

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN
CITY OF NEWPORT, TENNESSEE
REGULAR SESSION
JANUARY 10, 2017**

Public Hearing

Mayor Connie Ball opened the public hearing for discussion on 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2016-12 Amending the City of Newport Municipal Code Title 7 Fire Protection and Fireworks Chapter 3 Fire Codes Adopting the 2012 International Fire Code and the 2012 NFPA 101 Life Safety Code to the Municipal Code. There was no one to comment. Mayor Ball closed the Public Hearing.

January 10, 2017

The City of Newport Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in the Newport City Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in Regular Session.

Rev. Alvin Watts led the invocation. Alderman Jeff Fancher 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.

Mayor Ball reported Tommy Bible from Jefferson Cocke County Gas Utility wanted to thank the Newport Fire Department and the Police Department for helping with the gas leak at Brandy Wine Restaurant. Mayor Ball stated the Fire Department and Police Department helped prevent what could have been a major disaster.

Mayor Ball also recognized the Street Department for their quick clean up of the snow. Mayor Ball said he had never seen the streets cleared as quickly as they were this snow.

Mayor Ball reported the agenda went out early due to the inclement weather. Mayor Ball asked for the Board to wave the rules & to add the Newport Utilities Broadband to new business.

Motion by Alderman Gribble and second by Alderman Fancher to wave the rules & to add the Newport Utilities Broadband to new business.

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

Minutes

December 13, 2016 Regular Session

Motion by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Fancher for minutes of the December 13, 2016 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 he has received an estimate from Centimark for the repair of the roof at Newport Grammar School. For a 15 year warranty the cost is \$104,000 and for a 20 year warranty the cost is \$107,000. Centimark is the same company that did the City Hall roof. The estimate has been sent to Newport Grammar School.

Alderman Gribble asked about the Hatfield & McCoy Distillery. Lucas Graham gave a report to the Board.

Appointment of Boards, Commission & Committees

Discussion of appointment Police Civil Service – Steven Smith. The Police Civil Service reappointed Steven Smith to the Police Civil Service Board in their January meeting.

Old Business

2nd Reading of Ordinance #2016-12 Amending the City of Newport Municipal Code Title 7 Fire Protection and Fireworks Chapter 3 Fire Codes Adopting the 2012 International Fire Code and the 2012 NFPA 101 Life Safety Code to the Municipal Code

Consideration of approval of 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2016-12 Amending the City of Newport Municipal Code Title 7 Fire Protection and Fireworks Chapter 3 Fire Codes Adopting the 2012 International Fire Code and the 2012 NFPA 101 Life Safety Code to the Municipal Code.

Motion was made by Alderman Fancher and second by Alderman Knight to approve 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2016-12 Amending the City of Newport Municipal Code Title 7 Fire Protection and Fireworks Chapter 3 Fire Codes Adopting the 2012 International Fire Code and the 2012 NFPA 101 Life Safety Code to the Municipal Code.

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

New Business

Resolution #2017-01 Authorizing the City of Newport to Apply for the Community Development Block Grant Program

Consideration of Resolution #2017-01 Authorizing the City of Newport to apply for the Community Development Block Grant Program.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Proffitt and second by Alderman Hansel to approve Resolution #2017-01 Authorizing the City of Newport to apply for the Community Development Block Grant Program.

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

Audit for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 – Brown, Jake, & McDaniel

Discussion of audit for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 – Brown, Jake, & McDaniel. Frank McDaniel reported to the Board on the Audit for Fiscal Year 2015-2016. Mr. McDaniel reported it was a good year. There is a good fund balance and it continues to grow. The cash flow has continued to do better. Mr. McDaniel said he commends the management and financial staff for a great job. There were no findings in the audit. Mr. McDaniel said this is the first time since he has been doing the audit for the City of Newport that there were no findings. Mr. Daniel said the City has come a long way in the last 3 years. This was a clean audit.

Request for Annual Events from Cocke County Partnership

Consideration of request for the following annual events from Cocke County Partnership: Street Festival October 7th & 8th, Christmas Parade December 9th and Rhythm on the River June 1st, 15th, & 29th & July 13th & 27th.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Proffitt and second by Alderman Knight to approve request for annual events from Cocke County Partnership.

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

Newport Utilities Request of Broadband

Newport Utilities has made the request for approval for the following: 1) approval of the Electric Smart Grid/Broadband Implementation Business Plan; 2) authority to apply for interim financing in the amount of \$8.5 million plus interest (a callable bond or other type of an interim financing vehicle that meets requirements to bridge the gap until RUS Loan funds become available); and 3) authority to apply for USDA/RUS Electric Smart Grid loan and other federal or state grants that are available.

Motion was made by Alderman Fancher and second by Alderman Knight to approve the following request from Newport Utilities: 1) approval of the Electric Smart Grid/Broadband Implementation Business Plan; 2) authority to apply for interim financing in the amount of \$8.5 million plus interest (a callable bond or other type of an interim financing vehicle that meets requirements to bridge the gap until RUS Loan funds become available); and 3) authority to apply for USDA/RUS Electric Smart Grid loan and other federal or state grants that are available.

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

Adjournment

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