

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN
CITY OF NEWPORT, TENNESSEE
REGULAR SESSION
JULY 11, 2017**

Public Hearing

Mayor Connie Ball opened the public hearing for discussion of Ordinance #2017-11 Amending the Municipal Code Title 3 Municipal Court Adding Offender Fee for Paid Violations. There was no one to comment.

Discussion of Ordinance #2017-12 Amending the Municipal Code Title 16 Streets and Sidewalks, Etc. Replacing Section 103 Heavy Truck Traffic. Chief of Police Maurice Shults reported the signs are ready to be put up as soon as this ordinance is passed. Alderman Roger Gribble commended City Administrator James Finchum for the work on this project. Mr. Finchum stated it was a team effort.

Mayor Ball closed the Public Hearing.

July 11, 2017

The City of Newport Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in the Newport City Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, July 11, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in Regular Session.

Alderman Roger Gribble 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, and City Administrator James Finchum.

The following officials were not present: City Attorney Terry Hurst.

Mayor Ball declared a Quorum.

Minutes

June 13, 2017 Regular Session

Motion by Vice Mayor Proffitt and second by Alderman Knight for minutes of the June 13, 2017 Regular Session to be approved as submitted.

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

June 20, 2017 Special Called Meeting

Motion by Alderman Gribble and second by Alderman Fancher for minutes of the June 20, 2017 Special Called Meeting to be approved as submitted.

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

June 30, 2017 Special Called Meeting

Motion by Alderman Knight and second by Vice Mayor Proffitt for minutes of the June 30, 2017 Special Called Meeting to be approved as submitted.

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

Proclamation and/or Recognition of Citizens by the Mayor

Alderman Hansel presented Parks & Recreation with a proclamation for National Parks & Recreation Month.

Communications from the City Administrator

City Administrator James Finchum reported Valore Furniture has withdrawn their request to be on the agenda for their personal property tax issue.

Vice Mayor Proffitt recognized employees for the jobs that they do in the City.

Appointment of Boards, Commission & Committees

Consideration of re-appointment for the Beer Board for Jimmy Lee.

Motion by Alderman Fancher and second by Alderman Hansel to reappoint Jimmy Lee to the Beer Board.

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

Consideration of re-appointment for the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board for Debbie Wylie.

Motion by Alderman Fancher and second by Alderman Knight to reappoint Debbie Wylie to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board.

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

Consideration of re-appointment for the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board for Blake Briggs.

Motion by Alderman Fancher and second by Alderman Hansel to reappoint Blake Briggs to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board.

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

Old Business

2nd Reading Ordinance #2017-11 Amending the Municipal Code Title 3 Municipal Court Adding Offender Fee for Paid Violations

Consideration of 2nd Reading Ordinance #2017-11 Amending the Municipal Code Title 3 Municipal Court Adding Offender Fee for Paid Violations.

Motion was made by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Gribble to approve 2nd Reading Ordinance #2017-11 Amending the Municipal Code Title 3 Municipal Court Adding Offender Fee for Paid Violations.

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

2nd Reading of Ordinance #2017-12 Amending the Municipal Code Title 16 Streets and Sidewalks, Etc. Replacing Section 103 Heavy Truck Traffic

Consideration of 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2017-12 Amending the Municipal Code Title 16 Streets and Sidewalks, Etc. Replacing Section 103 Heavy Truck Traffic. Mr. Finchum reported this truck traffic solution prohibits a right turn for trucks at the intersection on Broadway at the Coffee Shop. This will give the option of writing a citation with this ordinance.

Motion was made by Alderman Knight and second by Alderman Gribble to approve 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2017-12 Amending the Municipal Code Title 16 Streets and Sidewalks, Etc. Replacing Section 103 Heavy Truck Traffic.

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

New Business

1st Reading of Ordinance #2017- 13 Amending the City of Newport Municipal Code Title 16 Streets and Sidewalks, Etc. Adding Chapter 3 Requiring Owner Installed Sidewalks on Site Development and New Construction Along Highway 25/70 and Route 321 Commerce Corridors

Consideration of 1st Reading of Ordinance #2017- 13 Amending the City of Newport Municipal Code Title 16 Streets and Sidewalks, Etc. Adding Chapter 3 Requiring Owner Installed Sidewalks on Site Development and New Construction Along Highway 25/70 and Route 321 Commerce Corridors.

Motion was made by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Fancher to approve 1st Reading of Ordinance #2017- 13 Amending the City of Newport Municipal Code Title 16 Streets and Sidewalks, Etc. Adding Chapter 3 Requiring Owner Installed Sidewalks on Site Development and New Construction Along Highway 25/70 and Route 321 Commerce Corridors.

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

1st Reading of Ordinance #2017-14 Amending the Municipal Code Title 14 Zoning and Land Use Control, Chapter 1 Municipal Planning Commission Adding Section 107 Authorizing the Newport Regional Planning Commission to Serve as the Design Review Commission

Consideration of 1st Reading of Ordinance #2017-14 Amending the Municipal Code Title 14 Zoning and Land Use Control, Chapter 1 Municipal Planning Commission Adding Section 107 Authorizing the Newport Regional Planning Commission to Serve as the Design Review Commission.

Motion was made by Alderman Fancher and second by Alderman Knight to approve 1st Reading of Ordinance #2017-14 Amending the Municipal Code Title 14 Zoning and Land Use Control, Chapter 1 Municipal Planning Commission Adding Section 107 Authorizing the Newport Regional Planning Commission to Serve as the Design Review Commission.

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

Resolution #2017-10 Authorizing the City of Newport to Participate in the Pool's Safety Partners Matching Grant Program

Consideration of Resolution #2017-10 Authorizing the City of Newport to Participate in the Pool's Safety Partners Matching Grant Program. This is an annual 50/50 safety grant the City spends \$4,000 and gets the refund of \$2,000.

Motion was made by Alderman Fancher and second by Alderman Hansel to approve Resolution #2017-10 Authorizing the City of Newport to Participate in the Pool's Safety Partners Matching Grant Program.

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

Downtown Master Plan

Planner Gary Carver presented the final Downtown Master Plan to the Board. Mr. Carver stated if the Board was good with the Downtown Master Plan he would present a resolution to adopt the plan at next month's meeting for approval.

Motion was made by Alderman Fancher and second by Alderman Hansel to present resolution for approval of the Downtown Master Plan at next month's meeting.

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

Request for Farm to Table Event

Consideration of request for the “Farm to Table Event” hosted by Cocke County Partnership. The Partnership asked to close Court Avenue and McSween Avenue for this event.

Motion was made by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Knight to approve the request for Cocke County Partnership to host “Farm to Table Event” and closing Court Avenue & McSween Avenue.

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

Replacing the State of Tennessee Seal in the City Council Chambers with the City of Newport Log/Seal

Consideration of replacing the State of Tennessee seal in the City Council chambers with the new City of Newport logo/seal. Alderman Hansel stated most cities use their seals in their chambers. Alderman Hansel stated it’s a reflection on the City. Mayor Ball wants to use both the state seal and the city logo.

Motion was made by Alderman Fancher and second by Vice Mayor Proffitt to approve adding the City of Newport logo/seal to the City Council Chambers.

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

Animal Shelter – Alderman Fancher

Alderman Fancher gave an update on the Animal Shelter. Alderman Fancher stated every since the agreement to fund the animal shelter, there have been negative comments on social media with idle threats. There has been slander against Alderman Fancher, James Finchum, Tina Matthews, and the Board. Alderman Fancher wants to work with the county and the leaders of the Friends. There was a Friends meeting that no city employees were invited to except Alderman Gribble. Alderman Fancher stated, “that’s vinegar not honey.” The communication has to change.

Animal Control Building - Alderman Gribble

Alderman Gribble stated there’s a problem with the termination of the lease agreement. There’s been an agreement with the Friends since September 1996. The Friends issued a letter to negotiate the lease with the City. Rather than negotiate, the City established an animal control building downtown. The City owned building was taken off the market without approval of City Council. Four City Council members met and talked to establish the animal control building. This decision was not in compliance with the open meeting law. The City spent thousands of dollars and hundreds of man hours for renovation of animal control building. The City took equipment and supplies to put in the animal control building that belong to the Friends.

Alderman Gribble stated he didn't see any document of the budget from any departments. Alderman Gribble stated it's the tax payers money not our money. Alderman Hansel stated he didn't recall saying it's our money. I never called it mine to do with as I see fit. Alderman Gribble stated I never said you did. Alderman Hansel stated that's a lie plain and simple.

Vice Mayor Proffitt stated Mr. Finchum gives everyone the opportunity to come down and ask questions about anything including the budget. Mr. Finchum stated everyone has the same opportunity to come and address any issue you may have. There have been no secret meetings. We go by the rules and regulations. The Friends broke the lease. We tried to renegotiate for a year. In the letter, the Friends gave us until July 1 to get out. We had to do something. Alderman Fancher has bent over backwards to resolve this issue. Mr. Finchum stated he called 4 aldermen and not Alderman Gribble because he knew how he stood on this issue. Alderman Gribble stated, "no you didn't." Mr. Finchum stated, "if I thought wrongly I apologize" to Alderman Gribble. Mr. Finchum talked to City Attorney Hurst on this issue who advised him he didn't need a vote. Alderman Fancher stated there was a video on what was removed that belonged to the City that the City purchased. Mayor Ball terminated the discussion.

Citizens Comments

Chief of Police Shults commended Animal Control. Chief Shults stated, "it's not about who can't get along with who." Know what we have compared to what we had.

Joan Lambert stated the City came into the animal shelter business in 1984. The community cares about animals. The first and only positive act is the Friends letting the county use a building.

Animal Control Director Lisa Layman thanked everyone for working so hard on getting the animal control building ready and Dr. Sandra O'Connor and her staff for getting animals adopted.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board of Mayor & Alderman, **a motion was made by Aldermen Knight and second by Vice Mayor Proffitt** to adjourn.

Roll Call

Alderman Fancher	AYE
Alderman Gribble	AYE
Alderman Hansel	AYE
Alderman Knight	AYE
Vice Mayor Proffitt	AYE

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

Mayor Connie Ball

James Finchum, City Administrator

RET