

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN  
REGULAR SESSION  
DECEMBER 12, 2023**

**December 12, 2023**

The City of Newport Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in the Newport City Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, December 12, 2023 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, Alderman Steve Smith, City Attorney Terry Hurst, and City Administrator James Finchum.

Mayor Dykes declared a Quorum.

**Minutes**

**November 14, 2023 Regular Session**

**Motion by Vice Mayor Ball and second by Alderwoman Ottinger**, for minutes of the November 14, 2023 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 small business Saturday downtown bash was a big success. Community Development Director Carver worked with the Chamber on this event. There was a great turnout for the Christmas parade and Christmas in the City.

Mr. Finchum stated the newly appointed Chief of Police will be sworn in on January 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 am at the city hall. The new chief will work with Chief of Police Maurice Shults until his retirement in mid-January and take office at midnight on the last day that Chief Shults is there.

**Appointment of Boards, Commissions & Committees**

**Re-Appointment to the Newport Fire Civil Service Board – Jayson Chrisman (Appointed by Fire Department)**

Discussion of Re-Appointment to the Newport Fire Civil Service Board – Jayson Chrisman (Appointed by Fire Department). The Fire Department has reappointed Jayson Chrisman to the Fire Civil Service Board.

**New Business**

**Chief of Police Appointment**

Consideration of Chief of Police Appointment. The following applicants turned in resumes` and interviewed for the appointment of Chief of Police: Brandon Cassidy, David Clevenger, Travis Gorrell, Terry Lawson, Scott Lamb, Mike Robey, and Justin Vinson.

**Motion was made by Alderman Ragan and second by Alderwoman Ottinger, to appoint Scott Lamb as the new Chief of Police.**

**Roll Call**

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

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

Alderman Ragan stated this has been a hard discussion for everyone on the board. He stated there has been a lot of sleepless nights over trying to pick the right person. Alderwoman Ottinger agreed and stated there were the most fantastic applicants for this job. Alderman Hansel stated he had already given his word to vote for someone else and he couldn't go back on his word. Alderman Hansel also stated he has struggled with his decision, but he will support who ever gets this appointment.

Newly appointed Chief of Police Scott Lamb thanked the City Council and told them he wanted to work to make them proud. Mr. Lamb also stated he appreciates all the applicants and wants to move forward as a team.

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2023-16 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport**

Consideration of 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2023-16 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport.

**Motion was made by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Ragan, to approve 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2023-16 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport.**

**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.**

**Resolution #2023-09 Master Agreement Sourcewell Cooperative Agreement for Swift Water Rescue Loose Equipment**

Consideration of Resolution #2023-09 Master Agreement Sourcewell Cooperative Agreement for Swift Water Rescue Loose Equipment.

**Motion was made by Alderwoman Ottinger and second by Alderman Ragan, to approve Resolution #2023-09 Master Agreement Sourcewell Cooperative Agreement for Swift Water Rescue Loose Equipment.**

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

**Letter of Credit for Newport Utilities**

Mayor Dykes asked Joni Daniels if the Newport Utilities audit will be ready in a timely matter this year. Mayor Dykes stated there was an issue last year with the Newport Utilities audit that made the city’s audit late. Ms. Daniels stated she was told the audit should be ready by next week and sent to the city’s auditors. Ms. Daniels stated they had new auditors last year and that was the reason for their being late. With all the problems from the past, Newport Utilities decided to get new auditors last year and that took a lot of time to go through. Ms. Daniels did state she likes the new auditors and did expect them to do better this year.

Consideration of Newport Utilities Letter of Credit from Smartbank. Newport Utilities requests to obtain a letter of credit from Smartbank in the amount of \$400,000 secured by a certificate of deposit, with the beneficiary of the letter of credit being the USDA. Newport Utilities General Manager Michael Williford will sign on behalf of Newport Utilities for the Letter of Credit.

**Motion was made by Alderman Smith and second by Alderwoman Ottinger, to approve the Letter of Credit from Smartbank for Newport Utilities. Newport Utilities requests to obtain a letter of credit from Smartbank in the amount of \$400,000 secured by a certificate of deposit, with the beneficiary of the letter of credit being the USDA. Newport Utilities General Manager Michael Williford will sign on behalf of Newport Utilities for the Letter of Credit.**

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

**Parking Lot Agreement Between the City of Newport and Outdoor Ambition, LLC Duncan & Greer Series**

Consideration of Parking Lot Agreement Between the City of Newport and Outdoor Ambition, LLC Duncan & Greer Series. Community Development Director Gary Carver stated this was for a dumpster that will be closed in.

**Motion was made by Vice Mayor Ball and second by Alderman Ragan,** to approve Parking Lot Agreement Between the City of Newport and Outdoor Ambition, LLC Duncan & Greer Series.

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

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2023-17 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar School**

Consideration of 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2023-17 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar School.

**Motion was made by Alderman Ragan and second by Alderwoman Ottinger,** to approve 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2023-17 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar School.

**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

RET