

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN
CITY OF NEWPORT, TENNESSEE
REGULAR SESSION
FEBRUARY 16, 2016**

February 16, 2016

The City of Newport Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in the Newport City Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. in Regular Session.

Rev. Alvin Watts led the invocation. Chief of Police Maurice Shults 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 12, 2016 Regular Session

Motion by Alderman Gribble and second by Vice Mayor Proffitt for minutes of the January 12, 2016 Regular Session to be approved as submitted.

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

Recognition from Mayor Ball

Mayor Ball handed out awards to the following departments for having an accident free year for 2015: Newport Grammar School, Newport Animal Shelter, City Administration, and Parks & Recreation.

Communications from the City Administrator

City Administrator James Finchum reported the City Hall would need a roof soon. The City Hall roof has been leaking and is getting worse. There have been many repairs. Mr. Finchum is asking the Board for permission to add a new roof for the City Hall to next year's budget and start with the bidding process so that when the budget is passed the new roof can be installed.

Motion by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Fancher to approve the request from City Administrator Finchum to add a new roof to next year's budget for the City Hall.

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

Mr. Finchum announced the City Hall will extend business hours on Saturday, February 27, 2016 from 8:30 a.m. to noon for the residents to pay property taxes. Finance Director Tina Matthews stated there have been around 40% of the taxes paid thus far.

Mr. Finchum stated a CLB member has approached him about considering the City donating the old fire truck to a county volunteer fire department. The value of the fire truck is around \$5,000. City Attorney Terry Hurst will research this request before bringing this to the Board for approval.

Mr. Finchum reported there will be another meeting on blighted property. Mr. Finchum stated the public hearings on blighted properties are required for grants. Planner Gary Carver gave dates to the Board. The date the Board agreed on is Monday, March 7, 2016 at 5:15 p.m.

Finance Director Tina Matthews informed the Board on the procedure on delinquent property taxes. All delinquent property taxes have to be paid prior to paying current taxes. The only exception will be if the delinquent taxes are under a court order of bankruptcy.

Vice Mayor Proffitt stated he has got positive feedback from the City departments through the snow storms. Vice Mayor Proffitt stated he appreciates the hard work that each department does.

Appointment of Boards, Commissions & Committees

Consideration of appointment for the Police Civil Service Board. Alderman Hansel nominated David Proffitt to fill this position with a second from Alderman Fancher.

Motion was made by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Knight to cease nominations.

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

Motion by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Knight to appoint David Proffitt to the Police Civil Service Board.

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

Mr. Finchum stated, "For the record this appointment is for to finish out Freddie Gregg's term." Mr. Gregg resigned from the Police Civil Service at the January meeting due to he moved out of the City. This is not a full term. This term will be up December 2017.

Consideration of appointment for the Beer Board. Vice Mayor Proffitt nominated Dennis Thornton to be reappointed with a second from Alderman Fancher.

Motion was made by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Fancher to cease nominations. Alderman Gribble abstained.

Mayor Ball declared the motion passed and approved.

Motion by Vice Mayor Proffitt and second by Alderman Fancher to reappoint Dennis Thornton to the Beer Board. Alderman Gribble abstained.

Mayor Ball declared the motion passed and approved.

New Business

1st Reading of Ordinance #2016-01 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport

Consideration of approval of 1st Reading of Ordinance #2016-01 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport.

Motion was made by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Fancher to approve the 1st Reading of Ordinance #2016-01 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport.

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

1st Reading of Ordinance #2016-02 Amending the Municipal Code Title 8 Alcoholic Beverages Adding Chapter 7 Wine Sales in Retail Stores

Consideration of approval of 1st Reading of Ordinance #2016-02 Amending the Municipal Code Title 8 Alcoholic Beverages Adding Chapter 7 Wine Sales in Retail Stores. City Attorney Hurst reported this ordinance mirrors the state law with a non-refundable application fee to the City in the amount of \$250.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Proffitt and second by Alderman Fancher to approve 1st Reading of Ordinance #2016-02 Amending the Municipal Code Title 8 Alcoholic Beverages Adding Chapter 7 Wine Sales in Retail Stores.

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.

Resolution # 2016-01 Supporting Governor Haslam's Insure Tennessee Plan

Consideration of approval of Resolution #2016-01 Supporting Governor Haslam's Insure Tennessee Plan.

Motion was made by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Fancher to approve Resolution #2016-01 Supporting Governor Haslam's Insure Tennessee Plan.

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

Resolution # 2016-02 Authorizing the City of Newport to Participate in the Pool's Conservation Matching Grant Program

Consideration of approval of Resolution #2016-02 Authorizing the City of Newport to Participate in the Pool's Conservation Matching Grant Program. Mr. Finchum reported this is a 50% match grant not to exceed \$2,000. This grant is for TML Pool members for property conservation.

Motion was made by Alderman Fancher and second by Alderman Knight to approve Resolution #2016-02 Authorizing the City of Newport to Participate in the Pool's Conservation Matching Grant Program not to exceed \$2,000.

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

Resolution #2016-03 Authorizing the City of Newport to Apply for the Community Development Block Grant

Consideration of approval of Resolution #2016-03 Authorizing the City of Newport to Apply for the Community Development Block Grant. Mr. Finchum explained this grant was for storm drainage. Mr. Finchum stated he recommended dropping this grant due to the high cost the City would need to pay on the matching grant. Mr. Finchum explained he feels like the City could address the storm drainage problems for less money than it would cost to take this grant with the matching. This grant was for a maximum of \$300,000.

No Action Was Taken.

Resolution #2016-04 Administration Services for the Community Development Block Grant

No Action Was Taken.

Resolution #2016-05 Engineering Services for the Community Development Block Grant

No Action Was Taken.

Military Leave

Discussion of military leave for City employees. Alderman Gribble asked to take a look at the military leave policy for people serving in the military not to lose money. Mr. Gribble stated the county pays by the day. Mr. Gribble stated he would like a legal opinion from the state on this matter.

Alderman Gribble made a motion to change the policy of military leave. Motion failed due to lack of second.

Mr. Finchum explained the military leave was set up for 8 & 12 hour employees get 4 weeks that comes to 160 hours of leave for the year. The 24 hour employees get 4 weeks that comes to 224 hours of leave for the year. Mr. Finchum explained he thought it was only fair for each employee on military leave to get 4 weeks pay no matter the hours they work. This is how Mr. Finchum came up with the 8 & 12 hour employees receiving 160 hours and the 24 hour employees receiving 224 hours to total 4 weeks of military leave. Fire Chief Randy Ragan stated the City was being more than fair to the employees. Mr. Ragan stated if it was up to him the 24 hour employees would only get 160 hours. Mr. Ragan also stated that any employee could trade out time so they don't lose time. Mr. Ragan said he would work with his employees.

After much discussion City Attorney Hurst was asked to send a written letter to the Attorney General for a legal opinion.

Industrial Development Board

Mayor Ball asked the Board if they would give the Industrial Development Board permission to act on behalf of the City for any tax relief for new businesses coming to the City.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Proffitt and second by Alderman Knight to give permission to the Industrial Development Board to act on behalf of the City of Newport to give tax relief to new businesses coming in to the City.

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

Bids

Sprinkler System for the Community Center

Consideration of approval of a sprinkler system bid for the Community Center. There was only one bid from J & J Fire Protection LLC. in the amount of \$19,890.

Motion was made by Alderman Gribble and second by Alderman Hansel to approve the bid for a sprinkler system for the Community Center from J & J Fire Protection LLC. in the amount of \$19,890.

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.

Salt/Dump Truck for the Street Department

Consideration of approval of a salt/dump truck bid for the Street Department. There was only one bid from Bobby Gerhart’s Truck World in the amount of \$39,995 for a 2002 GMC Dump Truck. Mr. Finchum stated for the record the City had to make an emergency purchase during the snow storm. Both trucks were down at the same time. Mr. Finchum called the Mayor for permission to purchase the truck after the Board agreed on the phone individually.

Motion was made by Alderman Gribble and second by Alderman Fancher to approve the bid for a salt/dump truck from Bobby Gerhart’s Truck World in the amount of \$39,995 for a 2002 GMC Dump Truck.

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.

Citizens Comments

Mayor Ball reported he had spoke with TDOT on the red lights at State Route 32 at Heritage Blvd. Mayor Ball stated TDOT was doing a study on this red light issue & would get the Board a report.

Alderman Gribble stated he had lots of calls through the snow storm on the clean up on Industrial Road. The City helped out the county but the county didn’t do a good job on Industrial Road. Alderman Gribble stated there are lots of people who work down that road and need the roads safe.

Alderman Fancher stated he thinks the City should send someone to the TML Conference at the end of March like Planner Gary Carver.

Mr. Finchum reported the loops that were installed have made a big improvement on the traffic flow in downtown.

Chief of Police Maurice Shults announced the Cocke County High School wrestling team will travel to Franklin, Tennessee for the State Championship.

John Bugg agreed with Mr. Finchum the loops have made a big improvement in traffic flow in the downtown area. Mr. Bugg stated the traffic is not backed up like it was.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board of Mayor & Alderman, **a motion was made by Alderman Gribble 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

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