

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN  
CITY OF NEWPORT, TENNESSEE  
REGULAR SESSION  
JANUARY 13, 2015**

**Public Hearing**

Mayor Connie Ball opened the public hearing for discussion on Ordinance #2014-06 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport. There was no one to comment.

Mayor Ball closed the Public Hearing.

**January 13, 2015**

The City of Newport Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in the Newport City Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. in Regular Session.

Rev. Alvin Watts led the invocation. Alderman Mike Hansel 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**

**December 9, 2014 Regular Session**

**Motion by Vice Mayor Proffitt and second by Alderman Fancher** for minutes of the December 9, 2014 Regular Session to be approved as submitted.

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

**January 2, 2015 Special Called Meeting**

**Motion by Alderman Gribble and second by Alderman Knight** for minutes of the January 2, 2015 Special Called Meeting to be approved as submitted.

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

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

Street Superintendent Ben Hicks presented Amanda White with the employee of the month for the month of January with a plaque and \$50.00. Mr. Hicks spoke of the accomplishments Ms. White has achieved with her 15 years of employment with the City of Newport.

## **Communications from the City Administrator**

City Administrator James Finchum reported the Recycling Grant has been approved for the City of Newport to receive 2,823 recycling totes. The City's match for this grant is \$2,479.55

Mr. Finchum reported the Used Oil Grant has been denied because the City does not meet the grant criteria for an oil burning heater.

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

Mayor Ball announced the replacement of Bobby Knight term to the Fire Civil Service Board will be Arthur Styles.

Consideration of reappointing Willie Green to the Fire Civil Service Board.

**Motion by Alderman Gribble and second by Alderman Knight** to reappoint Willie Green to the Fire Civil Service Board.

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

Consideration of replacing John Bugg to the Economic Development Commission. Mayor Ball Stated he had contacted the Board if anyone was interested in serving on the Board. Alderman Fancher was the only Board member who was interested.

**Motion by Vice Mayor Proffitt and second by Alderman Knight** to appoint Alderman Fancher to the Economic Development Commission.

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

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

Roland Dykes III on the Tanner Preservation Alliance reported of progress. Cathy Moscato handed the plans from Community Design to the Board. Mr. Dykes reported the joint fundraiser with Newport Plain Talk where they received a check in the amount of \$565.

**Old Business**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2014-06 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport**

Consideration of approval of 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Ordinance #2014-06 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport.

**Motion was made by Alderman Fancher and second by Alderman Knight** to approve 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2014-06 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport.

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

**New Business**

**Resolution #2015-01 Executing the Quitclaim Deed for the TVA Power Line Easement**

Consideration of approval of Resolution #2015-01 Executing the Quitclaim Deed for the TVA Power Line Easement. Mr. Hurst explained the TVA property was not needed so the property was gave back to the previous owners Sammy Burgin for the amount of \$1.00.

**Motion was made by Alderman Knight and second by Alderman Fancher** to approve Resolution #2015-01 Executing the Quitclaim Deed for the TVA Power Line Easement.

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

**Resolution #2015-02 Signature Authority on the Bank Accounts at National Bank of Tennessee and US Bank for City Council**

Consideration of approval of Resolution #2015-02 Signature Authority on the Bank Accounts at National Bank of Tennessee and US Bank for City Council. This resolution is to remove the previous City Council and to add the new City Council.

**Motion was made by Alderman Fancher and second by Alderman Hansel** to approve Resolution #2015-02 Signature Authority on the Bank Accounts at National Bank of Tennessee and US Bank for City Council.

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

**Resolution #2015-03 Signature Authority on the Bank Accounts at National Bank of Tennessee and US Bank for Chief of Police and Fire Chief**

Consideration of approval of Resolution #2015-03 Signature Authority on the Bank Accounts at National Bank of Tennessee and US Bank for Chief of Police and Fire Chief. The Chief of Police will be added to the accounts for his department and the Fire Chief will be added to the accounts for his department

**Motion was made by Alderman Knight and second by Vice Mayor Proffitt to approve Resolution #2015-03 Signature Authority on the Bank Accounts at National Bank of Tennessee and US Bank for Chief of Police and Fire Chief.**

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

**Rehabilitation and Restoration of the Tanner Building Between Tanner Preservation Alliance and the City of Newport**

Consideration of approval of the Rehabilitation and Restoration of the Tanner Building Between Tanner Preservation Alliance and the City of Newport. Mayor Ball explained this allows the Tanner Preservation Alliance to work on grants and funds raisers for the Tanner Building. Alderman Gribble asked if the City has to pay any funds with a reply of no. Alderman Gribble also asked if this group falls into the sunshine law. Mr. Finchum responded they have not received any moneys yet and they met in an open meeting.

**Motion was made by Alderman Gribble and second by Alderman Hansel to approve the Rehabilitation and Restoration of the Tanner Building between the Tanner Preservation Alliance and the City of Newport.**

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

**Proposed Amended Bylaws of the Cocke County Partnership from Cocke County Mayors Office**

Consideration of the proposed amended bylaws of the Cocke County Partnership from the Cocke County Mayors office. After much discussion the Board asked to move this item to the workshop for further review.

**Proposed Amended Bylaws of the Economic Development Commission from Cocke County Mayors Office**

Consideration of the proposed amended bylaws of the Economic Development Commission from the Cocke County Mayors office. After much discussion the Board asked to move this item to the workshop for further review.

**Replacing a Firefighter**

Consideration of the replacing a Firefighter that had resigned in December 2014. The Fire Civil Service Board sent the top two that tested: Matthew Woody and Robert Bowers. Vice Mayor Proffitt stated he would love to put both to work but he recommended Matthew Woody.

**Motion was made by Vice Mayor Proffitt and second by Alderman Fancher for Matthew Woody to be hired to the Fire Department.**

**Roll Call**

Alderman Fancher	Yes
Alderman Gribble	No
Alderman Hansel	No
Alderman Knight	Yes
Vice Mayor Proffitt	Yes

**Vote was 3-2. Mayor Ball declared the motion passed and approved.**

**Discussion of a Traffic Light at the Cosby Highway and Pizza Hut Intersection**

Discussion of a traffic light at the Cosby Highway and Pizza Hut intersection was submitted by Alderman Fancher. Alderman Fancher stated there has been several citizens speak to him about this issue. Mayor Ball stated the City has attempted several times to get the State to put a light there. After much discussion Mayor Ball stated he would call TDOT to try to get a study at the Cosby Highway and Pizza Hut intersection.

**Consent Agenda**

Consideration of approval of the Consent agenda for the following:

- a) Roadblock – Gradfest – 4/18/2015
- b) Roadblock – NJROTC – 3/7/2015

**Motion was made by Alderman Fancher and second by Vice Mayor Proffitt to approve the Consent Agenda.**

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

Alderman Gribble suggested letting City Administrator James Finchum approve the roadblocks. If Mr. Finchum does not approve they can appeal to the Board.

**Motion was made by Alderman Gribble and second by Alderman Knight to let City Administrator James Finchum approve the roadblocks and any that is not approved by City Administration can be appealed to the Board.**

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

**Discussion of Appointment to Police Civil Service Board**

Discussion of appointing Freddie Gregg to the Police Civil Service Board was submitted by Alderman Gribble. Alderman Gribble stated he didn't feel this appointment was right that it was the wrong timing. Mr. Hurst went to MTAS for legal consulting. MTAS agreed there was nothing that could be done to remove Mr. Gregg from his term on the Police Civil Service

Board. After much discussion the Board decided to go with the advice of MTAS. Alderman Gribble stated he was going to continue to look in on this issue.

### **Discussion of Traffic Light 5 at the Broadway and Jefferson Intersection**

Discussion of a traffic light 5 at the Broadway and Jefferson intersection was submitted by Alderman Gribble. Mayor Ball stated the previous light was not functional with the new system that was installed by the State. The State will pay around \$400,000 for the new lights in front of the National Bank and the library. Mayor Ball stated once the lights come down it's up to the State to replace them. Alderman Gribble said it was hard on the businesses and it has created a dangerous situation backing out in the road. Alderman Fancher and Vice Mayor Proffitt agreed the City couldn't afford to replace the light. After much discussion Mayor Ball stated he would talk to TDOT about this light.

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

### **Citizens Comments**

Mayor Ball asked the Board for a workshop to discussion several issues. The workshop will be February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at the City Hall to discuss the following issues: Tanner Preservation Alliance, Charter changes, resumes for Newport Utility Board, and the amended bylaws for the Cocke County Partnership and the Economic Development Commission submitted by the Cocke County Mayor's office.

Vice Mayor Proffitt thanked everybody for helping with information and adjusting with this new Board. Vice Mayor Proffitt started with City Administrator James Finchum and his staff along with all the Department Directors. Vice Mayor Proffitt also said he appreciate Rev. Watts for his role at the City Council meetings.

Alderman Fancher said the people have spoken; that they want changes. Alderman Fancher said he wants to help the City move forward.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board of Mayor & Alderman, Mayor Ball said to trust in God, follow the law, and get advice from an attorney before making decisions.

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Mayor Connie Ball

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James Finchum, City Administrator

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