

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN  
CITY OF NEWPORT, TENNESSEE  
REGULAR SESSION  
JULY 8, 2014**

**July 8, 2014**

The City of Newport Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in the Newport City Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, July 8, 2014 at 5:45 p.m. in Regular Session.

Rev. Alvin Watts led the invocation. Alderman John Bugg led the Pledge to the Flag.

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

The following officials were not present: Alderman Kenny Morgan.

Mayor Ball declared a Quorum.

**Minutes**

**June 10, 2014 Regular Session**

**Motion by Alderman Gregg and second by Alderwoman Holt** for minutes of the June 10, 2014 Regular Session to be approved as submitted.

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

**Proclamations and or Recognition of Citizens by the Mayor**

Mr. Finchum presented Finance Director Tina Matthews with the employee of the month for the month of July with a plaque and \$50.00. Mr. Finchum stated Ms. Matthews got the budget ready on time along with her other daily duties which was our goal for this year.

**Communications from the City Administrator**

Mr. Finchum reported the July 4<sup>th</sup> employee lunch had a bigger crowd of 60 people which was up from last year's attendance of 35 people. Mr. Finchum stated he had to go get more food for the bigger crowd. Mr. Finchum thanked the Board for coming to support the employees.

Mr. Finchum reported of Charter contract pending for the City. This upgrade will be a savings over the current contract. This contract will be added to the August agenda.

Fire Chief Randy Ragan has requested a workshop to explain how the first responders program will work and how it is paid for. Chief Ragan reported the Fire Department will be working with First Call. The only the expense the City will have is more fuel and maintenance on the vehicles. The Board set a workshop for August 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.

The 911 contract was given to Mr. Finchum on Monday. Attorney Hurst has been working on the contract with the 911 office. This contract will be put on the August agenda for the Boards approval.

A request from Newport Grammar School for a budget amendment was presented to the Board. Finance Director Tina Matthews stated she can't send just the Newport Grammar School budget amendment in to the Comptroller. Their budget amendment has to be in the same format with the City's budget. Ms. Matthews has asked for more information from the Newport Grammar School. The Board took no action on the request.

Finance Director Matthews reported of the Animal Shelter preliminary results for their budget. Ms. Matthews stated the Animal Shelter has done a great turn around and took control. The Animal Shelter is \$6,500 in the good since the changes.

Ms. Matthews reported of the letters from the Comptroller's office approving the City's budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 and the Tax Anticipation Note. Ms. Matthews also reported the auditors were in for the preliminary audit. The auditors stated everything looks great and went smoothly. The Auditors will be back in October for a week for the City's full budget and then 2-3 days for the federal single audit. The preliminary financial statements were handed out to Department Directors. Ms. Matthews reported she wanted to do the 1<sup>st</sup> reading in August for the budget amendments, put the amendments in the system, and then close the year out.

Ms. Matthews reported of delinquent property tax over 10 years old of the amount of \$36,000 in the system. These taxes cannot be collected. Ms. Matthews stated of a balance sheet adjustment to write off these taxes in the book. It's a state law to remove them from the books. There is no action that needs to be taken from the Board on this issue.

Mr. Finchum reported to the Board the Farmer's Market has gotten their liability insurance to set up at the Tanner Building. Mr. Hurst has looked over the insurance policy and he stated the policy looks good.

### **Appointment of Boards, Commissions, and Committees**

Mayor Ball asked to reappoint Glenmore Smith to the Beer Board.

**Motion was made by Alderwoman Holt and second by Vice Mayor Costner to reappoint Glenmore Smith to the Beer Board.**

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

### **Reports from Committees, Members of Council, & Other Officers**

Vice President Kathie Moscoto of the Tanner Preservation Alliance handed out a draft newsletter and reported they now have a Facebook page, email address, and a PayPal account for donations.

**Old Business**

**New Business**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2014-05 Banners and Signs Restriction**

Consideration of approval of 1<sup>st</sup> Reading Ordinance #2014-05 Banners and Signs across Streets and Alleys Restricted.

**Motion was made by Alderman Bugg and second by Alderman Gregg** to approve 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2014-05 Banners and Signs across Streets and Alleys Restricted with the acceptance to strike the last part of the last sentence in Section 16-104 allowing the Board to make an exception to the ordinance.

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

**Resolution #2014-08 TML Risk Management Pool Safety Grant**

Consideration of approval of Resolution #2014-04 TML Risk Management Pool Safety Grant. This is an annual grant the City applies for. The City spends \$4,000 and TML will match \$2,000 on safety items.

**Motion was made by Alderman Gregg and second by Alderwoman Holt** to approve Resolution #2014-04 TML Risk Management Pool Safety Grant.

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

**Discussion of City Administrator**

Alderman Morgan had requested to add to the agenda a resolution to change Section 10 of the Charter that states the City Administrator shall reside in the City. The Board requested Alderman Morgan be at the meeting to explain. Mayor Ball asked to put this on next month's agenda.

**TDOT Highway Maintenance Contract**

Consideration of approval of TDOT Highway Maintenance Contract with the City of Newport.

**Motion was made by Alderman Gregg and second by Alderman Bugg** to approve TDOT Highway Maintenance Contract with the City of Newport.

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

## **Consent Agenda**

Consideration of approval of the Consent agenda for the following:

- a) Roadblock – CCHS NJROTC – 10/11/2014

**Motion was made by Alderman Gregg and second by Alderman Bugg to approve the Consent Agenda.**

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

## **Bids, Purchases, and Expenses**

### **Tax Anticipation Note**

Consideration of bids for Tax Anticipation Note for the City of Newport. Us Bank interest rate of 1.23%, interest \$7,380, bond \$2,500; National Bank interest rate of 4.25% interest \$25,500, no bond; and Newport Federal Bank interest rate of 1.25%, interest \$7,500, no bond. Finance Director Tina Matthews recommendation was to accept the bid from Newport Federal Bank.

**Motion was made by Alderman Gregg and second by Vice Mayor Costner to accept the recommendation of Finance Director Matthews to accept Newport Federal Bank interest rate of 1.25%, interest \$7,500, no bond.**

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

## **Citizens Comments**

Roger Gribble spoke on behalf of Glenn Ray. Mr. Gribble stated this would be the last time he asked to reinstate Glen Ray to General Manager of Newport Utilities. Alderman Gregg stated there's only two Aldermen that will do this (reinstate Glen Ray) and two Aldermen can't do it (pass the vote). Alderman Gregg said everyone knows how me and Kathy stands. Alderwoman Holt stated she would make the motion. Mayor Ball said it wasn't on the agenda. Mr. Gribble asked to put it on next month's agenda. Mayor Ball added to the August agenda to reinstate Glen Ray to General Manager of Newport Utilities.

Rev. Tommy Moody asked does this Board not own Newport Utilities. Who is accountable for Newport Utilities? Rev. Moody stated there are three Aldermen and one city employee on Newport Utilities Board. I just wonder about all this (Glen Ray). You say you can't do anything, you don't have the authority. I want to know how you lost your authority. Alderman Gregg stated "I can tell you how. We gave that away when we put three Aldermen on that Board." Rev. Moody stated "I think by the smell test you can do something." Rev. Moody stated, "take the step, take the stand to do something about this. That's my opinion."

Joan Lambert asked if the fireworks ordinance was in place and if the Board had any feedback. Planning Director Mark Robinson reported the fireworks ordinance was in place. Everyone paid their fees and got their business license.

**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.**

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Mayor Connie Ball

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James Finchum, City Administrator

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