

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN
CITY OF NEWPORT, TENNESSEE
REGULAR SESSION
DECEMBER 8, 2015**

Public Hearing

Mayor Connie Ball opened the public hearing for discussion on Ordinance #2015-13 to Allow for the Partial Payment of Real Property Taxes for the City of Newport. There was no one to comment.

Mayor Ball closed the Public Hearing.

December 8, 2015

The City of Newport Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in the Newport City Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, December 8, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. in Regular Session.

Rev. Alvin Watts led the invocation. Patrol Officer Justin Johnson led the Pledge to the Flag.

The following officials were present: Mayor Connie Ball, Vice Mayor Mike Proffitt, Alderman Roger Gribble, Alderman Mike Hansel, Alderman Bobby Knight, City Administrator James Finchum, and City Attorney Terry Hurst.

The following officials were not present: Alderman Jeff Fancher.

Mayor Ball declared a Quorum.

Minutes

November 10, 2015 Regular Session

Alderman Gribble stated he would like a correction in the amended October 6, 2015 minutes. Mr. Gribble stated he voted "No" for the 1st Reading of Ordinance 2015- 11 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport.

Motion by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Knight for minutes of the November 10, 2015 Regular Session to be approved as submitted.

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

Communications from the City Administrator

City Administrator James Finchum reported on the 3rd Annual Small Town Christmas Celebration. Mr. Finchum stated there was a low turnout due to the many events going on

throughout the county. At the First Baptist Church, there was an estimated 50 plus people which was probably because the program was televised on Charter. The City Hall had Santa for the kids. This event started well but we closed it down early due to the lack of people. The staff will look at this event next year to determine what we can do differently. Mayor Ball wanted to thank Rusty Wallace Ford for sponsoring this event along with the City of Newport.

Mr. Finchum stated that there has been several people look at the different properties for sell but there has been no movement.

Mr. Finchum stated there is a meeting scheduled for Thursday, December 10th for discussion of repairing the Memorial Building. They're proposing to let the local veterans services come together to help repair the building so it wouldn't be just the American Legion. Alderman Gribble asked "after the property owners are advised to clean up, how long before the buildings are demolished." Buildings & Codes Director Mark Robinson replied "after a citation is served on the property owner, they have 30 days."

Old Business

2nd Reading of Ordinance #2015-13 to Allow for the Partial Payments of Real Property Taxes for the City of Newport

Consideration of 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2015-13 to Allow for the Partial Payments of Real Property Taxes for the City of Newport.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Proffitt and second by Alderman Knight to approve the 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2015-13 to Allow for the Partial Payments of Real Property Taxes for the City of Newport.

Roll Call

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|---------------------|-----|
| Alderman Gribble | AYE |
| Alderman Hansel | AYE |
| Alderman Knight | AYE |
| Vice Mayor Proffitt | AYE |

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

New Business

1st Reading of Ordinance #2015-14 to Amend the Zoning Regulations of the City of Newport to Add Wireless Telecommunications Towers and Antenna Restrictions

Consideration of 1st Reading of Ordinance #2015-14 to Amend the Zoning Regulations of the City of Newport to Add Wireless Telecommunications Towers and Antenna Restrictions.

Motion was made by Alderman Knight and second by Alderman Gribble to approve the 1st Reading of Ordinance #2015-14 to Amend the Zoning Regulations of the City of Newport to Add Wireless Telecommunications Towers and Antenna Restrictions.

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

1st Reading of Ordinance #2015-15 to Amend the Zoning Regulations Allowing Bed & Breakfast Inns in the R-1 Low Density District Residential District by Adding to Chapter 6, Section 601

Consideration of 1st Reading of Ordinance #2015-15 Amend the Zoning Regulations Allowing Bed & Breakfast Inns in the R-1 Low Density District Residential District by Adding to Chapter 6, Section 601. Mr. Robinson explained R-1 is residential area. Before a bed and breakfast can come into a residential area they have to come before the Planning Commission for approval.

Motion was made by Alderman Knight and second by Alderman Hansel to approve the 1st Reading of Ordinance #2015-15 Amend the Zoning Regulations Allowing Bed & Breakfast Inns in the R-1 Low Density District Residential District by Adding to Chapter 6, Section 601.

Roll Call

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Alderman Gribble | NAY |
| Alderman Hansel | AYE |
| Alderman Knight | AYE |
| Vice Mayor Proffitt | AYE |

Vote 3-1. - Mayor Ball declared the motion passed and approved.

Farmer's Market Grant

Consideration of approval of request to apply for the Farmers Market Grant for Fiscal Year 2016 not to exceed \$1,000. This is a 100% grant.

Motion was made by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Gribble to approve the request to apply for the Farmers Market Grant for Fiscal Year 2016 not to exceed \$1,000.

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

Ratification of Newport Utilities Resolution for Authorizing Application for Rural Economic Development Loan

Consideration of Ratification of Newport Utilities Resolution for Authorizing Application for Rural Economic Development Loan.

Motion was made by Alderman Gribble and second by Vice Mayor Proffitt to approve Ratification of Newport Utilities Resolution for Authorizing Application for Rural Economic Development Loan.

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

Citizens Comments

Fire Chief Randy Ragan reported Toys for Tots will be December 19th at noon at the fire hall. Chief Ragan invited the Board to attend.

Carlene Robinson invited the Board to a law enforcement appreciation luncheon on December 17th sponsored by the Cocke County Senior Service.

Frank Wilhelm asked the Board to waive his penalties, interest and court cost for his personal property taxes from 2006. Mr. Wilhelm stated he had made an arrangement with former Mayor Jeannie Wilson to have the penalties and interest waived. Mr. Hurst stated there was no court order to approve waiving anything. Mr. Wilhelm stated he had the money to pay the taxes but he didn't feel he should pay the penalties, interest and court cost. Finance Director Tina Matthews stated you could have paid your 2009 personal property taxes and came back to the Board to ask for the penalties and interest to be waived to stop this before it went this far. After much discussion on this matter, the Board asked to bring this back to January's meeting with the exact figures that Mr. Wilhelm owes and to give him an extension on his deadline to pay.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board of Mayor & Alderman, **a motion was made by Vice Mayor Proffitt and second by Alderman Knight** to adjourn.

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

Mayor Connie Ball

James Finchum, City Administrator

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