

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN  
REGULAR SESSION  
AUGUST 8, 2023**

**August 8, 2023**

The City of Newport Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in the Newport City Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, August 8, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in Regular Session.

Police Chief Maurice Shults led the invocation. City Attorney Terry Hurst 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 11, 2023 Regular Session**

**Motion by Alderman Smith and second by Alderwoman Ottinger**, for minutes of the July 11, 2023 Regular Session to be approved as submitted.

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

Mayor Dykes welcomed newly appointed Newport Grammar Director Justin Norton.

**Communications from the City Administrator**

City Administrator James Finchum reported there have been some changes at the county landfill with tires. The county landfill will now charge for tires. The city has been taking tires for residents, but Mr. Finchum has stopped tire pickup now that the county charges for tires. There is no money budgeted for this new tire charge. The county enforces this charge on both city and county residents. Mr. Finchum asked for the Boards input. Alderman Hansel suggested a survey.

**New Business**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2023-12 Creating a Museum and History Board**

Consideration of 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2023-12 Creating a Museum and History Board. Community Development Director Gary Carver stated this board will consist of seven members to serve without pay appointed by the City Council. This board will help with the input and guidance of the new museum and history room for a four-year term.

**Motion was made by Alderman Hansel and second by Vice Mayor Ball, to approve 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2023-12 Creating a Museum and History Board.**

**Roll Call**

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

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

**Resolution #2023- 04 Closing a Grant Fund Bank Account at Newport Federal Bank**

Consideration of Resolution #2023- 04 Closing a Grant Fund Bank Account at Newport Federal Bank.

**Motion was made by Alderman Ragan and second by Alderman Ottinger, to approve Resolution #2023- 04 Closing a Grant Fund Bank Account at Newport Federal Bank.**

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

**Purchase of Birch Street**

Consideration of Purchase of Birch Street. The property belongs to Amy Costner Cobble with 1.33 acres located on the top of Birch Street. This property will be the entrance to Woodland Park, if purchased. The asking price is \$90,000. This purchase will be used with Covid money.

**Motion was made by Vice Mayor Ball and second by Alderman Smith, to approve the purchase of 1.33 acres located on the top of Birch Street from Amy Costner Cobble for the total amount of \$90,000.**

**Roll Call**

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

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

**Newport Police Department to Apply for the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training and Recruiting Program Cost Sharing**

Consideration of Newport Police Department to Apply for the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training and Recruiting Program Cost Sharing. This grant will be for \$15,000 per cadet that graduates and is a no match grant because we are a distressed county.

**Motion was made by Alderman Ragan and second by Alderwoman Ottinger, to approve Newport Police Department to Apply for the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training and Recruiting Program Cost Sharing.**

**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.**

**Newport Police Department to Apply for the Tennessee Law Enforcement Recruitment and Retention Grant**

Consideration of Newport Police Department to Apply for the Tennessee Law Enforcement Recruitment and Retention Grant. This grant is for the individual officer for recruitment and retaining. This grant money will be paid through the agency much like the salary supplement is.

**Motion was made by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Smith, to approve Newport Police Department to Apply for the Tennessee Law Enforcement Recruitment and Retention Grant.**

**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**

**Roof for the Tanner Building**

Consideration of bids for roof for the Tanner Building. This is for the replacement of the slanted part of the Tanner roof. The city was paid \$15,835 from the insurance for the damage from recent storms. There was only one bid from Preen Construction LLC for the total amount of \$17,268. With the insurance payment, if approved bid from Preen Construction LLC, the city will only be paying \$1,432.55 for the roof replacement.

**Motion was made by Alderwoman Ottinger and second by Vice Mayor Ball, to approve the bid for the roof of the Tanner Building from Preen Construction LLC for the total amount of \$17,268.**

**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.**

**Comments from Citizens**

John Worley, with Clean Water Expected in East Tennessee, handed out information to the Board on an event that he has proposed behind city hall. Mr. Worley stated he has a grant from the Tennessee Arts Commission for \$10,000 to do an event. This request will be on the September agenda.

Alderman Ragan recognized Tim Dockery and his department on the great job of conducting the little league tournament.

Alderman Ragan also congratulated Mayor Dykes on being appointed to the TML Board.

**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.

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

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Mayor Roland Dykes, III

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James Finchum, City Administrator

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