

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN  
REGULAR SESSION  
AUGUST 13, 2024**

**July 9, 2024**

The City of Newport Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in the Newport City Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, August 13, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in Regular Session.

Vice Mayor Connie Ball 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: Mayor Roland Dykes, III, 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.

Mayor Dykes declared a Quorum.

**Minutes**

**July 9, 2024 Regular Session**

**Motion by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderwoman Ottinger**, for minutes of the July 9, 2024 Regular Session to be approved as submitted.

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

**Communications from the City Administrator**

City Administrator James Finchum reported that normally the paving contract has a rollover clause if both parties agree to roll over to the second year. But this was not in the last contract. This is why the paving contract is on this month's agenda to be renewed.

There was an agreement between the City of Newport and Cocke County to split the cost of the paving at Carson Springs that is half in the city and the other half in the county. Newport Paving came to do the work, but the city did not have a contract. Mr. Finchum made an executive decision to let the county pay upfront and the city reimburse them.

Mr. Finchum stated he has had multiple complaints regarding Morrell Springs Road. The road has many humps, and the narrow road makes it hard to see in spots. The city has a FAST (Fixing American's Surface Transportation) Act grant that will pave this road. Mr. Finchum stated the city will start by knocking down the humps, but he still wants the engineer to look at it.

Alderman Smith stated whatever it takes to fix the humps and blind spots. Mr. Finchum stated he will get an engineer to look at this project.

Mr. Finchum stated there was an invoice from Newport Utilities in the sleeve of the council books for work on the new parking lot downtown. This invoice is three years old but just received it on July 24<sup>th</sup>. Caroline Brawley had called Newport Utilities to inquire information on the inspection on the parking lot and was told the city had an outstanding bill. They sent Ms. Brawley this invoice but dated it for the day they sent it. Mr. Finchum stated he did not want to pay this bill unless he was told to. Vice Mayor Ball stated not to pay the invoice. Alderman Hansel stated a year or year and half is one thing but three years is ridiculous. Alderwoman Ottinger asked if there was an itemized invoice but if not, she is with the rest of the board for not paying.

Mr. Finchum stated it had been brought to his attention by staff that manufactured homes have to get permits based on the cost of the home. This puts some permits to be around \$1,500 with the higher cost of manufactured homes. This puts a hardship on the homeowners. Staff has asked to for a flat rate of \$500 or lower for the manufacturer homes. Mr. Finchum asked the board to think about it and add on the September agenda.

Mr. Finchum asked to suspend the rules and add to the agenda an Ordinance for Newport Grammar School Budget Amendment. Mr. Finchum stated the budget amendment was not sent to city hall until late on Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup> after the books had been delivered.

**Motion by Alderwoman Ottinger and second by Vice Mayor Ball**, to approve suspending the rules and add 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2024-06 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar School.

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

Consideration of re-appointment for Municipal Judge – Britteny Vick. Judge Vick would like to be re-appointed as City of Newport Municipal Judge.

**Motion by Alderwoman Ottinger and second by Alderman Hansel**, to re-appoint Brittany Vick as City of Newport Municipal Judge.

### **New Business**

### **Resolution #2024-12 Authorizing the City of Newport to Participate in the Public Entity Partners Safety Partners Matching Grant Program**

Consideration of Resolution #2024- 12 Authorizing the City of Newport to Participate in the Public Entity Partners Safety Partners Matching Grant Program.

**Motion by Alderman Ragan and second by Alderman Smith**, to approve Resolution #2024- 12 Authorizing the City of Newport to Participate in the Public Entity Partners Safety Partners Matching Grant Program.

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

**Resolution #2024-13 Authorizing the City of Newport to Apply for the Department of Transportation’s Safe Streets for All Program**

Consideration of Resolution #2024-13 Authorizing the City of Newport to Apply for the Department of Transportation’s Safe Streets for All Program. This is a two-part grant with the first part to complete a plan over the next two years. This is grant is up to \$120,000 with a 80/20 match that would cost the city \$24,000.

**Motion by Vice Mayor Ball and second by Alderman Ragan,** to approve the Resolution #2024-13 Authorizing the City of Newport to Apply for the Department of Transportation’s Safe Streets for All Program.

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

**Resolution #2024-14 Authorizing the City of Newport to Hire Administrative Service for the Safe Streets for All Program**

Consideration of Resolution #2024-14 Authorizing the City of Newport to Hire Administrative Service for the Safe Streets for All Program. Staff has recommended East Tennessee Development District for the administrative service for the Safe Street for All Program.

**Motion by Alderwoman Ottinger and second by Alderman Ragan,** to approve Resolution #2024-14 Authorizing the City of Newport to Hire East Tennessee Development District for Administrative Service for the Safe Streets for All Program.

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

**Interlocal Agreement Between the City of Newport and Newport Utilities for the ARPA Sewer Replacement Project at Richland Park**

Consideration of Interlocal Agreement Between the City of Newport and Newport Utilities for the ARPA Sewer Replacement Project at Richland Park. This agreement is for the APR grant for sewer work at Richland Park with Newport Utilities doing the project. The amount of the grant is \$1,716,401.27 with the local match of \$324,012.23 to be paid by Newport Utilities with the total project amount of \$2,040,413.50. Gary Carver stated this agreement has been approved by Attorney Terry Hurst and protects both parties.

**Motion by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Smith,** to approve Interlocal Agreement Between the City of Newport and Newport Utilities for the ARPA Sewer Replacement Project at Richland Park.

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

**Request for 9/11 Parade for First Responders**

Consideration of Request for 9/11 Parade for First Responders. Cocke County Sheriff CJ Ball requested a parade for first responders on September 11<sup>th</sup> 8-10:00 am to start at the old Conagra building and going through to the old Walmart building West Broadway. Sheriff Ball stated it will be for as many that may want to participate.

**Motion by Alderwoman Ottinger and second by Alderman Ragan,** to approve Request for 9/11 Parade for First Responders.

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

**Motion by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Ragan,** to amend the previous vote approving the Request for 9/11 Parade for First Responders and waive the permit fee.

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

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2024-06 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar School**

Consideration of 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2024-06 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar School.

**Motion by Vice Mayor Ball and second by Alderwoman Ottinger,** to approve 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2024-06 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar School.

**Roll Call**

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

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

**Bids, Purchases and Expenses**

**Paving for Fiscal Year 2024-25**

Consideration of Paving for Fiscal Year 2024-25. There was only one bid from Newport Paving & Ready Mix. The cost has gone up \$5 per ton from last year. There is no rollover clause in this contract.

**Motion by Alderman Ragan and second by Alderman Hansel,** to approve the bid from Newport Paving & Ready Mix for the Annual Paving Contract for Fiscal Year 2024-25 as submitted.

**Roll Call**

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

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

**Seizure and Tow Contract for the Newport Police Department**

Consideration of bids for a seizure and tow contract for the Newport Police Department. There were two bids that were submitted: Evans Towing \$100 each and Gran Boys Towing \$40 each. Chief of Police Scott Lamb recommended taking the low bid from Gran Boys Towing for a two-year contract.

**Motion by Alderman Smith and second by Alderwoman Ottinger**, to approve the low bid from Gran Boys Towing in the amount of \$40 each for a two-year contract for a for seizure and tow contract for the Newport Police Department.

**Roll Call**

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

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

**Vehicles for Newport Police Department**

Consideration of bids for Vehicles for Newport Police Department. Chief of Police Lamb has requested the purchase of two vehicles for the Newport Police Department. The state bid from Ford of Murfreesboro for two 2025 Ford Police Interceptor Explorers \$90,744, uplift for the vehicles from DANA Safety and Supply \$29,335.34, and lettering for vehicles from Rocky Top Graffix \$1,350 with a total cost for both vehicles to be \$121,429.

**Motion by Alderman Ragan and second by Alderwoman Ottinger**, to approve bid for two 2025 Ford Police Interceptor Explorers \$90,744, uplift for the vehicles from DANA Safety and Supply \$29,335.34, and lettering for vehicles from Rocky Top Graffix \$1,350 with a total cost for both vehicles to be \$121,429.

**Roll Call**

Alderman Hansel     AYE  
Alderwoman Ottinger AYE  
Alderman Ragan     AYE  
Alderman Smith     AYE  
Vice Mayor Ball     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 Vice Mayor Ball and second by Alderman Smith** adjourned the meeting.

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Mayor Roland Dykes, III

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James Finchum, City Administrator

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