

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN
CITY OF NEWPORT, TENNESSEE
REGULAR SESSION
JANUARY 14, 2014**

January 14, 2014

The City of Newport Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in the Newport City Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, January 14, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. in Regular Session.

Alderman John Bugg led the invocation. Fire Chief Randy Ragan led the Pledge to the Flag.

Mayor Ball asked for a moment of silence for Henry Bartlett, a great community person. Mayor Ball announced the memorial service for Dr. Carol Hood will be at 7:00 p.m. at the First Baptist Church. Mayor Ball added due to the memorial service the meeting will end early so everyone can attend.

The following officials were present: Mayor Connie Ball, Vice Mayor Bill Costner, Alderman John Bugg, Alderman Freddie Gregg, Alderwoman Kathy Holt, Alderman Kenny Morgan, City Attorney Terry Hurst, and City Administrator James Finchum.

Mayor Ball declared a Quorum.

Minutes

December 10, 2013 Regular Session

Motion by Alderman Bugg and second by Alderman Gregg for minutes of the December 10, 2013 Regular Session to be approved after corrections.

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

Proclamations and or Recognition of Citizens by the Mayor

Mayor Ball presented Kellye Stokely with a plaque for Volunteer of The Year for her work in the City of Newport.

Communications from the City Administrator

City Administrator James Finchum reported E. Luke Greene Company is suppose to begin asbestos removal by the first of next month on the two river properties.

Appointment of Boards, Commissions, and Committees

Mayor Ball announced the Police Civil Service Board has appointed Don “Jabo” Francis to the Police Civil Service Board.

Reports from Committees, Members of Council, & Other Officers

Report from Roland Dykes III on the Tanner Preservation Alliance. Mr. Dykes reported of a grant for the renovation for the Tanner building. Mr. Dykes asked for contractors to be allowed in the building for estimates for the renovation.

Motion by Vice Mayor Costner and second by Alderman Gregg to allow Tanner Preservation Alliance excess to the building to bring in contractors for estimates but not bids for funding for the renovation of the building.

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

Old Business

Discussion of Red Light at Jefferson Avenue and Broadway

Vice Mayor Costner told the possibilities for the red light at Jefferson Avenue and Broadway was 1) leave it, 2) take it down, 3) make a caution light which would cost \$5,000, 4) parallel with Woodlawn which would cost \$13,500. Alderman Bugg stated the State of Tennessee says to take it down according to option 1. Alderman Gregg asked why even vote on this if we’ve already voted. Mayor Ball stated if that’s what’s been voted on then take it down.

Gary Gregg stated according to TDOT the City would have to reapply for this grant because it wasn’t done last year. Mayor Ball replied the letter was sent in to the State after the vote for option 1. Mr. Gregg stated, “I don’t understand why you’re willing to come down town and take my red light down. You’re willing to work with the businesses down the street but not on our side. Mr. Finchum reported this project will take at least a year and a half to start.

THERE WAS NO ACTION TAKEN.

New Business

Resolution #2014-01 Modifying the Personnel Manual

Consideration of approval of Resolution #2014-01 Modifying the Personnel Manual. Mr. Finchum stated the changes were the Military Leave and Occupational Disability/Worker’s Compensation. Firefighter Jonas Clevenger spoke on this issue stating the police and fire will run out of time if the policy is passed. Mr. Finchum stated this will run the same as the sick time formula to make sure the time is run correctly. City Attorney Hurst stated he had no issues with this policy that it was by the law.

Motion was made by Alderman Bugg and second by Alderman Gregg to approve Resolution #2014-0118 Modifying the Personnel Policy.

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

Resolution #2014-02 Adopting the Small Purchase Procurement Procedure for TDOT Locally Managed Projects

Consideration of approval of Resolution #2014-01 Adopting the Small Purchase Procurement Procedure for TDOT Locally Managed Projects.

Motion was made by Alderman Bugg and second by Alderwoman Holt to approve Resolution #2014-02 Adopting the Small Purchase Procurement Procedure for TDOT Locally Managed Projects.

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

Appointing an Administrator Service for Safe Routes to School Phase 2

Consideration of permission to appoint an administrator service for Safe Routes to School Phase 2.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Costner and second by Alderman Gregg to give permission to appoint an administrator service for Safe Routes to School Phase 2.

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

Discussion of Leave of Absence for Police Chief Maurice Shults

Discussion of a leave of absence for Police Chief Maurice Shults from February 3- May 7, 2014. Mr. Finchum reported a letter of approval was sent from the Police Civil Service for a leave of absence for Police Chief Maurice Shults. Alderwoman Holt stated “the Charter says a leave of absence may not be granted for any other employment opportunity, excluding military service.” City Attorney Hurst stated according to the Charter we go by the decisions of the Civil Service.

Sponsorship of 2013-2014 Cocke County High School Baseball Team

Consideration of sponsorship of 2013-2014 Cocke County High School baseball team. Vice Mayor Costner asked for a donation of \$500; \$100 from each Board member.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Costner and second by Alderman Gregg to sponsor the 2013-2014 Cocke County High School baseball team for the amount of \$500.00.

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

Inclement Weather Leave

Discussion of Inclement Weather Leave for City employees. Mr. Finchum wanted to make sure the Board was alright with the decision of following Newport Grammar School schedule when the weather was bad. Mr. Finchum stated the schedule can be modified. But the emergency service can't close. The streets have to be cleared and Police & Fire Department can't close. The Board agreed the decision was up to Mr. Finchum.

Concussion Policy for Parks & Recreation

Consideration of a Concussion Policy for Parks & Recreation Department presented by Director Tim Dockery.

Motion was made by Alderman Gregg and second by Alderman Morgan to approve the Concussion Policy for Parks & Recreation.

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

Bids, Purchases, and Expenses

Citizens Comments

Linda Parker stated the use of the Tanner building for storage was a liability. Mr. Finchum stated this was for Habitat to store supplies that he had called to get the permission for use from the Board. He is waiting on something in writing for Habitat.

Joan Lambert stated the Street Department did a great job on the clearing the streets through the storm.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board of Mayor & Alderman, **a motion was made by Alderman Bugg, second by Alderman Gregg to adjourn.**

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

Mayor Connie Ball

James Finchum, City Administrator

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