

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN  
REGULAR SESSION  
APRIL 9, 2024**

**April 9, 2024**

The City of Newport Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in the Newport City Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in Regular Session.

Rev. Alvin Watts led the invocation. Alderman Mike Hansel led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

The following officials were present: Vice Mayor Connie Ball, Alderman Mike Hansel, Alderwoman Louanna Ottinger, Alderman Randy Ragan, Alderman Steve Smith, City Attorney Terry Hurst, and City Administrator James Finchum.

The following officials were not present: Mayor Roland Dykes, III.

Vice Mayor Ball declared a Quorum.

**Minutes**

**March 12, 2024 Regular Session**

**Motion by Alderwoman Ottinger and second by Alderman Hansel**, for minutes of the March 12, 2024 Regular Session to be approved as submitted.

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

**Communications from the City Administrator**

City Administrator James Finchum reported the proposed 2024-25 budget was given to the Board for review. The budget will be on the May agenda for first reading.

Mr. Finchum announced Community Development Director Gary Carver is resigning April 11, 2024. Mr. Finchum stated he has many projects going on now and it would be hard to replace him. Gary Carver will stay involved in his projects and Mr. Finchum has asked Mr. Carver to be a consultant on a contracted service to help with the projects and to also train his replacement. Mr. Finchum thanked Mr. Carver for his service and accomplishments.

**Appointment of Boards, Commissions & Committees**

**Re-Appointment to the Equalization Board – Angela Husky’s Term**

Discussion of Re-Appointment to the Equalization Board – Angela Husky Term. Mayor Dykes has re-appointed Angela Husky to the Equalization Board.

There was no action taken.

**New Business**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2024-01 Amending the Zoning Map of the City of Newport to Include Property 1100 West Highway 25/70 in the C-3 Interstate Business Zone**

Consideration of 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2024-01 Amending the Zoning Map of the City of Newport to Include Property 1100 West Highway 25/70 in the C-3 Interstate Business Zone. The Planning Commission approved this request at their March 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Motion by Alderman Ragan and second by Alderman Smith**, to approve 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2024-01 Amending the Zoning Map of the City of Newport to Include Property 1100 West Highway 25/70 in the C-3 Interstate Business Zone.

**Roll Call**

Alderman Hansel     AYE  
Alderwoman Ottinger AYE  
Alderman Ragan     AYE  
Alderman Smith     AYE  
Vice Mayor Ball     AYE

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

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2024-02 Amending Title 12 Buildings, Utility, Etc. Codes Chapter 1 Building Codes Section 12-101 Adopting the 2018 International Building Code**

Consideration of 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2024-02 Amending Title 12 Buildings, Utility, Etc. Codes Chapter 1 Building Codes Section 12-101 Adopting the 2018 International Building Code. The Planning Commission approved this request at their March 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Motion by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderwoman Ottinger**, to approve 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2024-02 Amending Title 12 Buildings, Utility, Etc. Codes Chapter 1 Building Codes Section 12-101 Adopting the 2018 International Building Code.

**Roll Call**

Alderman Hansel     AYE  
Alderwoman Ottinger AYE  
Alderman Ragan     AYE  
Alderman Smith     AYE  
Vice Mayor Ball     AYE

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

**Loan Payoff the City of Newport**

Consideration of loan payoff for the City of Newport. Finance Director Tina Mathews asked to pay off the 2012 Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund loan approximated at \$221,300 in principle and any interest accrued through the payoff date. The city would save approximately \$50,000 of interest based on the estimated loan schedule. If approved, this would be budgeted in the 2024-25 fiscal year budget.

**Motion by Alderwoman Ottinger and second by Alderman Hansel**, to approve payoff of the 2012 Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund loan approximated at \$221,300 budgeted in the 2024-25 fiscal year budget.

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

**Newport Utilities Grants**

Discussion of Newport Utilities Grants. Mr. Finchum stated there has been confusion over three grants that Newport Utilities have applied for in the City’s name without permission. Attorney Jeff Greene has met with Mr. Finchum and Finance Director Tina Matthews on this issue several times and has asked them to take this item off the agenda to restart the process. Mr. Finchum stated it was too late due to the agendas had already been sent out. Alderman Ragan asked if this means whatever has already happened starts from scratch. Mr. Finchum stated yes, to my understanding. The Board expressed their support. After much discussion, it was agreed to regroup and figure out what needs to be done to move forward.

**Full Time Position for Animal Control**

Consideration of Full Time Position for Animal Control. Director Lisa Layman asked to postpone this request and bring back later.

No action was taken.

**Annual Chamber Events**

Consideration of Annual Chamber Events. Chamber Director Lynn Ramsey asked for the annual Chamber events to be approved: Rhythm on the River Concert Series, Newport Harvest Street Festival, and Christmas parade.

**Motion by Alderwoman Ottinger and second by Alderman Hansel**, to approve Annual Chamber Events.

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

**Bids, Purchases and Expenses**

**Skid Steer Loader for the Street Department**

Consideration of Bids for a Skid Steer Loader for the Street Department. Steet Superintendent Ben Hicks asked to replace a 27-year-old Bobcat. State bid for a Case SR175B Skid Steer Loader from Contractor’s Machinery, Inc. in the amount of \$54,765.86. The monies are in the budget for this purchase.

**Motion by Alderman Ragan and second by Alderman Smith**, to approve State bid for a Case SR175B Skid Steer Loader from Contractor’s Machinery, Inc. in the total amount of \$54,765.86.

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

**Vehicle for the Police Department**

Consideration of Bids for a Vehicle for the Police Department. Chief of Police Scott Lamb asked to replace a 2013 Dodge Charger with 119,624 miles to purchase a 2023 Ford Explorer XLT with a state bid from Ford of Murfreesboro at \$38,259 and upfit cost of \$5,360 at DANA safety for a total cost of \$43,619. The monies are in the budget for this purchase.

**Motion by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderwoman Ottinger**, to approve State bid for a 2023 Ford Explorer XLT from Ford of Murfreesboro at \$38,259 and upfit cost of \$5,360 at DANA safety for a total cost of \$43,619.

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

**Adjournment**

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

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Mayor Roland Dykes, III

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James Finchum, City Administrator

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