

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN
CITY OF NEWPORT, TENNESSEE
REGULAR SESSION
JUNE 10, 2014**

Public Hearing

Mayor Connie Ball opened the public hearing for discussion on Ordinance #2014-04 City of Newport Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015. There was no one to comment.

Mayor Ball closed the Public Hearing.

June 10, 2014

The City of Newport Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in the Newport City Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, June 10, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. in Regular Session.

Rev. Alvin Watts led the invocation. Vice Mayor Bill Costner 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, Alderman Kenny Morgan, City Attorney Terry Hurst, and City Administrator James Finchum.

Mayor Ball declared a Quorum.

Minutes

May 13, 2014 Regular Session

Motion by Alderman Gregg and second by Alderwoman Holt for minutes of the May 13, 2014 Regular Session to be approved after the correction on the Beer Ordinance.

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

Proclamations and or Recognition of Citizens by the Mayor

Communications from the City Administrator

City Administrator James Finchum read a thank you card from Mayor Ball & his family for the flowers and food during the loss of his father.

Mr. Finchum reported of the geese issue on the Riverwalk, in front of City Hall, and the Police Department. City employees spend an average of 10 – 12 hours cleaning the Riverwalk a week. Mr. Finchum met with TWRA to try to relocate the geese. Mr. Finchum was informed there are 3 kinds on the Riverwalk: white geese, Canadian Geese, and Mallard Ducks. Fish & Game can relocate the white geese but not the others. The Canadian Geese and Mallard Ducks are protected by federal law.

Mr. Finchum report the 2012-2013 Home Program Grant is approved for a total of \$375,000 with a 100% award to the City of Newport.

Mr. Finchum reported the “Best of the Best” voted for the Newport Plain Talk is as follows: Best City Politician Mayor Connie Ball, Best of City Law Enforcement Officer Jason Ramsey, Best City Firefighter Mark Ramsey, and Best City Employee James Finchum.

Mr. Finchum reported on the vest policy for roadblocks has been changed due to people not wanting to bring the vest back to City Hall. The change in the policy states the organizations are responsible for vest. City Attorney Terry Hurst stated the sponsors should be liable for the vest.

Mr. Finchum reported the City of Newport is having a surplus auction on GovDeals.com. Mr. Fichum also stated the employee of the month will start back next month with the help of Department Directors.

Appointment of Boards, Commissions, and Committees

Mayor Ball stated Alderman Gregg wants to step down from the Economic Development Commission. Mayor Ball appointed Alderman Bugg for the Economic Development Commission.

Mayor Ball reappointed the following: Planning Commission - Cecil Gilland and Glenna Hayworth.

Fire Civil Service Board appointed Kenneth Calfee to the Fire Civil Service Board.

Reports from Committees, Members of Council, & Other Officers

Vice President Kathie Moscoto of the Tanner Preservation Alliance reported to the Board. The Tanner Preservation Alliance has been approved for the 501(c)3 status effective 10/4/2012.

Old Business

Accepting Newport Grammar School Budget into the City of Newport Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015

Consideration of approval of accepting Newport Grammar School Budget into the City of Newport Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

Motion was made by Alderman Gregg and second by Vice Mayor Costner to approve the Newport Grammar School Budget into the City of Newport Budget for Fiscal year 2014-2015.

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

2nd Reading of Ordinance #2014-04 City of Newport Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015

Consideration of approval of 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2014-04 City of Newport Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

Motion was made by Alderman Bugg and second by Alderman Gregg to approve the 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2014-04 City of Newport Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

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

New Business

Resolution #2014-07 Tax Anticipation Note

Consideration of approval of Resolution #2014-07 Tax Anticipation Note for the City of Newport, Tennessee not to exceed \$600,000. Mr. Finchum stated he was asking for approval to get bids to move forward.

Motion was made by Alderman Gregg and second by Alderman Morgan to approve Resolution #2014-07 Tax Anticipation Note for the City of Newport, Tennessee not to exceed \$600,000.

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

Partial Closure of Frog Pond Alley

Consideration of approval of partial closure of Frog Pond Alley. Alderwoman Holt stated, "if you're not careful when you fill the hole it will flood people below it. It's like a

natural spring in the area.” Planning Director Mark Robinson stated it was on the far eastern part of Frog Pond Alley. Mr. Robinson stated there will not be much effect on that end of the alley closure. Habitat for Humanity is planning on building homes in this area.

Motion was made by Alderman Bugg and second by Alderwoman Holt to approve the partial closure of Frog Pond Alley.

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

Discussion of an Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance

Discussion of an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to allow accessory structure on vacant lots. Mr. Robinson stated it had come before the Planning Commission to build a storage building on a vacant lot and later build the house on McSween Springs Road. According to the Zoning Ordinance you have to build the house first then accessory structures thereafter.

Motion was made by Alderman Gregg and second by Alderwoman Holt to approve leaving the Zoning Ordinance as is.

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

Banner for Relay for Life

Discussion of hanging a banner for Relay for Life. Mayor Ball recommended considering letting Relay for Life hang the banner but let this be the last one. Relay for Life had already purchased the banner before the last meeting. Chairperson Katie Thomas with Relay for Life stated they didn’t have a lot of money for advertising. If it needs to go on the corner that’s Ok. Alderman Bugg stated he was against it. Alderman Bugg stated, “if you do it for one you have to for everyone.” Alderman Gregg stated, “I think we all agree to be on the corner and not on buildings. I think we need an ordinance to make it official.” The Board asked Mr. Finchum to get an ordinance.

No action was taken.

Consent Agenda

Consideration of approval of the Consent agenda for the following:

- a) Roadblock – Cosby Little League – 7/5/2014
- b) Roadblock – Cocks County Special Olympics – 9/31/2014

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

Bids for Used Oil Grant

Consideration of bids for Used Oil Grant as follows:

Absorbent Pads

- 1. J. Bisio Enterprises \$498.00

Used Oil Pump

- 1. J. Bisio Enterprises \$498.00
 - a) Electric – \$510.00
 - b) Battery – \$690.00
 - c) Manuel – 0

2. Lubrication Equipment Services, Inc.
 - a) Electric – \$432.65
 - b) Battery – \$663.00
 - c) Manuel – \$126.37
3. Wilton Springs Hardware
 - a) Electric – \$490.00
 - b) Battery – \$749.00
 - c) Manuel – \$129.00

Canopy

1. Wilton Springs Hardware \$730.25

Concrete Pad

1. Wilton Springs Hardware \$850.00

Street Superintendent Ben Hicks recommendations is as follows: Absorbent Pads, J. Bisio Enterprises \$498.00; Used Oil Pump, Lubrication Equipment Services, Inc. Battery – \$663.00; Canopy Wilton Springs Hardware \$730.25; and Concrete Pad Wilton Springs Hardware \$850.00.

Motion was made by Alderman Gregg and second by Vice Mayor Costner to accept the recommendation of Mr. Hicks except for Used Oil Pump to accept Wilton Springs Hardware Battery for the amount of \$749.00 because it is local and easier to maintain. (Absorbent Pads, J. Bisio Enterprises \$498.00; Used Oil Pump, Wilton Springs Hardware battery – \$749.00; Canopy Wilton Springs Hardware \$730.25; and Concrete Pad Wilton Springs Hardware \$850.00.)

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

Citizens Comments

Roger Gribble spoke on behalf of Glenn Ray. Mr. Gribble stated utilities are going to increase and NUB dismissed one of the best people to operate the Utilities. Thousands of people have signed a petition to reinstate Glenn Ray. Mr. Gribble asked the Board to remove members of the Board. Mr. Gribble stated it’s not right to have 3 members from City Council on the NUB.

Mayor Ball stated he could not appoint anyone to a paying board but he thinks it should be alternated. City Council votes for paying boards. Mayor Ball recommended NUB to look at this again. Mayor Ball stated he didn’t know all the circumstances but I would like to be aware if there’s a problem.

Robert Brannon stated he would like a motion to remove the 3 members of City Council. Mr. Brannon stated there will be a new board next year. Mr. Brannon stated the Board has done a disservice to the citizens. Mr. Brannon also requested a motion to remove all NUB members.

Mike Proffitt stated he appreciates Mayor Ball for standing up to get this out of the way. It was done unfairly the first time.

Joan Lambert asked how many paid boards in the City? Mayor Ball answered NUB, Beer Board, Fire Civil Service, and Police Civil Service. How much NUB gets paid? Mayor Ball answered \$225.00 a month. Does our City Council get paid from NUB? Mayor Ball answered yes they get paid by both boards. Ms. Lambert stated that’s double dipping.

Mike Hannon stated he respects Mayor Ball for his comments. Mr. Hannon stated he prays you will do the right thing.

Adjournment

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

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

Mayor Connie Ball

James Finchum, City Administrator

RET