

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN
CITY OF NEWPORT, TENNESSEE
REGULAR SESSION
JANUARY 14, 2020**

Public Hearing

Mayor Roland Dykes, III opened the public hearing for discussion of 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2019-08 Amending the City of Newport Municipal Code Title 15 Motor Vehicles, Traffic and Parking, Chapter 9 Speed Limits, Section 15-903 Speed Limit in School Zones and Near Playgrounds. The amended ordinance is to remove the school zones from the previous ordinance. There was no one to comment.

Mayor Dykes closed the Public Hearing.

January 14, 2020

The City of Newport Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in the Newport City Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in Regular Session.

Chief of Police led the invocation. Vice Mayor Mike Proffitt led the Pledge to the Flag.

The following officials were present: Mayor Roland Dykes, III, Vice Mayor Mike Proffitt, Alderman Mike Hansel, Alderwoman Louanna Ottinger, City Attorney Terry Hurst, and City Administrator James Finchum.

The following officials were not present: Alderman Bobby Knight and Alderman Steve Smith.

Mayor Dykes declared a Quorum.

Minutes

December 10, 2019 Regular Session

Motion by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderwoman Ottinger for minutes of the December 10, 2019 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 reported the renovation at the Police Department will begin on Monday, January 20th. The business office at the Police Department will be on the backside of the building for 7-10 days. The complete renovation project will be finished in 60 days.

Mr. Finchum reported the Codes Enforcement officer has been working on the clean up of blighted properties. There have been properties owners cited to court and given 30 days to clean up.

Finance Director Tina Matthews will meet with the department directors at the monthly meeting to get started on the budget to be on schedule.

Alderswoman Ottinger talked about the 100 for 100 project for Martin Luther King Jr. Day on January 20, 2020.

Appointment of Boards, Commissions & Committees

Discussion of Re-Appointment to the Police Civil Service Board – Dean Ball. Mr. Ball was appointed by the Police Civil Service Board to serve a 3 year term.

Reports from Committees, Members of Council & Other Officers

Community Development Director Gary Carver stated the Tanner Building project is on schedule.

Kathy Holt with the Rural Accelerator gave a report on the Kindergarten Readiness program.

Old Business

2nd Reading of Ordinance #2019-08 Amending the City of Newport Municipal Code Title 15 Motor Vehicles, Traffic and Parking, Chapter 9 Speed Limits, Section 15-903 Speed Limit in School Zones and Near Playgrounds

Consideration 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2019-08 Amending the City of Newport Municipal Code Title 15 Motor Vehicles, Traffic and Parking, Chapter 9 Speed Limits, Section 15-903 Speed Limit in School Zones and Near Playgrounds.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Porffitt and second by Alderswoman Ottinger to approve 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2019-08 Amending the City of Newport Municipal Code Title 15 Motor Vehicles, Traffic and Parking, Chapter 9 Speed Limits, Section 15-903 Speed Limit in School Zones and Near Playgrounds.

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

New Business

Resolution #2020-01 Amending the City of Newport Charter

Consideration of Resolution #2020-01 Amending the City of Newport Charter. This amendment will change the board members by allowing the next board member term that expires in April 2020 to be replaced by the City of Newport Mayor. The City of Newport Mayor will serve as a coterminous board member.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Proffitt and second by Alderman Hansel to approve Resolution #2020-01 Amending the City of Newport Charter.

Rollcall

Alderman Hansel	AYE
Alderman Ottinger	AYE
Vice Mayor Proffitt	AYE

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

Resolution #2020-02 Approving the City of Newport Americans with Disabilities Act Transition Plan

Consideration of Resolution #2020-02 Approving the City of Newport Americans with Disabilities Act Transition Plan.

Motion was made by Alderman Ottinger and second by Alderman Hansel to approve Resolution #2020-02 Approving the City of Newport Americans with Disabilities Act Transition Plan.

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

Resolution #2020-03 Hiring Engineer for the Newport Multimodal Project

Consideration of Resolution #2020-03 Hiring Engineer for the Newport Multimodal Project. The City of Newport would like to hire Robert Campbell and Associates for professional services.

Motion was made by Alderman Hansel and second by Vice Mayor Proffitt to approve Resolution #2020-03 Hiring Engineer Robert Campbell and Associates for the Newport Multimodal Project.

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

Resolution #2020-04 Hiring Engineer for Transportation Alternatives Program

Consideration of Resolution #2020-04 Hiring Engineer for Transportation Alternatives Program (Riverwalk Extension). The City of Newport would like to hire Vaughn and Melton Consulting Engineers, Inc. for professional services.

Motion was made by Alderman Hansel and second by Vice Mayor Proffitt to approve Resolution #2020-04 Hiring Engineer Vaughn and Melton Consulting Engineers, Inc. for Transportation Alternatives Program.

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

Request to Appropriate Funds for the Asset Enhancement Grant

Consideration of request to appropriate funds for the Asset Enhancement Grant. This to appropriate \$13,500 to the Cocke County Partnership for the Asset Enhancement Grant for downtown streetscape plan. The money was placed in the Planning Department budget in the wrong line item by the Planning Director.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Proffitt and second by Alderman Hansel to approve the request to appropriate funds for the Asset Enhancement Grant.

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

Authorizing Newport Utilities Request for a Letter of Credit Continuation for the RGE Building

Consideration of authorizing Newport Utilities request for a USDA Letter of Credit Continuation for the RGE Building for a zero interest loan.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Proffitt and second by Alderman Hansel to approve authorizing Newport Utilities request for a USDA Letter of Credit Continuation for the RGE Building.

Rollcall

Alderman Hansel	AYE
Alderwoman Ottinger	AYE
Vice Mayor Proffitt	AYE

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

Hiring a New Firefighter

Consideration of hiring a new firefighter. Fire Chief Randy Ragan stated this was to replace Mark Ramsey who is retiring. Seth Griffen is at the top of the hiring list and has already been approved by the Fire Civil Service Board.

Motion was made by Alderwoman Ottinger and second by Alderman Hansel to approve hiring Seth Griffen as fire fighter.

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

Hiring a Temporary Employee for Parks & Recreation

Consideration of hiring a temporary employee for Parks & Recreation. This will be to fill in for an employee that is on medical leave. This is a full-time temporary position with 40 hours a week and no benefits. The pay will be set at \$10.00 an hour. When/if this employee returns to work the new employee will terminated.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Proffitt and second by Alderwoman Ottinger to approve hiring temporary employee for Parks & Recreation.

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

Relocation of Street Garage

Discussion of relocation of street garage. Mr. Finchum stated the Street Department has outgrown their current location. Mr. Finchum would like permission to look into a facility with at least 3 acres of property. If the Street Department moves, Mr. Finchum stated he would like to relocate Animal Control to the old street garage location.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Proffitt and second by Alderman Hansel to approve giving permission to City Administrator James Finchum to look at properties for the relocation of the street garage.

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

River Street/River Road Name Change

Discussion of River Street/River Road Name Change. Community Development Director Gary Carver gave a packet with options for the name change at River Street/River Road in the City Council books for review. After a much long discussion, it was recommended to bring back to next months meeting a resolution with the full body board members.

There was no action taken.

Adjournment

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

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

Mayor Roland Dykes, III

James Finchum, City Administrator

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