

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN  
CITY OF NEWPORT, TENNESSEE  
REGULAR SESSION  
DECEMBER 14, 2021**

**Public Hearing**

Mayor Roland Dykes, III opened the public hearing for 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2021-09 Adopting an Unclaimed Property Policy. There was no one to comment.

Discussion of 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2021-10 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport. There was no one to comment.

Discussion of 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2021-11 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar School. There was no one to comment.

Mayor Dykes closed the public hearing.

**December 14, 2021**

The City of Newport Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in the Newport City Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. in Regular Session.

Chief of Police Maurice Shults led the invocation. Alderman 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 Mike Proffitt, Alderman Mike Hansel, Alderman Bobby Knight, Alderwoman Louanna Ottinger, Alderman Steve Smith, City Attorney Terry Hurst, and City Administrator James Finchum.

Mayor Dykes declared a Quorum.

**Minutes**

**November 9, 2021 Regular Session**

**Motion by Alderwoman Ottinger and second by Vice Mayor Proffitt**, for minutes of the November 9, 2021 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**

Community Development Director Gary Carver presented Mayor Roland Dykes, II with House of Representatives Congressional Record honoring the life and service.

**Communications from the City Administrator**

City Administrator James Finchum reported the Covid started to see a surge in the community. But there have been no employees at present that have Covid.

Mr. Finchum presented Sara Johnson and Danny Buckner with a certificate of appreciation for their dedication and hard work on the City of Newport Christmas parade.

**Old Business**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2021-09 Adopting an Unclaimed Property Policy**

Consideration of 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2021-09 Adopting an Unclaimed Property Policy.

**Motion was made Alderman Hansel by and second by Alderman Smith,** to approve 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2021-09 Adopting an Unclaimed Property Policy.

**Roll Call**

- Alderman Hansel      AYE
- Alderman Knight      AYE
- Alderwoman Ottinger AYE
- Vice Mayor Proffitt   AYE
- Alderman Smith      AYE

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

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2021-10 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport**

Consideration of 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2021-10 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport.

**Motion was made Alderman Smith by and second by Alderwoman Ottinger,** to approve 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2021-10 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport.

**Roll Call**

- Alderman Hansel      AYE
- Alderman Knight      AYE
- Alderwoman Ottinger AYE
- Vice Mayor Proffitt   AYE
- Alderman Smith      AYE

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

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2021-11 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar School**

Consideration of 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2021-11 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar School.

**Motion was made Alderwoman Ottinger by and second by Vice Mayor Proffitt, to approve 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2021-11 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar School.**

**Roll Call**

Alderman Hansel AYE  
Alderman Knight AYE  
Alderwoman Ottinger AYE  
Vice Mayor Proffitt AYE  
Alderman Smith AYE

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

**New Business**

**Resolution #2021-14 Amending the Charter of the City of Newport, Tennessee to Revise and Improve the Fire Civil Service System**

Consideration of Resolution #2021-14 Amending the Charter of the City of Newport, Tennessee to Revise and Improve the Fire Civil Service System. This request was sent to MTAS to review. This will require a four-vote to approve then send to the General Assembly for approval then send back to City Council for a four-vote majority vote.

**Motion was made Vice Mayor Proffitt by and second by Alderman Smith, to approve Resolution #2021-14 Amending the Charter of the City of Newport, Tennessee to Revise and Improve the Fire Civil Service System.**

**Roll Call**

Alderman Hansel AYE  
Alderman Knight AYE  
Alderwoman Ottinger AYE  
Vice Mayor Proffitt AYE  
Alderman Smith AYE

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

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2021-12 Zoning for Property on West Highway 25/70**

Consideration of 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2021-12 Zoning for Property on West Highway 25/70. This property will be zoned as C-2 commercial.

**Motion was made Alderman Smith by and second by Alderwoman Ottinger, to approve 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2021-12 Zoning for Property on West Highway 25/70.**

**Roll Call**

Alderman Hansel     AYE  
Alderman Knight     AYE  
Alderwoman Ottinger AYE  
Vice Mayor Proffitt  AYE  
Alderman Smith     AYE

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

**Resolution # 2021-13 Street Closure and Quitclaim on Sanford Street**

Consideration of Resolution # 2021-13 Street Closure and Quitclaim on Sanford Street.

**Motion was made Vice Mayor Proffitt by and second by Alderman Smith, to approve Resolution # 2021-13 Street Closure and Quitclaim on Sanford Street.**

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

**Authorization Newport Utilities to Renew a Letter of Credit from Commercial Bank**

Consideration of Authorization Newport Utilities to Renew a Letter of Credit from Commercial Bank. Newport Utilities respectfully requests the Newport City Council to authorize NUB to renew a letter of credit from Commercial Bank in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 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 Vice Mayor Proffitt and second by Alderwoman Ottinger, to approve authorization to NUB to renew a letter of credit from Commercial Bank in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 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.**

**Amending the Newport Police Department General Orders**

Consideration of Amending the Newport Police Department General Orders to add Lost and Abandoned Property.

**Motion was made Alderwoman Ottinger by and second by Alderman Smith,** to approve Amending the Newport Police Department General Orders to add Lost and Abandoned Property.

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

**Bids, Purchases and Expenses**

**Mini-Pumper Truck for the Newport Fire Department**

Consideration of bids for a Mini-Pumper Truck for the Newport Fire Department. The only bid was a state bid from Rosenbauer American, LLC in the amount of \$265,427 for a mini-pumper truck.

**Motion was made Alderman Hansel by and second by Vice Mayor Proffitt,** to approve the bid from Rosenbauer American, LLC in the amount of \$265,427 for a mini-pumper truck.

**Roll Call**

Alderman Hansel	AYE
Alderman Knight	AYE
Alderwoman Ottinger	AYE
Vice Mayor Proffitt	AYE
Alderman Smith	AYE

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

**Comments from Citizens**

Rocky Gentry thanked Sara Johnson for her help at the Christmas parade. She helped him with the livestream of the parade.

Katie Gilbert approached the Board requesting her husband, Justin Gilbert, to be reinstated at his previous seniority and rank as captain. Mr. Gilbert resigned from the Newport Fire Department September 17, 2021. City Attorney Terry Hurst stated his legal opinion was because Mr. Gilbert resigned the City Council has no authority whatsoever. Ms. Gilbert gave the City Council a packet.

Rebeca Willman asked that Cope Blvd. be striped due to its hard to see after dark. Mr. Finchum stated there is a storage of white paint due to the pandemic. The city is behind on the street striping because of the shortage.

Mr. Finchum stated he would like to make things clear. At no point has any city employee ever told a citizen that they could not come to a City Council meeting. We have told people that they could not be put on the agenda. Only the Mayor or Alderman can put someone on the City Council agenda.

Katie Gilbert asked who do I speak to file a complaint. Mr. Hurst stated your next step is a court action.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board of Mayor & Alderman, **motion was made by Alderwoman Ottinger and second by Alderman Hansel** 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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