

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN
CITY OF NEWPORT, TENNESSEE
REGULAR SESSION
AUGUST 12, 2014**

Public Hearing

Mayor Connie Ball opened the public hearing for discussion on Ordinance #2014-05 Banners and Signs Across Streets and Alleys Restricted. There was no one to comment.

Mayor Ball closed the Public Hearing.

August 12, 2014

The City of Newport Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in the Newport City Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, August 12, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. in Regular Session.

Rev. Alvin Watts led the invocation. Fire Chief Randy Ragan led the Pledge to the Flag.

The following officials were present: Mayor Connie Ball, 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.

Mayor Ball declared a Quorum.

Minutes

July 8, 2014 Regular Session

Motion by Alderman Morgan and second by Vice Mayor Costner for minutes of the July 8, 2014 Regular Session to be approved as submitted.

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

Proclamations and or Recognition of Citizens by the Mayor

Parks and Recreation Director Tim Dockery presented Brandon Norton with the employee of the month for the month of August with a plaque and \$50.00. Mr. Dockery spoke of the accomplishments Mr. Norton has achieved since his employment.

Communications from the City Administrator

City Administrator James Finchum reported of the storm drain was fixed at KFC this week by the State at no cost to the City.

Mr. Finchum reported there were 10 new phones added to the Johnson Control contract. The extra cost of the phones is \$659 per phone. Four of the phones are for the Animal Shelter. The Animal Shelter was left out of the agreement with Johnson Control per the last City Administrator. Mr. Finchum asked to use the unappropriated borrowed money that is still available for this extra expense.

Motion was made by Alderman Morgan and second by Vice Mayor Costner to suspend the rules to add using the unappropriated borrowed money that is still available for this extra expense for the phone system and the bids for towing and storage of vehicles seized by the Newport Police Department to the agenda.

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

Motion was made by Alderman Morgan and second by Alderman Gregg to approve using the unappropriated borrowed money that is still available for this extra expense for the phone system for a total of \$659 per phone not to exceed \$6,600.

Roll Call

Alderman Bugg	Yes
Alderman Morgan	Yes
Alderman Gregg	Yes
Alderwoman Holt	Yes
Vice Mayor Costner	Yes

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

Appointment of Boards, Commissions, and Committees

Mayor Ball reappointed Alvin Watts to the Library Board. Mayor Ball appointed Jeff Fancher to the Regional Library Board.

Reports from Committees, Members of Council, & Other Officers

Old Business

2nd Reading of Ordinance #2014-05 Banners and Signs Restriction

Consideration of approval of 2nd Reading Ordinance #2014-05 Banners and Signs across Streets and Alleys Restricted.

Motion was made by Alderman Gregg and second by Alderman Morgan to approve 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2014-05 Banners and Signs across Streets and Alleys Restricted.

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

New Business

Resolution #2014-09 Acceptance on the Proposal of the TDOT to Construct a Project (US-25/70, East Broadway)

Consideration of approval of Resolution #2014-09 Acceptance on the Proposal of the Tennessee Department of Transportation to Construct a Project (US-25/70, East Broadway).

Motion was made by Alderman Bugg and second by Alderman Gregg to approve Resolution #2014-09 Acceptance on the Proposal of the Tennessee Department of Transportation to Construct a Project (US-25/70, East Broadway).

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

Resolution #2014-10 Supporting the Display of the National Motto “In God We Trust” on the Newport Municipal Building and in the City Council Chambers in a Prominent Location

Consideration of approval of Resolution #2014-10 Supporting the Display of the National Motto “In God We Trust” on the Newport Municipal Building and in the City Council Chambers in a Prominent Location. Mayor Ball stated this vote is to consider the option with funding requiring another motion at a later date.

Motion was made by Alderman Gregg and second by Vice Mayor Costner to approve Resolution #2014-10 Supporting the Display of the National Motto “In God We Trust” on the Newport Municipal Building and in the City Council Chambers in a Prominent Location.

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

Emergency Medical Responder Agreement

Consideration of approval Emergency Medical Responder agreement between the City of Newport and First Call Ambulance Service.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Costner and second by Alderman Bugg to approve the Emergency Medical Responder agreement between the City of Newport and First Call Ambulance Service.

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

911 Contract

Consideration of 911 Contract between 911 Emergency of Cocke County and the City of Newport. Mr. Finchum stated he had negotiated with the 911 office. The City will provide 4 employees to E911. Two of these employees will be paid through the City of Newport. The City of Newport will reimburse E911 for 2 employees with the rate of pay starting at \$12.07 with a maximum of \$13.80 plus retirement and social security. The City of Newport will not be responsible for overtime, employee insurance or any replacement dispatcher. This contract will be sent to the 911 Board for their approval.

Motion was made by Alderman Morgan and second by Alderwoman Holt to approve 911 Contract between 911 Emergency of Cocke County and the City of Newport.

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

Charter Business Contract

Consideration of the contract between the Charter Business and City of Newport. Mr. Finchum stated Rocky Gentry has been negotiating with Charter Business for the Johnson Control update. The new intergraded system is internet based and will save the City money on the monthly statements. Alderman Morgan asked if it would affect the budget. Mr. Finchum stated yes, it will save the City around \$4,000 per year.

Motion was made by Alderman Bugg and second by Vice Mayor Costner to approve the contract between the Charter Business and City of Newport with the 60 month plan.

Roll Call

Alderman Bugg	Yes
Alderman Morgan	Yes
Alderman Gregg	Yes
Alderwoman Holt	Yes
Vice Mayor Costner	Yes

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

Discussion of City Administrator Charter Change and Pay

Consideration of City Administrator Charter change and pay. Mr. Hurst prepared 3 proposals.

1. The City Administrator must reside within Cocke County within 90 days of his or her appointment.
2. The City Administrator must reside within _____ miles of the City Hall within 90 days of his or her appointment.
3. No residency required.

Motion was made by Alderman Morgan and second by Alderman Bugg to approve option 1 “The City Administrator must reside within Cocke County within 90 days of his or her appointment.”

Roll Call

Alderman Bugg	AYE
Alderman Morgan	AYE
Alderman Gregg	NAY
Alderwoman Holt	NAY
Vice Mayor Costner	AYE

After the vote Alderman Gregg stated he liked option 2. Alderman Gregg stated he would like the City Administrator to reside at least 10 miles from City Hall. Alderwoman Holt asked “what’s the rush.” Alderman Morgan stated to get this to the Legislative before the end of the year. The next Board will ratify the Charter change once it comes back. It will take 4 votes to pass changing the Charter. Alderman Morgan asked if anyone wants to change their votes to show unity. No one wanted to change their vote.

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

After much discussion, the Board agreed to let Mayor Ball negotiate a pay raise with Interim City Administrator Finchum and bring it back to the Board for approval.

Discussion of County Resident to the Newport Utilities Board

Discussion of a county resident or CLB member to put on the Newport Utilities Board. Alderman Morgan made the motion to postpone this issue due to the CLB took it upon their self to change the funding to the Chamber and Tourism without including the City Council. Alderman Gregg stated he was not for this at all.

Motion was made by Alderman Morgan and second by Alderman Bugg to table the discussion of a county resident or CLB member to put on the Newport Utilities Board.

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

Consent Agenda

Consideration of approval of the Consent agenda for the following:

- a) Roadblock – East TN Baptist Association – 9/20/2014

Motion was made by Alderman Bugg and second by Alderman Gregg to approve the Consent Agenda.

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

Bids, Purchases, and Expenses

Bids for Bulk Ice Control Salt

Consideration of bids for bulk ice control salt. Street Superintendent Ben Hicks recommended the low bid from North America Salt \$97.70 a ton.

Motion was made by Alderman Gregg and second by Vice Mayor Costner to accept the recommendation of Mr. Hicks for the low bid from North America Salt for the amount of \$97.70 a ton.

Roll Call

Alderman Bugg	AYE
Alderman Morgan	AYE
Alderman Gregg	AYE
Alderwoman Holt	AYE
Vice Mayor Costner	AYE

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

Bids for Towing and Storage of Vehicles Seized by the Newport Police Department

Consideration of bids for towing and storage of vehicles seized by the Newport Police Department. Chief of Police Maurice Shults recommendation was the low bid from Evans Towing.

Motion was made by Alderman Gregg and second by Alderman Bugg to accept the recommendation of Chief of Police Shults for the low bid from Evans Towing.

Roll Call

Alderman Bugg	AYE
Alderman Morgan	AYE
Alderman Gregg	AYE
Alderwoman Holt	AYE
Vice Mayor Costner	AYE

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

Citizens Comments

April Clevenger asked City Administrator Finchum if he had notified the City Council that the budget had been “red flagged” from the Comptroller’s office. Finance Director Tina Matthews stated, “to my knowledge there was no red flag. What are you talking about?” Ms. Clevenger stated an issue with the budget that was sent in where the expenditures outweighed the revenue. Ms. Matthews stated the one comment from the Comptroller’s office was the Newport Utilities was aware of the problem and had a plan of action to fix the problem. The problem had to do with the wastewater system. Ms. Clevenger asked if that was the only problem the Comptroller had with the budget with a response from Ms. Matthews of yes.

Roger Gribble stated at the July City Council meeting Mayor Ball was going to put the consideration of the removal of Glenn Ray to the Newport Utilities to bring to a vote on the August agenda. Why is it not on the agenda? Mr. Hurst stated at the August 5th workshop he had read the prevision out of the Charter that stated this Board has no power to overrule the Newport Utilities Board’s decision on anything. Based on what the Charter stated, no one wanted to add this issue to the agenda. Mr. Gribble stated that was a narrow reading of the Charter. Mr. Hurst stated that’s what the law says.

Adjournment

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

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

Mayor Connie Ball

James Finchum, City Administrator

RET