

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN
CITY OF NEWPORT, TENNESSEE
REGULAR SESSION
FEBRUARY 10, 2015**

February 10, 2015

The City of Newport Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in the Newport City Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, February 10, 2015 at 5:45 p.m. in Regular Session.

Rev. Alvin Watts led the invocation. Alderman Mike Hansel led the Pledge to the Flag.

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

Mayor Ball declared a Quorum.

Minutes

January 13, 2015 Regular Session

Motion by Alderman Gribble and second by Alderman Hansel for minutes of the January 13, 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 the annual inspection from TML with Loss Control Consultant Judy Housley who gave a clean bill for the City with no recommendations for the first time ever.

The farmer's market grant has been approved for the contract amount of \$1,000. This grant is 100% and will help with advertisement for the farmer's market.

Mr. Finchum reported the audit report was ready from the auditors. Finance Director Tina Matthews will be handing out the reports after the meeting. Mr. Finchum asked the Board when they would like to met with Frank McDaniels to discuss the audit. After much discussion it was agreed to have a workshop.

Mr. Finchum reported the Legislative Breakfast on March 6th and the Education Foundation Banquet on March 12th both at the Carson Springs Conference Center if any of the Board was interested in attending.

Mayor Ball presented Mr. Finchum with a safety certificate of recognition for accident free for City Hall for 2014. This is the 4th year the City Hall has received this recognition.

Appointment of Boards, Commissions, and Committees

Consideration of appointment for the Beer Board – Denis Thornton appointment.

Motion by Vice Mayor Proffitt and second by Alderman Knight to reappoint Denis Thornton to the Beer Board.

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

Bobby Knight has agreed to serve on the Planning Commission which will replace former Alderman John Bugg.

Motion by Alderman Gribble and second by Alderman Fancher to appoint Alderman Bobby Knight to the Planning Commission.

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

Mayor Ball reported he has temporarily filled his appointment to the Planning Commission with Randall Freeman due to his lack of attending the meetings. This will only be a couple of months then Mayor Ball will fill his appointment.

Consideration of appointment replacing Randy Cagle to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board has recommended Chuck Strange for this appointment.

Motion by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Fancher to appoint Chuck Strange to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board.

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

Alderman Mike Proffitt has turned in his resignation letter from the Newport Utilities Board to Mayor Ball. This will leave 2 appointments open for the Newport Utilities Board (Alderman Proffitt and Jason Ramsey). These 2 appointments will be to serve the 6 year term remaining from Alderman Proffitt and Jason Ramsey who has resigned. Mr. Hurst stated Alderman Gribble and Alderman Fancher were appointed in January and will serve their full term.

Nominations for Jason Ramsey’s term to be voted on were as follows: Alderman Proffitt nominated Dianne Stokely seconded by Alderman Gribble. Alderman Knight nominated Roland Dykes III. Alderman Fancher nominated Claude Gatlin. **Motion by Alderman Gribble and second by Alderman Hansel to stop nominations.**

Roll Call for Dianne Stokely

Alderman Fancher	AYE
Alderman Gribble	AYE
Alderman Hansel	AYE

Alderman Knight AYE
Vice Mayor Proffitt AYE

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

Nominations for Alderman Proffitt’s term to be voted on were as follows: Alderman Knight nominated Roland Dykes III. Alderman Fancher nominated Claude Gatlin. **Motion by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Knight to stop nominations.**

Roll Call for Roland Dykes III

Alderman Fancher NAY
Alderman Gribble NAY
Alderman Hansel AYE
Alderman Knight AYE
Vice Mayor Proffitt AYE

Vote was 3-2. Mayor Ball declared the motion passed and approved.

Reports from Committees, Members of Council, & Other Officers

Cathy Moscato with the Tanner Preservation Alliance gave a report.

Old Business

New Business

Charter Changes Resolution #2015-04

Consideration of approval of Resolution #2015-04 Charter changes as follows:

- a) Replace Section 10. City Administrator, paragraph 1:”within 90 days after reporting for work, the City Administrator must become a resident of the City of Newport.” Replace with “City Administrator must reside within Cocke County within 90 days of his/her appointment.” After much discussion **motion was made by Vice Mayor Proffitt and second by Alderman Hansel** to approve the request to replace with “City Administrator must reside within Cocke County within 90 days of his/her appointment.”

Roll Call

Alderman Fancher AYE
Alderman Gribble AYE
Alderman Hansel AYE
Alderman Knight AYE
Vice Mayor Proffitt AYE

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

- b) Remove Section 18. Newport Utilities Board, paragraph 3: The treasurer of the City of Newport shall act as treasurer of the Newport Utilities Board in an ex officio capacity and shall not have a vote. Alderman Gribble suggested removing Section 11 City Recorder as well. City Attorney Hurst advised the City has always had a City Recorder/Finance Director. Mr. Finchum stated we use both job titles together. After much discussion **motion was made by Alderman Fancher and second by Vice Mayor Proffitt** to approve the request to remove Section 18. Newport Utilities Board, paragraph 3: The treasurer of the City of Newport shall act as treasurer of the Newport Utilities Board in an ex officio capacity and shall not have a vote.

Roll Call

Alderman Fancher	AYE
Alderman Gribble	NAY
Alderman Hansel	AYE
Alderman Knight	AYE
Vice Mayor Proffitt	AYE

Vote was 4-1. Mayor Ball declared the motion passed and approved.

- c) Add Elected officials take office 10 days after the election. City Attorney Hurst stated the Election Commission certifies the elected officials 3 weeks after the election. The elected officials could only take office for a minimum of 3 weeks after the election instead of 10 days. Mr. Hurst suggested the first Monday of December after the election. After much discussion **motion was made by Alderman Gribble and second by Vice Mayor Proffitt** to approve the request to add elected officials take office the first Monday in December after the election.

Roll Call

Alderman Fancher	AYE
Alderman Gribble	AYE
Alderman Hansel	AYE
Alderman Knight	AYE
Vice Mayor Proffitt	AYE

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

- d) Add Powers and Duties of the Vice Mayor. Mr. Hurst suggested “The position of vice mayor shall be the alderman receiving the most votes in the general election. The vice mayor shall chair all meetings of the board of mayor and aldermen in the absence of the mayor. The vice mayor shall temporarily assume the duties of the mayor during any short term absences due to incapacitation.” After much discussion **motion was made by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Knight** to approve the request to add Powers and Duties of the Vice Mayor. The position of vice mayor shall be the alderman receiving the most votes in the general election. The vice mayor shall chair all meetings of the board of mayor and aldermen in the

absence of the mayor. The vice mayor shall temporarily assume the duties of the mayor during any short term absences due to incapacitation.

Roll Call

Alderman Fancher	AYE
Alderman Gribble	AYE
Alderman Hansel	AYE
Alderman Knight	AYE
Vice Mayor Proffitt	AYE

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

- e) Add Section 9. Duties of the Mayor: The Mayor shall not vote except to break a tie. After much discussion **motion was made by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Fancher** to approve the request to add to Section 9. Duties of the Mayor. The Mayor shall not vote except to break a tie.

Roll Call

Alderman Fancher	AYE
Alderman Gribble	AYE
Alderman Hansel	AYE
Alderman Knight	AYE
Vice Mayor Proffitt	AYE

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

- f) Replace Section 6. Qualifications of Mayor and Aldermen: “No person shall be eligible for the office of mayor and aldermen unless he is a citizen of the City of Newport as hereunder incorporated.” Replace with “unless he owns property and is register to vote in the City of Newport.” Mayor Ball stated he didn’t think this needed to be changed.

Mayor Ball declared this item dead for lack of motion.

Amending the Engineering Contract Between the City of Newport and Robert G. Campbell & Associates for the Park & Float Grant

Consideration of approval of amending the engineering contract between the City of Newport and Robert G. Campbell & Associates for the Park & Float Grant.

Motion was made by Alderman Fancher and second by Alderman Hansel to approve the request of amending the engineering contract between the City of Newport and Robert G. Campbell & Associates for the Park & Float Grant.

Roll Call

Alderman Fancher	AYE
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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.

Community Center Dehumidifier Repairs

Consideration of approval of the Community Center dehumidifier repairs. Parks & Recreation Director Tim Dockery explained the repairs to the Board for a total cost of \$18,900 which will include the replacements of evaporator coils, replacement of (3) valves, replacement of fan bearings, and (200) pounds of Freon.

Motion was made by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Knight to approve the Community Center dehumidifier repairs for a total cost of \$18,900. This will require a budget amendment at a later date.

Roll Call

Alderman Fancher	AYE
Alderman Gribble	AYE
Alderman Hansel	AYE
Alderman Knight	AYE
Vice Mayor Proffitt	AYE

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

Extended Medical Leave for a City Employee

Consideration of extended medical leave for a City employee. Special leave without pay may be granted for a period not to exceed 90 days for temporary sickness or disability.

Motion was made by Alderman Fancher and second by Vice Mayor Proffitt to approve the extended medical to be granted for a period not to exceed 90 days for temporary sickness.

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

Donation to Cocke County High School Baseball Team

Consideration of request of donation to Cocke County High School Baseball Team.

Motion was made by Alderman Fancher and second by Alderman Gribble to approve the request of donation to Cocke County High School Baseball Team in the amount of \$50 from each Board member from their public relations account for a total amount of \$300.

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

CGI Communication Showcase Video Program

Consideration of CGI Communication Showcase video program follow up. Mayor Ball stated this company will do a community showcase video at cost free to the City. The company receives money by getting sponsors for this video. Alderman Fancher asked if the City could get a percentage of the money this company will make from the sponsorship. Mayor Ball stated he would ask.

Motion was made by Alderman Knight and second by Alderman Hansel to approve the request of CGI Communication Showcase video program follow up.

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

Citizens Comments

Mayor Ball stated TDOT will conduct a red light study on the Cosby Highway.

Alderman Fancher asked who would replace Fire Chief Randy Ragan if something was to happen to him. Fire Chief Ragan responded Assistant Mark Ramsey. Alderman Fancher asked the same question to Police Chief Maurice Shults with a response of Steve Hudson. Alderman Fancher asked if Finance Director Tina Matthews was state certified yet. Mr. Finchum stated Ms. Matthews was certified at the end of December 2014.

Carlene Robinson asked if the Board would donate money for an ad to the Senior Citizens for their information booklet. The Board agreed to donate \$50 each.

Claude Gatlin told the Board he had spoke with taxpaying citizen and they do not want charter changes. Mr. Gatlin suggested holding off on the Charter changes until all changes can be made.

Preston Brooks spoke of tourism in Cocke County to the Board. Mr. Brooks stated this community has a lot to offer.

Adjournment

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

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

Mayor Connie Ball

James Finchum, City Administrator

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