

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN  
CITY OF NEWPORT, TENNESSEE  
REGULAR SESSION  
FEBRUARY 11, 2014**

**Public Hearing**

Mayor Connie Ball opened the public hearing for discussion on Resolution #2014-03 Acquisition and Renovation of Suncrest Apartments. Reginald Staples, Jr. with Peck Shaffer reported \$1.3 million to be spent in Newport. The City of Newport is not obligated to pay any of the money for this project. Carline Robinson commented Suncrest apartments are not senior friendly. Ms. Robinson stated she would like to see the money spent for senior housing.

Mayor Ball closed the Public Hearing.

**February 11, 2014**

The City of Newport Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in the Newport City Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, February 11, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. in Regular Session.

Rev. Alvin Watts led the invocation. Alderman Freddie Gregg led the Pledge to the Flag.

The following officials were present: Mayor Connie Ball, Vice Mayor Bill Costner, Alderman John Bugg, Alderman Freddie Gregg, Alderwoman Kathy Holt, Alderman Kenny Morgan, City Attorney Terry Hurst, and City Administrator James Finchum.

Mayor Ball declared a Quorum.

**Minutes**

**January 14, 2014 Regular Session**

**Motion by Alderwoman Holt and second by Alderman Bugg** for minutes of the January 14, 2014 Regular Session to be approved as submitted.

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

**Proclamations and or Recognition of Citizens by the Mayor**

Mayor Ball gave his deepest sympathy to City Attorney Hurst and his family for the loss of his father Harold Hurst.

Mayor Ball presented a plaque to the Hood family in honor of the late Dr. Carol Hood for her services with the Newport Animal Shelter. Mayor Ball stated, “this means so much to me. Carol was the most loving person I have ever met. Carol will be missed and we are thankful for all she did.”

**Motion by Alderman Gregg and second by Alderman Bugg** to suspend the rules to add to the agenda to change the name of the Newport Animal Shelter to “Dr. Carol Hood Memorial Animal Shelter.”

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

Mayor Ball asked for a moment of silence.

Mayor Ball presented the following departments with accident free certificates: Street Department, City Administration, and Parks & Recreation.

### **Communications from the City Administrator**

City Administrator James Finchum reported an appointment for the Newport Utilities will be up April 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Finchum asked for a time line for applications and a workshop to interview. The Board agreed to a workshop on March 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. to interview and the deadline for applications February 28<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Finchum asked for permission to advertise for bids on equipment for the used oil collection grant for the amount of \$5,300.

**Motion by Alderman Morgan and second by Alderman Gregg** to give permission to take bids for permission to advertise for bids on equipment for the used oil collection grant for the amount of \$5,300.

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

Mr. Finchum announced the annual Rural Development Conference will be April 28 & 29 in Murfreesboro. Mr. Finchum reported of a meeting with E-911 to renegotiate the operating contract. The current contract was established July 2004. The City has been preparing for the upcoming snow. The City is low of salt but trying to purchase salt for a month. David Hill of the Street Department turned in his 2 week notice to retire on February 25. The City Hall will be open an extra day, Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, for the collection of property tax.

City Attorney Hurst reported the annexation lawsuit will have a hearing July 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Appointment of Boards, Commissions, and Committees**

Consideration of reappointing Dennis Thornton to the Beer Board.

**Motion by Alderman Morgan and second by Alderwoman Holt** to reappoint Dennis Thornton to the Beer Board.

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

**Reports from Committees, Members of Council, & Other Officers**

**Old Business**

**New Business**

**Resolution #2014-03 Acquisition and Renovation of Suncrest Apartments**

Consideration of approval of Resolution #2014-03 Acquisition and Renovation of Suncrest Apartments.

**Motion was made by Alderman Morgan and second by Vice Mayor Costner to approve Resolution #2014-03 Acquisition and Renovation of Suncrest Apartments.**

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

**Memorandum of Agreement Between the City of Newport and Newport Utilities for CDBG**

Consideration of approval of Memorandum of Agreement Between the City of Newport and Newport Utilities for CDBG project.

**Motion was made by Alderman Morgan and second by Alderman Gregg to approve the Memorandum of Agreement Between the City of Newport and Newport Utilities for CDBG project.**

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

**Consent Agenda**

Consideration of approval of the Consent agenda for the following:

- a) Roadblock - Guiding Light Ministries of East Tennessee – 3/8/2014
- b) Roadblock – Cosby Volunteer Fire Department – 4/12/2014

**Motion was made by Alderman Gregg and second by Alderwoman Holt to approve the Consent Agenda.**

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

## **Bids, Purchases, and Expenses**

### **Citizens Comments**

Carlene Robinson stated ETHRA has 4 new vans. Ms. Robinson asked if ETHRA could use City property for parking in the grass and also donate rocks to be added for parking. Parks & Recreation Director Tim Dockery stated that property was purchased through RTP program and he didn't know if this property could be used for parking. Mr. Dockery stated he would look in on this request. Ms. Robinson stated they would have to park in the streets due to lack of parking.

Geraldine Ridens asked Council for consideration of changing the City of Newport to Rocky Top, Tennessee. Ms. Ridens stated it would be tourism money for Newport. Ms. Ridens stated Lake City was working on the name change and she asked if there was something City Attorney Hurst could do to stop the March 1<sup>st</sup> vote. Mr. Hurst told of the progress to do the name change. Mr. Hurst stated there's nothing he could do to stop Lake City. This is something your local State Representative can do.

### **Adjournment**

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

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

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Mayor Connie Ball

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James Finchum, City Administrator

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