

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN  
CITY OF NEWPORT, TENNESSEE  
REGULAR SESSION  
FEBRUARY 14, 2023**

**February 14, 2023**

The City of Newport Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in the Newport City Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in Regular Session.

Rev. Alvin Watts led the invocation. Alderman Mike 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 Connie Ball, Alderman Mike Hansel, Alderman Randy Ragan, and City Administrator James Finchum.

The following officials were not present: Alderwoman Louanna Ottinger, Alderman Steve Smith and City Attorney Terry Hurst.

Mayor Dykes declared a Quorum.

**Minutes**

**January 10, 2023 Regular Session**

**Motion by Vice Mayor Ball and second by Alderman Ragan**, for minutes of the January 10, 2023 Regular Session to be approved as submitted.

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

**Communications from the City Administrator**

City Administrator James Finchum gave a report on the safety issues at Cope Blvd. There is a 90 degree curve to the left that has several accidents. Mr. Finchum has issued work orders for more signage, reflectors, and sent a letter to Newport Utilities asking for a street light to be installed.

In recent weeks, there have been several storms come through that have caused storm damage to the traffic light at Lowes. The city had to do emergency work order to repair the traffic light.

There has been an unnamed alley discovered in the city between Walnut and Clifton Heights. This alley has been maintained by the city for years. Mr. Finchum stated this alley needs a name and he will add this to the March agenda for the City Council to vote on.

The shootout in Northport last month caused damage to Rocky Top Graphix. The bullets hit the window and hit a sign that was in the building. The insurance has denied the claim stating they do not pay for stray bullets. The city will be responsible for the damage, waiting for an estimate.

Animal Control has had a benefactor, Kathleen Ann Mulvey, to leave monies to build a new building. Both the city and the county will receive a total of two million dollars in the next ten years. Mr. Finchum stated he was very appreciative of Ms. Mulvey and wants to put her name on the new facility.

Fire Chief Jeremy Shelton reported on grants received for the Fire Department. The Forestry grant in the amount of \$20,000 and CDBG for swift water in the amount of \$206,000.

### **New Business**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2023-01 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport**

Consideration of 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2023-01 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport.

**Motion was made by Alderman Hansel and second by Vice Mayor Ball, to approve 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2023-01 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport.**

#### **Roll Call**

Alderman Hansel	AYE
Alderman Ragan	AYE
Vice Mayor Ball	AYE

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

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2023-02 Amending the City of Newport Municipal Code Title 4 Personnel Policy, Chapter 8 Miscellaneous Polices Adding Section 4-818 Occupational Safety and Health Program Plan**

Consideration of 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2023-02 Amending the City of Newport Municipal Code Title 4 Personnel Policy, Chapter 8 Miscellaneous Polices Adding Section 4-818 Occupational Safety and Health Program Plan.

**Motion was made by Alderman Ragan and second by Alderman Hansel, to approve 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2023-02 Amending the City of Newport Municipal Code Title 4 Personnel Policy, Chapter 8 Miscellaneous Polices Adding Section 4-818 Occupational Safety and Health Program Plan.**

**Roll Call**

Alderman Hansel     AYE  
Alderman Ragan     AYE  
Vice Mayor Ball     AYE

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

**Storm Drainage Study Indian Hills**

Community Development Director Gary Carver reported on a new preapplication ARC grant for streetscapes for downtown Newport in the amount of one million dollars.

Discussion of Storm Drainage Study Indian Hills. Mr. Carver gave a report on a storm water report that was conducted and completed on the Indian Hills neighborhood and the source of the erosion that can be seen through that neighborhood. It was completed in 2020 but shelved due to budget uncertainties at that time due to the pandemic.

After much discussion, the Board asked Mr. Carver to look further into this issue and do this project in phases in the next year’s budget if possible.

**There was no action taken.**

**Certificate of Compliance for Lex Wine & Spirits**

Consideration of Certificate of Compliance for Lex Wine & Spirits. The applicant was not able to attend the meeting due to illness. This will be tabled to the March meeting.

**There was no action taken.**

**Sale Agreement of River Front Lots**

Consideration of Sale Agreement of River Front Lots. Mr. Carver recommendation of this sale was to get more information and table to the March agenda.

**There was no action taken.**

**Bids**

**Turnout Gear for the Newport Fire Department**

Consideration of bids for Turnout Gear for the Newport Fire Department. Fire Chief Jeremy Shelton stated the Fire Department needs four sets to replace aging turnout gear. Each set cost \$3,021.85 for a total of \$12,087.40 from Sourcewell contract.

**Motion was made by Alderman Hansel and second by Vice Mayor Ball, to approve the state bid from Sourcewell for four sets of turnout gear in the total amount of \$12,087.40.**

**Roll Call**

Alderman Hansel     AYE  
Alderman Ragan     AYE  
Vice Mayor Ball     AYE

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

**Hurst Extrication Equipment for the Newport Fire Department**

Consideration of bids for Hurst Extrication Equipment for the new truck for the Newport Fire Department. Hurst Extrication Equipment, also known as Jaws of Life, for the total amount of \$32,906 from Sourcewell contract.

**Motion was made by Vice Mayor Ball and second by Alderman Ragan,** to approve the state bid from Sourcewell for Hurst Extrication Equipment for the Newport Fire Department in the total amount of \$32,906.

**Roll Call**

Alderman Hansel     AYE  
Alderman Ragan     AYE  
Vice Mayor Ball     AYE

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

**Citizens Comments**

Sharon Manning gave packets out to the Board on a half-way house that Newport Church of God has been fixing for twelve drug addicted men on Graham Street. Ms. Manning had a petition from the neighborhood residents that are against this rehab house. Ms. Manning stated there was another rehab house like this one behind CVS. Mr. Finchum stated the city wasn't aware of this issue until Ms. Manning came to tell him. This is not allowed in a residential zoned area. Mr. Finchum stated he had spoken to members of the church on this issue, and they have halted this project. They will continue to do construction on the house for members of the church that may need it. As far as the building behind CVS, this is in a commercial zoned area but will need to be sprinkled and meet all guidelines with a certificate of occupancy.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board of Mayor & Alderman, **motion was made by Vice Mayor Ball and second by Alderman Ragan** 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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