

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN
REGULAR SESSION
DECEMBER 10, 2024**

Mayor Roland Dykes opened the public hearing for consideration of 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2024-07 Amending the Municipal Code Title 12 Building, Utility, Etc. Codes, Chapter 11 Residential Code, Section 1102 Modifications, Adding Section 304.1 Total Area of a Structure. There was no one to comment.

Consideration of 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2024-09 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport. There was no one to comment.

Mayor Dykes closed the public hearing.

December 10, 2024

The City of Newport Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in the Newport City Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in Regular Session.

Rev. Alvin Watts led the invocation. Vice Mayor Connie Ball 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, City Attorney Terry Hurst, and City Administrator James Finchum.

The following officials were not present: Alderman Steve Smith.

Mayor Dykes declared a Quorum.

Minutes

September 10, 2024 Regular Session

Motion by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Ragan, for minutes of the September 10, 2024 Regular Session to be approved as submitted.

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

Proclamations and/or Recognition of Citizens by the Mayor

Mayor Dykes recognized the Newport Fire Department for receiving the ETDD Swift Water Rescue Improvements Award.

Communications from the City Administrator

City Administrator James Finchum Announced it was good to be back at city hall since the flood. Mr. Finchum stated he appreciated Tim Dockery with city hall staff being housed at the community center. The police department is still housed at the community center. Mr. Finchum praised city employees for working as hard as they did with no complaints to get the city up and running. Mr. Finchum stated that it was humbling to see the dedication of the city employees.

Mr. Finchum gave an update on the warming station. The Newport Police Department is housed at the community center. Therefore, the city has nowhere for the warming station. Monica Hommell is working with the Methodist Church on a warming station when the temperature gets low.

Finance Director Tina Matthews had a list of emergency expenditures in the city council book that was approved by Mr. Finchum through the flood.

Molly Ealy asked for a food drive for the city to participate in with the Bread Basket downtown Newport. The city will drop off the donations on December 23rd.

Monica Hommel gave a recovery report on the flood.

Appointment of Boards, Commissions and Committees

Discussion of re-appointment to the Newport Housing Authority – Mitch Webb term. Mayor Dykes re-appointed Mitch Webb to the Newport Housing Authority.

Old Business

2nd Reading of Ordinance #2024-07 Amending the Municipal Code Title 12 Building, Utility, Etc. Codes, Chapter 11 Residential Code, Section 1102 Modifications, Adding Section 304.1 Total Area of a Structure

Consideration of 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2024-07 Amending the Municipal Code Title 12 Building, Utility, Etc. Codes, Chapter 11 Residential Code, Section 1102 Modifications, Adding Section 304.1 Total Area of a Structure. This ordinance creates a minimum home size standard for the City of Newport of 1,000 square feet. This is roughly the size of a single wide trailer.

Motion by Alderman Ragan and second by Alderman Hansel, to approve 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2024-07 Amending the Municipal Code Title 12 Building, Utility, Etc. Codes, Chapter 11 Residential Code, Section 1102 Modifications, Adding Section 304.1 Total Area of a Structure.

Roll Call

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

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

2nd Reading of Ordinance #2024-09 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport

Consideration of 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2024-09 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport.

Motion by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Ragan, to approve 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2024-09 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport.

Roll Call

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

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

New Business

1st Reading of Ordinance #2024-10 Budget Amendment for the Newport Grammar School

Consideration of 1st Reading of Ordinance #2024-10 Budget Amendment for the Newport Grammar School.

Motion by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Ragan, to approve 1st Reading of Ordinance #2024-10 Budget Amendment for the Newport Grammar School.

Roll Call

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

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

1st Reading of Ordinance #2024-11 Amending the Municipal Code Title 5 Municipal Finance and Taxation, Amending Chapter 5 Internal Control Manual for The City of Newport

Consideration of 1st Reading of Ordinance #2024-11 Amending the Municipal Code Title 5 Municipal Finance and Taxation, Amending Chapter 5 Internal Control Manual for The City of Newport.

Motion by Vice Mayor Ball and second by Alderman Hansel, to approve 1st Reading of Ordinance #2024-11 Amending the Municipal Code Title 5 Municipal Finance and Taxation, Amending Chapter 5 Internal Control Manual for The City of Newport.

Roll Call

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

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

1st Reading of Ordinance #2024-12 Amending the City of Newport Municipal Code Title 12 Buildings, Utility, Etc. Codes; Creating Chapter 12 “International Energy Conservation Code” and Adopting the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code

Consideration of 1st Reading of Ordinance #2024-12 Amending the City of Newport Municipal Code Title 12 Buildings, Utility, Etc. Codes; Creating Chapter 12 “International Energy Conservation Code” and Adopting the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code.

Motion by Alderman Ottinger and second by Alderman Ragan, to approve 1st Reading of Ordinance #2024-12 Amending the City of Newport Municipal Code Title 12 Buildings, Utility, Etc. Codes; Creating Chapter 12 “International Energy Conservation Code” and Adopting the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code.

Roll Call

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

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

1st Reading of Ordinance #2024-13 Amending the City of Newport Zoning Ordinance Chapter 5, Section 501 Adding CA-1 Commercial Advertising Overlay District

Consideration of 1st Reading of Ordinance #2024-13 Amending the City of Newport Zoning Ordinance Chapter 5, Section 501 Adding CA-1 Commercial Advertising Overlay District. Gary Carver asked that this be brought back to city council the following month.

No action was taken.

1st Reading of Ordinance #2024-14 Amending the City of Newport Zoning Ordinance Chapter 5, Section 501 Adding CA-1 Commercial Advertising Overlay District Map

Consideration of 1st Reading of Ordinance #2024-14 Amending the City of Newport Zoning Ordinance Chapter 5, Section 501 Adding CA-1 Commercial Advertising Overlay District Map. Gary Carver asked that this be brought back to city council the following month.

No action was taken.

Authorizing the Newport Police Department to Apply for a TN Highway Safety Office High Visibility Grant

Consideration of Authorizing the Newport Police Department to Apply for a TN Highway Safety Office High Visibility Grant.

Mr. Finchum asked to move this item to next month.

No action was taken.

Authorization for Newport Fire Department to Accept the TN Department of Forestry Grant

Consideration of Authorization for Newport Fire Department to Accept the TN Department of Forestry Grant. Fire Chief Jeremy Shelton stated is a \$8,500 grant awarded through the Tennessee Department of Forestry.

Motion by Alderwoman Ottinger and second by Alderman Ragan, to approve Authorization for Newport Fire Department to Accept the TN Department of Forestry Grant.

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

Authorization for Newport Utility to Apply for the HEAL Program

Consideration of Authorization for Newport Utility to Apply for the HEAL Program. General Manager Michael Williford stated this was accepting the HEAL Program (Helene Emergency Assistance Loan) for a 10-year interest free loan. Partnering with Cocke County to

apply, the loan will show on Cocke County's books and NU will show a due-to the county, no debt on the City's books.

No action was taken.

Authorization for Newport Utility to Apply for USDA Grant 2022 Disaster Water Grant

Consideration of Authorization for Newport Utility to Apply for USDA Grant 2022 Disaster Water Grant. General Manager Michael Williford stated this is an USDA Grant- 2022 Disaster Water Grant for \$400, 000 used to purchase two generators to run the water/wastewater systems in the event of a loss of power. NU will follow the City of Newport's purchasing guidelines and show the assets in NU's books. This is for **Resolution #2024-17, A Resolution Authorizing Newport Utilities to Apply for the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development Rural Utility Service Grant.**

Motion by Alderwoman Ottinger and second by Vice Mayor Ball, to Authorization for Newport Utility to Apply for USDA Grant 2022 Disaster Water Grant for \$400, 000 used to purchase two generators to run the water/wastewater systems in the event of a loss of power and approving **Resolution #2024-17 A Resolution Authorizing Newport Utilities to Apply for the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development Rural Utility Service Grant.**

Roll Call

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

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

Authorizing a New Turn Arrow Signal Light at Brocks Intersection

Consideration of Authorizing a New Turn Arrow Signal Light at Brocks Intersection. Mr. Finchum stated, with the interstate being closed, traffic through town is terrible. Mr. Finchum asked for a new turn arrow signal light at Brooks estimated cost below \$10,000.

Motion by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Ragan, to approve Authorizing a New Turn Arrow Signal Light at Brocks Intersection.

Roll Call

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

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

Increasing Rental Fees at Newport Community Center and City Park

Consideration of Increasing Rental Fees at Newport Community Center and City Park. The rental fees have not been increased in 10 years. Parks & Recreation gave a proposed increase in prices.

Motion by Alderwoman Ottinger and second by Vice Mayor Ball, to approve Increasing Rental Fees at Newport Community Center and City Park as submitted.

Roll Call

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

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

Discussion of Opening the Street Behind Conagra Building – Vice Mayor Connie Ball

Discussion of Opening the Street Behind Conagra Building – Vice Mayor Connie Ball. Vice Mayor Ball said Conagra asked to close the street behind them. Through the flood, the street would have helped the residents evacuate. Mr. Finchum agreed to close the street behind Conagra.

Motion by Vice Mayor Ball and second by Alderman Hansel, to approve Closing the street behind Conagra Building.

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

Discussion of City Emergency Management Agency Position – Alderman Mike Hansel

Discussion of City Emergency Management Agency Position – Alderman Mike Hansel. Alderman Hansel said this was just to help the City be more informed. This will be a liaison for the City. Alderman Hansel suggested to get someone within the Fire Department.

Motion by Vice Mayor Ball and second by Alderman Ragan, to Adding a City Emergency Management Agency Position.

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

Discussion of Early Warning System – Alderman Mike Hansel

Discussion of Early Warning System – Alderman Mike Hansel. Alderman Hansel gave a packet with information on an early warning system for the City of Newport. After much discussion, the Board agreed to move forward and come back with prices.

Motion by Alderman Ragan and second by Alderwoman Ottinger, to approve an early warning system for the City of Newport and bring back prices.

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

Request to Cancel a Contract with Lose Design for Parks & Recreation

Consideration of Request to Cancel a Contract with Lose Design for Parks & Recreation. Director Tim Dockery explained he was not happy with the work from Lose Design for the parks.

Motion by Vice Mayor Ball and second by Alderman Hansel, to approve canceling the contract with Lose Designs for projects through Parks & Rec.

Roll Call

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

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

Bids

Bids for Utility Vehicles for Woodland Park Maintenance

Consideration of Bids for Utility Vehicles for Woodland Park Maintenance. There were two bids submitted: Greene County Kubota in the amount of \$35,096 and Tri-County Power Equipment in the amount of \$28,630.94.

Motion by Alderwoman Ottinger and second by Alderman Ragan, to approve the bid from Tri-County Power Equipment in the amount of \$28,630.94.

Roll Call

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

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

Bids for Codes Enforcement Office to Replace a Vehicle

Consideration of Bids for Codes Enforcement Office to Replace a Vehicle. State bid from Wilson County Motors for a 2025 Chevrolet Silverado 2500HD in the amount of \$46,662.20.

Motion by Alderman Ragan and second by Alderwoman Ottinger, to approve the state bid from Wilson County Motors for a 2025 Chevrolet Silverado 2500HD in the amount of \$46,662.20.

Roll Call

Alderman Hansel AYE
Alderwoman Ottinger AYE
Alderman Ragan 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 Alderwoman Ottinger** adjourned the meeting.

Mayor Roland Dykes, III

James Finchum, City Administrator

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