) Roadblock – CCHS Softball Team – 5/24/2014
- b) Roadblock – March of Dimes Foundation – 5/31/2014

**Motion was made by Alderman Morgan and second by Vice Mayor Costner to approve the Consent Agenda.**

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

**Farmers Market**

Consideration of the Farmers Market to be relocated at the Tanner Building. Mr. Finchum suggested that the Farmers Market be required to have insurance that will cover the liability for the City not just a simple insurance policy. Bill Hicks from the Farmers Market stated he hopes to develop the market. There were complaints on having so many crafters last year instead of food vendors. There will not be crafters unless they have food as well. Mr. Hicks asked why the Farmers Market has to cover all the insurance because they are providing a service to the City. Mr. Finchum stated TML will cover the Farmers Market but the City will have to pay for this. Mr. Finchum stated TML strongly urges to get other insurance to cover events of this nature that covers the City from all liability. Alderman Morgan asked Mr. Hicks if the Farmers Market will have insurance by the time they are going to open. Mr. Hicks replied it would take 10 vendors at \$50 per vendor to cover the cost of insurance. Mr. Hicks said he didn't think the vendors would pay that much to set up when they can go to the flea markets at a lower price of \$5 a day to set up. Mr. Hicks stated that he has to have insurance up front that they can't wait to the end of season to pay for the insurance. Alderman Morgan recommended following the policy and then the Farmers Market can come back when they have insurance.

**29<sup>th</sup> Annual Newport Harvest Street Festival**

Consideration of approval of the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Newport Harvest Street Festival on October 4-5, 2014 sponsored by the Cocke County Partnership.

**Motion was made by Alderman Bugg and second by Alderwoman Holt to approve the annual 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Newport Harvest Street Festival on October 4-5, 2014.**

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

**Bids, Purchases, and Expenses**

**3 Point Hitch Tractor Blower**

Consideration of bids for approval for a 3 Point Hitch Tractor Blower for Parks & Recreation. There were 2 bids: Sims \$3,650 and Johnson City Power Board, Greenville Turf & Tractor \$4,995. The 1<sup>st</sup> bid from Sims in the amount of \$3,650 didn't meet the specifications.

**Motion was made by Alderman Morgan and second by Alderman Gregg** to approve the bid from Greenville Turf & Tractor in the amount of \$4,995.

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

**Citizens Comments**

Mark Adamson has an ice cream truck and has asked permission to go to the City Park to sale ice cream to the kids. Mr. Adamson stated he was local, a license vendor, and has insurance. Parks & Recreation Director Tim Dockery stated we're not against the ice cream man but there is an ordinance that doesn't permit anyone to sale in the City Park. Mr. Dockery stated it is a safety issue as well. Alderman Bugg said he didn't want the City being liable. Mr. Hicks asked for a permit for the City Park. Alderman Morgan told Mr. Hicks you look seem like a responsible man but the next man might not be. Mr. Hurst stated this would be an amendment change of an ordinance. The Board asked for this to be on a workshop.

**Adjournment**

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

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

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Mayor Connie Ball

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James Finchum, City Administrator

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