

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN
CITY OF NEWPORT, TENNESSEE
REGULAR SESSION
FEBRUARY 14, 2017**

February 14, 2017

The City of Newport Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in the Newport City Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, February 14, 2017 at 5:45 p.m. in Regular Session.

Rev. Alvin Watts led the invocation. Vice Mayor Mike Proffitt 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 10, 2017 Regular Session

Motion by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Fancher for minutes of the January 10, 2017 Regular Session to be approved as submitted.

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

Proclamations and/or Recognitions of Citizens by the Mayor

Vice Mayor Proffitt presented Cocke County High School senior Austin Crum with a certificate of recognition for his music achievements.

Communications from the City Administrator

City Administrator James Finchum reported the City will start taking applications for the local business grant in March. This grant is for local business to improve the outside of their buildings. This is a 50/50 matching grant with a max reimbursement up to \$1,000 to any local business that meets the requirements.

Mr. Finchum stated there will be a budget workshop in April. The departments have been working with Finance Director Tina Matthews on their budgets.

Planning Director Gary Carver reported there is a recreation grant available for cities & county's that is an 80/20 match up to \$60,000. Mr. Carver will attend a meeting to get information on this grant.

Appointment of Boards, Commission & Committees

Consideration of appointment for the Beer Board for Dennis Thornton's appointment.

Motion by Alderman Hansel and second by Vice Mayor Proffitt to reappoint Dennis Thornton to the Beer Board. Alderman Gribble voted Nay.

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

Reports from Committees, Members of Council & Other Officers

Roland Dykes III of the Tanner Preservation Alliance gave a report to City Council.

New Business

1st Reading of Ordinance #2017-01 Amending the City of Newport Municipal Code Title 12 Building, Utility, Etc. Codes, Chapter 2 Plumbing Code and Adopting the 2012 International Plumbing Code

Consideration of 1st Reading of Ordinance #2017-01 Amending the City of Newport Municipal Code Title 12 Building, Utility, Etc. Codes, Chapter 2 Plumbing Code and Adopting the 2012 International Plumbing Code.

Motion was made by Alderman Gribble and second by Alderman Knight to approve 1st Reading of Ordinance #2017-01 Amending the City of Newport Municipal Code Title 12 Building, Utility, Etc. Codes, Chapter 2 Plumbing Code and Adopting the 2012 International Plumbing Code.

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

1st Reading of Ordinance #2017-02 Amending the City of Newport Municipal Code Title 12 Building, Utility, Etc. Codes, Chapter 9 Mechanical Code and Adopting the 2012 International Mechanical Code

Consideration of 1st Reading of Ordinance #2017-02 Amending the City of Newport Municipal Code Title 12 Building, Utility, Etc. Codes, Chapter 9 Mechanical Code and Adopting the 2012 International Mechanical Code.

Motion was made by Alderman Gribble and second by Alderman Knight to approve 1st Reading of Ordinance #2017-02 Amending the City of Newport Municipal Code Title 12 Building, Utility, Etc. Codes, Chapter 9 Mechanical Code and Adopting the 2012 International Mechanical Code.

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

Resolution #2017-02 Authorizing the City of Newport to Apply for the Tennessee Housing Development Agency Home Investment Partnership Grant Program

Consideration of Resolution #2017-02 Authorizing the City of Newport to Apply for the Tennessee Housing Development Agency Home Investment Partnership Grant Program. This is a 100% grant up to \$500,000.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Proffit and second by Alderman Knight to approve Resolution #2017-02 Authorizing the City of Newport to Apply for the Tennessee Housing Development Agency Home Investment Partnership Grant Program.

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

Resolution #2017-03 Initial Resolution for the Electric System Revenue Bonds of the City of Newport, Tennessee

Consideration of Resolution #2017-03 Initial Resolution for the Electric System Revenue Bonds of the City of Newport, Tennessee.

Motion was made by Alderman Gribble and second by Alderman Fancher to approve Resolution #2017-03 Initial Resolution for the Electric System Revenue Bonds of the City of Newport, Tennessee.

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

Resolution #2017-04 Electric Revenue Bond Anticipation Note for the Electric System BAN's for the City of Newport, Tennessee

Consideration of Resolution #2017-04 Electric Revenue Bond Anticipation Note for the Electric System BAN's for the City of Newport, Tennessee.

Motion was made by Alderman Gribble and second by Alderman Fancher to approve Resolution #2017-04 Electric Revenue Bond Anticipation Note for the Electric System BAN's for the City of Newport, Tennessee.

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

TDOT Grant for Traffic Lights

Consideration of TDOT Grant for Traffic Lights. Planning Director Gary Carver stated this is a federal funded 100% grant for the safety at the railroad crossings. Mr. Carver stated the grant would have to be paid up front and be reimbursed by TDOT. This will be for signal lights

and signage. The recommended amount for a budget amendment would be \$10,000 to \$25,000 to begin the project.

Motion was made by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Knight to approve the TDOT Grant for Traffic Lights in the amount of \$10,000 to \$25,000 to begin the project. Alderman Gribble voted Nay.

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

Eva Babb Sexton Beautification Award

Discussion of the Eva Babb Sexton Beautification Award. Mr. Fincum stated the City would like to partnership with Keep Cocke County Beautiful for an award for the improvement and beautification of run down property and bring them back to life. This award could be for a business or residential property. Ms. Eva Babb Sexton spent her lifetime dedicated to the beautification of our town.

Motion was made by Alderman Knight and second by Alderman Fancher to approve the Eva Babb Sexton Beautification Award.

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

Newport Grammar School Roof

Discussion of the Newport Grammar School Roof. Newport Grammar School Principal Sandy Burchette presented the Board with a packet to ask for the City to help with funding the roof at Newport Grammar School. The school has \$100,000 for the roof but they need an additional \$130,000 to replace the roof. Ms. Burchette is asking for a memorandum of understanding for the additional money needed from the City.

Motion was made by Alderman Fancher and second by Alderman Gribble to approve a memorandum of understating for the Newport Grammar School roof in the amount of \$130,000.

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.

Nepotism Policy for the City of Newport

Alderman Hansel asked the Board to consider a nepotism policy. Alderman Hansel stated that without a nepotism policy, it could be perceived as an ethical problem and bad morale for employees. Alderman Hansel stated that most city's have a nepotism policy. After much discussion, the Board agreed to move forward and to form a committee to research a nepotism policy for the City of Newport.

Discussion of the Animal Shelter

Alderman Fancher stated he didn't want the City to be in the animal shelter business but to be in animal control business. Alderman Fancher stated he didn't want to put any more money in the shelter. Alderman Fancher stated he was going to get a meeting with the county mayor for the county to get on board and to help with the animal shelter. Mr. Finchum stated the friends are no longer doing the rolling rescue. Shelter Director Lisa Layman is working on getting their own rolling rescue but they will pick up the animals instead of being delivered to save money. Ms. Layman said they are working hard on adoptions.

Discussion of Audit 2017

Alderman Gribble stated he would like to bid out the audit for 2017.

Motion was made by Alderman Gribble to bid out the audit for 2017. Motion died for lack of second.

No action was taken.

Discussion of Lowering Property Tax

Motion was made by Alderman Gribble to lower the property tax by fifty nine cents. Motion died for lack of second.

Mayor Ball stated he thinks this should be looked at during the budget workshop before the tax cut is discussed.

No action was taken.

Adjournment

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

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

Mayor Connie Ball

James Finchum, City Administrator

RET