

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN
CITY OF NEWPORT, TENNESSEE
REGULAR SESSION
JULY 14, 2015**

Public Hearing

Mayor Connie Ball opened the public hearing for discussion on Ordinance #2015-05 Ordinance to Repeal Ordinance #2008-06 Annexation of Area Two. There was no one to comment.

Discussion on Ordinance #2015-06 Ordinance to Repeal Ordinance #2008-07 Annexation of Area Three. There was no one to comment.

Discussion on Ordinance #2015-07 Ordinance to Repeal Ordinance #2008-08 Annexation of Area Four. There was no one to comment.

Mayor Ball closed the Public Hearing.

Mayor Ball announced he had had surgery and he may have to leave the meeting early due to his health.

July 14, 2015

The City of Newport Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in the Newport City Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, July 14, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. in Regular Session.

Alderman Bobby Knight led the invocation. Alderman Jeff Fancher 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

June 9, 2015 Regular Session

Motion by Alderman Gribble and second by Alderman Hansel for minutes of the June 9, 2015 Regular Session to be approved as submitted.

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

Communications from the City Administrator

City Administrator James Finchum reported the downtown traffic lights were returned to normal due to the problem with pedestrian crossing the streets.

Mr. Finchum reported on the interest on the buildings the City owns. There has been a verbal offer over the phone but the person has not come in yet to purchase the property. The properties will be sold “as is.” Mayor Ball reported of a developer that he has been in contact with.

Finance Director Tina Matthews reported a letter from the Comptroller’s office on the approval of the tax anticipation note.

Appointment of Boards, Commissions, and Committees

Consideration of appointment for the Beer Board – Glenmore Smith appointment.

Motion by Vice Mayor Proffitt and second by Alderman Fancher to appoint Glenmore Smith to the Beer Board.

Roll Call for Glenmore Smith

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

Vote was 4-1 for Glenmore Smith. Mayor Ball declared the motion passed and approved.

Mayor Ball appointed the following: Robert Williams to Regional Library, Jim McSween and Tommy Crowder to the Planning Commission, and Jay Graham and Chuck Strange to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

Motion by Alderman Knight and second by Alderman Hansel for the following to be reappointed by the Mayor: Robert Williams to Regional Library, Jim McSween and Tommy Crowder to the Planning Commission, and Jay Graham and Chuck Strange to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

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

Mayor Ball asked to move to New Business.

New Business

Consideration of waiving the rules and adding to the agenda a memorial in front of Walgreens in memory of former Mayor Danny Wester.

Motion by Alderman Gribble and second by Alderman Fancher to waive the rules and add to the agenda a memorial in front of Walgreens in memory of former Mayor Danny Wester.

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

Panhandling in the City of Newport

Discussion of panhandling in the City of Newport. Mayor Ball reported he has received complaints from citizens. Attorney Terry Hurst said the ordinance the City has is not strong enough for the police to do anything. Mr. Hurst has given the researched ordinance from Memphis to Chief of Police to review. Mayor Ball asked for the Board to look at this and bring it back to next month's meeting.

City Administrator

Alderman Hansel moved to appoint James Finchum as full time City Administrator and remove the interim title. Alderman Hansel stated Mr. Finchum was doing an excellent job. Alderman Hansel spoke of all that Mr. Finchum has done as interim.

Motion by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Knight to make James Finchum as full time City Administrator and remove the interim title.

Alderman Gribble stated that in the February 15th meeting Claude Gatlin asked if the City Administrator job would be posted and the Board agreed it would be. Alderman Fancher stated we didn't vote on that. Alderman Gribble stated he likes Mr. Finchum and he has done a great job but be true to your word. Alderman Gribble stated this job needs to be placed competitively. Vice Mayor Proffitt stated Mr. Finchum has done a good job. Alderman Fancher asked Mr. Finchum if he got this job would he give up the Assistant Chief of Police job. Mr. Finchum stated yes. Attorney Hurst stated the next step would be to work out a contract with the Mayor and bring to the Board to ratify and vote on. Alderman Gribble stated Mr. Finchum has helped him with anything he has asked for but thinks the Board should take applications; not appoint someone. Alderman Gribble asked, "have we ever hired a City Administrator without competition." Attorney Hurst responded, "no but we have never had a person in this position for 2 years and 3 months that's doing the job. The other City Administrators started from scratch after the previous City Administrators were fired." Alderman Gribble stated this was unfair.

Roll Call

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

Vote was 4-1. Mayor Ball declared the motion passed and approved.

Motion was made by Alderman Knight and second by Alderman Fancher to make work agreement salary and contract to be brought back to the Board to ratify.

Roll Call

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

Vote was 4-1. Mayor Ball declared the motion passed and approved.

Mr. Finchum stated he appreciated the opportunity that the Board has given him. Mr. Finchum stated he doesn't take this lightly. He has been in police work for 35 years. Mr. Finchum had worked with Mayor Danny Wester in the mayor's office and without Mayor Wester Mr. Finchum stated he didn't believe he would be here today. Mr. Finchum stated he looks forward to the challenge.

Memorial for Former Mayor Danny Wester

Consideration a memorial park in front of Walgreens in memory of former Mayor Danny Wester. Mayor Ball stated he has a letter from the State in support and a verbal agreement from Newport Housing in support. There will be a 12 foot sign in front of the tree honoring former Mayor Danny Wester that is paid for with private funds.

Motion by Alderman Gribble and second by Alderman Fancher to give support to a memorial park in front of Walgreens in memory of former Mayor Danny Wester.

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

Mayor Ball excused himself from the meeting, turning the meeting over to Vice Mayor Proffitt.

Bids for a Backhoe for the Street Department

Consideration of bids for a backhoe for the Street Department. There were two bids from Contractors Machinery for the amount of \$91,594 and Mid- South Equipment for the amount of \$79,900. Street Department Heavy Equipment Supervisor Rick McGaha reported he would recommend the bid for a Case backhoe from Contractor's Machinery for the amount of \$91,594. Mr. McGaha stated the Case was the better backhoe and easier to get worked on due to the 7 hour drive to shop and time needed to get parts. When asked by the Board for Street Superintendent Ben Hicks recommendation, Mr. Hicks stated he feels the Case is worth the difference.

Motion by Alderman Fancher and second by Alderman Hansel to except the bid from Contractors Machinery for the amount of \$91,594 for the backhoe for the Street Department.

Roll Call

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

All Ayes- Vice Mayor Proffitt declared the motion passed and approved.

Old Business

2nd Reading of Ordinance #2015-05 Ordinance to Repeal Ordinance #2008-06 Annexation of Area Two

Consideration of 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2015-05 to Repeal Ordinance #2008-06 Annexation of Area Two.

Motion was made by Alderman Knight and second by Alderman Fancher to approve 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2015-05 to Repeal Ordinance #2008-06 Annexation of Area Two.

Roll Call

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

All Ayes- Vice Mayor Proffitt declared the motion passed and approved.

2nd Reading of Ordinance #2015-06 Ordinance to Repeal Ordinance #2008-07 Annexation of Area Three

Consideration of 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2015-06 to Repeal Ordinance #2008-07 Annexation of Area Three.

Motion was made by Alderman Fancher and second by Alderman Hansel to approve 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2015-06 to Repeal Ordinance #2008-07 Annexation of Area Three.

Roll Call

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

All Ayes- Vice Mayor Proffitt declared the motion passed and approved.

2nd Reading of Ordinance #2015-07 Ordinance to Repeal Ordinance #2008-08 Annexation of Area Four

Consideration of 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2015-07 to Repeal Ordinance #2008-08 Annexation of Area Four.

Motion was made by Alderman Hansel and second by Vice Mayor Proffitt to approve 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2015-07 to Repeal Ordinance #2008-08 Annexation of Area Four.

Roll Call

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

All Ayes- Vice Mayor Proffitt declared the motion passed and approved.

New Business

1st Reading of Ordinance #2015-08 Amending Zoning Regulations

Consideration of 1st Reading of Ordinance #2015-08 Amending Zoning Regulations for high-rise freestanding interstate sign, Chapter 3 Governing General Provisions, Section 309 of the Newport Municipal Zoning Ordinance is hereby amended to delete section 309.3.f.2.iii regulating high rise business signs in the C-3 Interstate Highway Business District in its entirety and replace with the following new section iii:

Section iii: In the C-3 Interstate Highway Business District each business shall be allowed in addition to the normal business signs, one (1) high-rise freestanding interstate sign with a minimum of thirty (30) feet in height and not to exceed one hundred (100) feet in height. A high-rise sign between thirty (30) feet in height and seventy-five (75) feet in height may not exceed 250 square feet in sign area. A high-rise sign greater than seventy-five (75) feet in height may not exceed three hundred-fifty (350) square feet in sign area.

Motion was made by Alderman Knight and second by Alderman Hansel to approve the 1st Reading of Ordinance #2015-08 Amending Zoning Regulations for high-rise freestanding interstate sign.

Roll Call

Alderman Fancher	AYE
Alderman Gribble	AYE
Alderman Hansel	AYE
Alderman Knight	AYE

Vice Mayor Proffitt AYE

All Ayes- Vice Mayor Proffitt declared the motion passed and approved.

Resolution #2015-09 Safety Grant

Consideration of Resolution #2015-09 Safety Grant for the City of Newport through TML. Mr. Finchum stated this is an annual grant of \$2,000.

Motion was made by Alderman Fancher and second by Alderman Hansel to approve Resolution #2015-09 Safety Grant for the City of Newport through TML.

Roll Call

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

All Ayes- Vice Mayor Proffitt declared the motion passed and approved.

East Tennessee Development District Contract

Consideration of East Tennessee Development District contract in the amount of \$9,250 for local planning service for the City of Newport.

Motion was made by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Fancher to approve the contract with East Tennessee Development District in the amount of \$9,250 for local planning service for the City of Newport.

Roll Call

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

All Ayes- Vice Mayor Proffitt declared the motion passed and approved.

1st Reading of Ordinance #2015-09 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar School

Consideration of 1st Reading of Ordinance #2015-09 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar School.

Motion was made by Alderman Fancher and second by Alderman Gribble to approve 1st Reading of Ordinance #2015-09 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar School.

Roll Call

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

All Ayes- Vice Mayor Proffitt declared the motion passed and approved.

Bids

Tax Anticipation Note for the City of Newport

Consideration of Tax Anticipation Note for the City of Newport in the amount of \$600,000. There was only one bid from Newport Federal Bank with terms of \$1,500 closing fees and interest rate of 1.50% with as maturity date of June 30, 2016. Alderman Gribble suggested \$500,000 with Alderman Fancher agreeing. Ms. Matthews stated she would prefer \$600,000 but it's up to the Board. Mr. Hurst stated if you change the amount you would have to rebid.

Motion was made by Alderman Knight and second by Alderman Hansel to approve Tax Anticipation Note for the City of Newport in the amount of \$600,000 and the bid from Newport Federal Bank with terms of \$1,500 closing fees and interest rate of 1.50% with as maturity date of June 30, 2016.

Roll Call

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

Vote was 3-2- Vice Mayor Proffitt declared the motion passed and approved.

Citizens Comments

Discussion of train by Wayne Williamson. Mr. Williamson reported to the Board that Clyde Dunn was interested in the train ride. Mr. Williamson asked for a committee. The Board told Mr. Williamson they were in support.

Carlene Robinson reported to the Board she has proof of insurance for the Tanner Building parking lot for Tennessee Picnic.

Parks & Recreation Director congratulated Mr. Finchum on him being named City Administrator and told the Board he was in support of Mr. Finchum.

Joan Lambert stated of signs being out in the City on weekends. Ms. Lambert asked of sign ordinance to stop the signs. Mr. Dockery stated the signs was being placed on weekends and removed on Sunday evenings.

Adjournment

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

All Ayes- Vice Mayor Proffitt declared the motion passed and approved.

Mayor Connie Ball

James Finchum, City Administrator

RET