

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN
REGULAR SESSION
JANUARY 9, 2024**

Mayor Roland Dykes opened the public hearing for consideration of 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2023-16 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport. There was no one to comment.

Consideration of 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2023-17 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar School. There was no one to comment.

Mayor Dykes closed the public hearing.

January 9, 2024

The City of Newport Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in the Newport City Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in Regular Session.

Chief of Police Maurice Shults led the invocation. Alderman Steve Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

The following officials were present: Mayor Roland Dykes, III, Vice Mayor Connie Ball, Alderwoman Louanna Ottinger, Alderman Randy Ragan, Alderman Steve Smith, City Attorney Terry Hurst, and City Administrator James Finchum.

The following officials were not present: Alderman Mike Hansel.

Mayor Dykes declared a Quorum.

Minutes

December 13, 2023 Regular Session

Motion by Alderwoman Ottinger and second by Alderman Ragan, for minutes of the December 13, 2023 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 stated in the past year, several board members have expressed interest in charter change. The state legislator has started back in session today. If the

board wishes to make any charter changes, we need to start working on it now so we can send it to Nashville by the first of March.

Mr. Finchum stated that this is Chief Maurice Shults last official meeting. Chief Shults is retiring, and his retirement party is January 17th at the community center. Mr. Finchum said he has worked with Chief Shults for years and appreciates his dedication and professionalism. Mr. Finchum went on to say the history and experience of Chief Shults will be missed. Mayor Dykes added how much Chief Shults has done to help him and his family. Mayor Dykes also thanked Chief Shults for protecting him the past five years while in office.

The audience gave Chief Shults a standing ovation.

Attorney Hurst said that Alderman Ragan pointed out two corrections that needs to be swapped; the roll calls on appointment of Chief of Police and the 1st Reading of Ordinance #2023-16 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport.

Motion was made by Alderman Ragan and seconded by Alderman Smith to approve the minutes with the corrections of the roll calls swapped on appointment of Chief of Police and the 1st Reading of Ordinance #2023-16 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport.

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

Appointment of Boards, Commissions & Committees

Appointment to the Newport Police Civil Service Board-Aurthur Styles Term

Consideration of appointment to the Newport Police Civil Service Board – Arthur Styles term. Alderwoman Ottinger nominated Jeff Eslinger. Mr. Eslinger has expressed an interest in serving on the Police Civil Service Board.

Motion was made by Alderwoman Ottinger and seconded by Alderman Smith, to appoint Jeff Eslinger to serve on the Newport Police Civil Service Board.

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

Appointment to the Newport Fire Civil Service Board-Willie Green's Term

Consideration of appointment to the Newport Fire Civil Service Board-Willie Green's term. Alderman Ragan said he had spoke with Mr. Green and Mr. Green would like to continue to serve on the Fire Civil Servies Board.

Motion was made by Alderman Ragan and seconded by Alderwoman Ottinger, to re-appoint Willie Green to serve on the Newport Fire Civil Service Board.

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

Old Business

2nd Reading of Ordinance #2023-16 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport

Consideration of 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2023-16 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport.

Motion was made by Alderman Smith and seconded by Vice Mayor Ball, of 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2023-16 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport.

Roll Call

Alderwoman Ottinger AYE
Alderman Ragan AYE
Alderman Smith AYE
Vice Mayor Ball AYE

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

2nd Reading of Ordinance #2023-17 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar School

Consideration of 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2023-17 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar School.

Motion was made by Alderman Ragan and seconded by Alderwoman Ottinger, of 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2023-17 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar School.

Roll Call

Alderwoman Ottinger AYE
Alderman Ragan AYE
Alderman Smith AYE
Vice Mayor Ball AYE

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

New Business

Resolution #2024-01 Signature Authority on Bank Accounts at Newport Federal

Consideration of Resolution #2024-01 Signature Authority on Bank Accounts at Newport Federal. Finance Director Tina Matthews stated this is to remove Chief Shults and add Chief Lamb to the three bank accounts for the police department.

Motion was made by Alderwoman Ottinger and second by Vice Mayor Ball, Resolution #2024-01 Signature Authority on Bank Accounts at Newport Federal.

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

Citizens Comments

Joni Daniel with Newport Utilities wanted to address the audit from last month. Ms. Daniel stated the audit for Newport Utilities was sent to the auditors on time. Newport Utilities had a couple of findings but a lot less than last year. Ms. Daniel stated the auditors for Newport Utilities will be at next month's meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board of Mayor & Alderman, **motion was made by Vice Mayor Ball and second by Alderwoman Ottinger** adjourned the meeting.

Mayor Roland Dykes, III

James Finchum, City Administrator

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