

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN
CITY OF NEWPORT, TENNESSEE
REGULAR SESSION
AUGUST 11, 2015**

Public Hearing

Mayor Connie Ball opened the public hearing for discussion on Ordinance #2015-08 Amending Zoning Regulations. There was no one to comment.

Mayor Ball closed the Public Hearing.

August 11, 2015

The City of Newport Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in the Newport City Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, August 11, 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.

Mayor Ball stated he was moving items of the agenda around due to city employees and board members attending the funeral of Scott McClure this evening.

Minutes

July 14, 2015 Regular Session

Motion by Alderman Hansel and second by Vice Mayor Proffitt for minutes of the July 14, 2015 Regular Session to be approved as submitted.

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

July 28, 2015 Special Called Meeting

Motion by Vice Mayor Proffitt and second by Alderman Knight for minutes of the July 28, 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

Fire Chief Randy Ragan presented Matthew Woody with employee of the month with a plaque and \$50.00. Fire Chief Ragan stated Mr. Woody started in February 2015 and has gotten to a level of completion faster than any other. Mr. Woody has passed his fire fighter level 1 & 2 certification with the State faster then he got off employee probation.

Fire Chief Ragan also reported Jason Woodson last day will be Monday, August 17th. Mr. Woodson will be going to Knoxville. Fire Chief Ragan told the Board he was proud of Mr. Woodson.

New Business

Sale of Road Grader

Mr. Finchum stated the road grader was appraised for \$22,500. Cocke County has asked to purchase the road grader for the amount it was appraised at.

Motion by Alderman Fancher and second by Alderman Knight to accept the offer from Cocke County for the amount of \$22,500 for the purchase of the road grader.

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

Bids

Annual Paving Bids

Consideration of annual paving bids for the City of Newport. The only bid that was sent in was from Newport Paving & Ready Mix for hot mix asphalt the current TDOT price August Index of \$454.55 per ton.

Motion by Alderman Knight and second by Alderman Hansel to accept the bid from Newport Paving & Ready Mix as submitted for the annual paving for the City of Newport.

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

Annual Salt Bids

Consideration of annual salt bids for the City of Newport. The City received two bids as follows: Cargill \$86.52 per ton and North American Salt \$89.17 per ton. Street Superintendent Ben Hicks recommendation was the lowest bid Cargill \$ 86.52 per ton.

Motion by Vice Mayor Proffitt and second by Alderman Fancher to accept the lowest bid from Cargill \$86.52 per ton for the annual salt bid for the City of Newport.

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

Communications from the City Administrator

City Administrator James Finchum reported the Governor's Conference in October that the Board will be attending will conflict with the October monthly meeting. Mr. Finchum stated it is up to the Board to reset the monthly meeting. Mayor Ball asked to add this to the September meeting agenda.

Mr. Finchum introduced the newest employee to City Hall is City Planner Gary Carver. Mr. Carver is highly qualified for this job. Mr. Carver will be working on grants, downtown revitalization. Mr. Carver will also assist with Face Book and Twitter for the City of Newport social media.

Finance Director Tina Matthews reported of the letter of approval received by the comptroller for the annual budget.

Old Business

2nd Reading of Ordinance #2015-08 Amending the Zoning Regulations

Consideration of 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2015-08 Amending Zoning Regulations for high-rise freestanding interstate sign, Chapter 3 Governing General Provisions, Section 309 of the Newport Municipal Zoning Ordinance is hereby amended to delete section 309.3.f.2.iii regulating high rise business signs in the C-3 Interstate Highway Business District in its entirety and replace with the following new section iii:

Section iii: In the C-3 Interstate Highway Business District each business shall be allowed in addition to the normal business signs, one (1) high-rise freestanding interstate sign with a minimum of thirty (30) feet in height and not to exceed one hundred (100) feet in height. A high-rise sign between thirty (30) feet in height and seventy-five (75) feet in height may not exceed 250 square feet in sign area. A high-rise sign greater than seventy-five (75) feet in height may not exceed three hundred-fifty (350) square feet in sign area.

Motion was made by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Knight to approve the 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2015-08 Amending Zoning Regulations for high-rise freestanding interstate sign.

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

New Business

Panhandling in the City of Newport

Mr. Finchum explained there was no vote required for tonight’s meeting. The staff was asking for the Board for any input. This will be added to the September agenda. No action was taken.

Lease for Police Units

Consideration of approval of lease for Police Units. There will be five (5) marked SUV’s for patrol and two (2) unmarked SUV’s for the detective’s. The total price for the seven (7) vehicles’ will be \$225,709.58 with an annual payment of \$79,479.79 for three years.

Motion was made by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Fancher to approve the lease for Police Units for the City of Newport of total price for the seven (7) vehicles’ will be \$225,709.58 with an annual payment of \$79,479.79 for three years

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 #2015-12 Authorizing the City of Newport to Join the HGAC Buy Program

Consideration of Resolution #2015-02 Authorizing the City of Newport to Join the HGAC Buy Program. Ms. Matthews explain this is a nationwide bidding program. The program will bid out for the City of Newport with no cost to join. Alderman Gribble asked if it came back to the Board if over \$5,000. Mr. Finchum stated it does not have to because of the process of the state or national bid. Vice Mayor Proffitt stated the staff will inform the Board of the purchases.

Motion was made by Alderman Fancher and second by Alderman Knight to approve Resolution #2015-02 Authorizing the City of Newport to Join the HGAC Buy Program.

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

City Administrators Contract with the City of Newport

Consideration of City Administrators contract with the City of Newport. Mayor Ball told the Board this contract was the same as former City Administrator Scott Collins with only a few changes. Mr. Finchum’s salary will be \$77,000 instead of \$79,000. Mr. Finchum will have a take home vehicle instead of a monthly travel expense. Mr. Finchum’s buy out will be less every year instead of the full amount as the beginning of the contract if he is terminated.

Motion was made by Alderman Knight and second by Vice Mayor Proffitt to approve the City Administrators employment agreement contract between the City of Newport and James Finchum as submitted.

Roll Call

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

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

Traffic Light Study Carson Springs & 25/70

Alderman Gribble reported to the Board of a petition of 380 signatures for a traffic light at Carson Springs and 25/70. Deloris Ellison went door to door for this petition. Alderman Gribble asked to send this petition to the state to show the support from the City. Mayor Ball stated he would take care of getting this petition to the state. Mayor Ball stated he has been working with state on this issue. Mayor Ball said this traffic study was in the engineering phase.

Newport Recycling Program

Alderman Fancher has been working with other cities getting information on the recycling programs. Alderman Fancher spoke of the loss of monies with this program. Alderman Fancher suggested the city and the county to work together. Alderman Fancher asked permission to research further on this issue.

Alderman Fancher also spoke of the welcome sign for the City of Newport. Alderman Fancher said he planted flowers there and it's all weeds now. Alderman Fancher asked about the mowing down 25/70. Mr. Finchum responded it's the states responsibility but the city mows to make it look good. The state only mows 4 times a year. The city has no obligation to mow.

Citizens Comments

Mayor Ball announced the dedication for Mayor Danny Wester August 16th at 3:00 p.m. Mayor Ball also announced the State of Tennessee Volunteer of the Year for Keep Tennessee Beautiful is David Veridal.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board of Mayor & Alderman, **a motion was made by Alderman Hansel 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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