

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN
CITY OF NEWPORT, TENNESSEE
REGULAR SESSION
AUGUST 10, 2021**

Public Hearing

Mayor Roland Dykes, III opened the public hearing for a presentation of the bike/pedestrian plan for the downtown corridor through the TDOT / RPO Grant. The team from Gresham Smith with Community Development Partners gave a presentation of the bike/pedestrian plan for the downtown corridor as part of the public hearing. This was provided through a TDOT / RPO grant and has been worked on the past few months with coordination between both teams.

Mayor Dykes closed the public hearing.

August 10, 2021

The City of Newport Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in the Newport City Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, August 10, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. in Regular Session.

Alderman Bobby Knight led the invocation. Vice Mayor Mike Proffitt led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

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

The following officials were not present: Alderman Steve Smith.

Mayor Dykes declared a Quorum.

Minutes

July 13, 2021 Regular Session

Motion by Vice Mayor Proffitt and second by Alderwoman Ottinger, for minutes of the July 13, 2021 Regular Session to be approved as amended.

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

Communications from the City Administrator

City Administrator James Finchum reported the Covid numbers are up in Cocke County. There was one employee to test positive and a few employees in quarantine.

Mr. Finchum reported Fire Chief Jeremy Shelton wanted to get the Newport Fire Department in swift water rescue training. The training could go under the Tennessee Association of Rescue Squads to be discounted. This discount was rejected at the TARS regional meeting because the Newport Rescue Squad had lobbied to block the Newport Fire Department on becoming an associated member. Mr. Finchum stated that the city had got pulled into a feud between the Rescue Squad and the Cocke County Emergency Management but thinks he has it worked out after speaking to both sides. Mr. Finchum recommendation was, if this cost the city money, to take it out of the Rescue Squad annual donated money.

Mr. Finchum spoke about the per diem policy for employee travel. Mr. Finchum would like to look at an increase in the per diem. This policy hasn't been updated in eight to ten years. Mayor Roland Dykes asked to look into the gas rates as well.

Mr. Finchum reported there will be another litter pickup on Saturday, August 14th. There have been less employees willing to work on the weekends for litter pickup in the hot summer months.

Reports from Committees, Members of Council & Other Officers

Mayor Dykes thanked everyone that helped with the Tennessee Picnic.

Mr. Finchum stated the city was moving forward on the welcome center that will be located at the Tanner Building.

New Business

Audit for Fiscal Year 2019-20 – Auditors Brown, Jake & McDaniel PC

Discussion of Audit for Fiscal Year 2019-20 – Auditors Brown, Jake & McDaniel PC. Frank McDaniel gave a report on the audit for fiscal year 2019-20. Mr. McDaniel reported the city has a clean audit with no findings.

1st Reading of Ordinance #2021-07 Amending the City of Newport Municipal Code Title 9 Business, Peddlers, Solicitors, Etc., Adding Chapter 10 Yard Sale/Garage Sales

Consideration of 1st Reading of Ordinance #2021-07 Amending the City of Newport Municipal Code Title 9 Business, Peddlers, Solicitors, Etc., Adding Chapter 10 Yard Sale/Garage Sales. The new regulations for yard sales will be to monitor the repeat yard sales week after week.

Motion was made Alderman Hansel by and second by Alderwoman Ottinger, to approve 1st Reading of Ordinance #2021-07 Amending the City of Newport Municipal Code Title 9 Business, Peddlers, Solicitors, Etc., Adding Chapter 10 Yard Sale/Garage Sales.

Roll Call

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

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

Authorizing the City of Newport to Adopt a Requested Property into the City of Newport

Discussion of authorizing the City of Newport to adopt a requested property into the City of Newport. A plan of service was presented for the property located on 1026 West Highway 25/70 who has asked to be annexed into the city of Newport.

Motion was made by Alderwoman Ottinger and second by Vice Mayor Proffitt, to approve authorizing the City of Newport to adopt a requested property into the City of Newport.

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

Storm Drain Contract Amendment

Consideration of storm drain contract amendment – Community Development Director Gary Caver. Mr. Carver stated this was the last change order and final payment in the amount of \$48,150.75 for the CDBG project.

Motion was made Alderman Hansel by and second by Alderwoman Ottinger, to approve the storm drain contract amendment for a final payment in the amount of \$48,150.75.

Roll Call

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

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

Resolution #2021-04 Authorizing the City of Newport to Participate in the Public Entity Partners Safety Grant

Consideration of Resolution #2021-04 Authorizing the City of Newport to Participate in the Public Entity Partners Safety Grant.

Motion was made Alderwoman Ottinger by and second by Alderman Knight, to approve Resolution #2021-04 Authorizing the City of Newport to Participate in the Public Entity Partners Safety Grant.

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

Request from the Cocke County Partnership for a Special Events Concert

Consideration of request from the Cocke County Partnership for a special events concert. Request for Rhythm on the River Fall Kickoff Concert September 18, 2021, from 2:00 – 8:00 p.m. behind the City Hall on the Riverwalk.

Motion was made Alderman Hansel by and second by Alderwoman Ottinger, to approve request from the Cocke County Partnership for Rhythm on the River Fall Kickoff Concert September 18, 2021, from 2:00 – 8:00 p.m. behind the City Hall on the Riverwalk.

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

Sale of City of Newport Property 119 North Woodlawn

Consideration of sale of City of Newport property 119 North Woodlawn. There have been two offers that have been made on the city owned “City Grill” building at 119 N Woodlawn (0470 D 009.00). One has submitted a proposal to pay \$20,000 for the building, which will put it back on the tax roll. They will immediately begin repairs after closing on the property. The space would be used for materials storage for their business as well as office space and residential on the second level.

The second proposal is part of a potential development named “Project Clean Slate”. This organization is a locally invested and well-known business that would like to keep the details of the project confidential until the contract is voted on and a formal announcement can be made. Their proposal is to purchase both the 119 Woodlawn and 219 E Main St (currently the animal control building) for \$1 each. This would immediately put both buildings back on the tax roll. They would lease the Animal Control building back to the city for \$1 until Animal Control can be moved to their new location. They would begin renovation on the other building and demolition within 60 days of the contract being approved. They plan to renovate both for mixed use and retail. This would generate both property tax revenue as well as sales tax revenue. The Board asked for more information and something in writing before bringing back to next months meeting.

No action was taken.

Bids

Annual Paving Bid for the City of Newport for Fiscal Year 2021-22

Consideration of annual paving bid for the City of Newport for Fiscal Year 2021-22. Street Superintendent Ben Hicks asked to extend Newport Paving & Ready Mix current contract.

Motion was made Alderman Smith by and second by Alderwoman Ottinger to approve to extend Newport Paving & Ready Mix current contract for the annual paving bid for the City of Newport for Fiscal Year 2021-22.

Roll Call

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

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

Annual Salt Bid for the City of Newport for Fiscal Year 2021-22

Consideration of annual salt bid for the City of Newport for Fiscal Year 2021-22. Street Superintendent Ben Hicks recommendation to take the state bid from Cargill Inc. in the amount of \$94.14 a ton.

Motion was made Alderman Hansel by and second by Alderwoman Ottinger, to approve the annual salt from Cargill Inc. in the amount of \$94.14 a ton for the City of Newport for Fiscal Year 2021-22.

Roll Call

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

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

Adjournment

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

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

Mayor Roland Dykes, III

James Finchum, City Administrator

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