

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN  
REGULAR SESSION  
JUNE 11, 2024**

Mayor Roland Dykes opened the public hearing for consideration of 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2024-03 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport. There was no one to comment.

Consideration of 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2024-04 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar School. There was no one to comment.

Consideration of 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2024-05 Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-25 the City of Newport. There was no one to comment.

Mayor Dykes closed the public hearing.

**June 11, 2024**

The City of Newport Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in the Newport City Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, June 11, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in Regular Session.

Alderman Randy Ragan led the invocation. Vice Mayor Connie Ball 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, Alderman Mike Hansel, Alderwoman Louanna Ottinger, Alderman Randy Ragan, City Attorney Terry Hurst, and City Administrator James Finchum.

The following officials were not present: Alderman Steve Smith.

Mayor Dykes declared a Quorum.

**Minutes**

**May 14, 2024 Regular Session**

**Motion by Alderwoman Ottinger and second by Alderman Ragan**, for minutes of the May 14, 2024 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 reported on the Rhythm on the River concert series has had a good turn out with about 300 people attending each concert thus far.

Mr. Finchum asked to suspend the rules and add an item to the agenda. Newport Tourism Information Center Manager Monica Hommel will present an event for late July for the main street grant.

**Motion by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderwoman Ottinger**, to suspend the rules and add to the agenda an event for the main street grant.

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

Mr. Finchum stated there are plans to have another trash pickup before the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday litter pick up.

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

Consideration of re-appointment to Planning Commission – Randall Freeman. Mr. Freeman would like to be re-appointed to the Planning Commission.

**Motion by Alderwoman Ottinger and second by Vice Mayor Ball**, to re-appoint Randall Freeman to the Planning Commission.

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

Consideration of re-appointment to Planning Commission – Rick Carr. Mr. Carr would like to be re-appointed to the Planning Commission.

**Motion by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Ragan**, to re-appoint Rick Carr to the Planning Commission.

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

Consideration of appointment the Cocke County Library Board - Linda Hampton-Parker's Term. The Library Board has appointed Mischelle Black as the city's representative on the Cocke County Library Board effective July 1, 2024.

**Motion by Alderman Ragan and second by Alderwoman Ottinger**, to appoint Mischelle Black to the Cocke County Library Board as the city's representative.

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

**Old Business**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2024-03 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport**

Consideration of 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2024-03 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport.

**Motion by Alderman Hansel and second by Vice Mayor Ball, to approve 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2024-03 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport.**

**Roll Call**

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

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

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2024-04 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar School**

Consideration of 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2024-04 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar School.

**Motion by Alderman Ragan and second by Alderwoman Ottinger, to approve 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2024-04 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar School.**

**Roll Call**

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

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

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2024-05 Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-25 the City of Newport**

Consideration of 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2024-05 Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-25 the City of Newport.

**Motion by Alderwoman Ottinger and second by Alderman Hansel, to approve 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2024-05 Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-25 the City of Newport.**

**Roll Call**

Alderman Hansel      AYE  
Alderwoman Ottinger AYE

Alderman Ragan        AYE  
Vice Mayor Ball        AYE

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

**Barge Design Contract for the Richland Park Project**

Discussion of Barge Design Contract for the Richland Park Project. Gary Carver stated Resolution #2024-08 to hire an engineering firm to perform a storm water study and design a storm water detention facility for the Richland Park Project was passed at last month's meeting. The contract that was given to Mayor Dykes was in the amount of \$24,950 which was storm water study only. This was a mistake by staff. The correct contract in the amount of \$59,500 for the storm water study and design documents was approved by City Council at last month's meeting. The city is only committing \$59,500 for a storm water study and design of storm water detention facility for the Richland Park Project.

**Motion by Alderman Ragan and second by Alderwoman Ottinger,** to approve contract of Barge Design Contract for Richland Park Project in the amount of \$59,500 for the stormwater study and design documents.

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

**New Business**

**Resolution #2024-09 Accepting a Newly Constructed Street Built as Part of the Love's Project and Make it an Extension of Generation Drive**

Consideration of Resolution #2024-09 Accepting a Newly Constructed Street Built as Part of the Love's Project and Make it an Extension of Generation Drive. Gary Carver stated the road that was built as part of the Love's project was to be taken in as a city street once the job was completed. This had not been done yet. The road was designed and constructed beyond city street standards as it was designed to withstand transfer truck traffic. The road has been completed for over two years now and is in good condition. The Planning Commission passed the recommendation to adopt the new road at their May meeting. Staff recommend adoption of the new road.

**Motion by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Ragan,** to approve Resolution #2024-09 Accepting a Newly Constructed Street Built as Part of the Love's Project and Make it an Extension of Generation Drive.

**Roll Call**

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

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

**Resolution #2024-10 Accepting Funding from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Through the American Rescue Plan Act for the Purpose of Wastewater Infrastructure Replacement**

Consideration of Resolution #2024-10 Accepting Funding from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Through the American Rescue Plan Act for the Purpose of Wastewater Infrastructure Replacement. Gary Carver stated \$1.7 million in ARPA funding was earmarked for Newport. This money was restricted to wastewater, stormwater and drinking water projects. Newport Utilities has a sewer replacement project in Richland Park that they requested the money be allocated for. A project proposal to use the ARPA funding for that project was submitted to TDEC and was approved. Newport Utilities is handling the design and engineering fees. This money, if accepted, will be used for construction only on this project. It will be a coordinated effort with Newport Utilities through the completion of the project. The resolution commits only the ARPA funds to the project. Any overrun on the construction will be for Newport Utilities to fund. Mayor Dykes will be the Finance Officer for this project.

**Motion by Alderwoman Ottinger and second by Alderman Hansel, to approve Resolution #2024-10 Accepting Funding from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Through the American Rescue Plan Act for the Purpose of Wastewater Infrastructure Replacement.**

**Roll Call**

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

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

**Request to Access Accumulated Sick Time for a City Hall Employee**

Consideration of request to access accumulated sick time for a city hall employee. Finance Director Tina Matthews stated this was for a city hall employee to use her 3<sup>rd</sup> bucket while on maternity leave if needed.

**Motion by Alderman Ragan and second by Alderman Hansel, to approve request to access accumulated sick time for a city hall employee.**

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

**Hiring a Full Time Position for Animal Control**

Consideration of hiring a full-time position for Animal Control. Animal Control Director Lisa Layman stated Carl Lee Overholt as worked part-time since April 5, 2012. Ms. Layman

stated Mr. Overholt is instrumental in assisting her in various duties including updating social media with information on available adoptions. Mr. Finchum recommends hiring Carl Lee Overholt as full-time employee.

**Motion by Alderwoman Ottinger and second by Alderman Ragan,** to approve hiring Carl Lee Overholt as a full-time position for Animal Control.

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

### **Highway Maintenance Contract Between the State of Tennessee and the City of Newport**

Consideration of Annual Highway Maintenance Contract between the State of Tennessee and the City of Newport.

**Motion by Vice Mayor Ball and second by Alderman Ragan,** to approve the Annual Highway Maintenance Contract between the State of Tennessee and the City of Newport.

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

### **Playdate Downtown Event**

Consideration of Playdate Downtown Event. Newport Tourism Information Center Manager Monica Hommel stated the city is working on a Main Street Program through the state that requires events throughout the year. If approved, this event will add to the list of requirements. Ms. Hommel has been working with businesses downtown to participate with this event. The Playdate Downtown Event will be July 20<sup>th</sup> from 10-3:00 pm with several activities for the kids.

**Motion by Alderwoman Ottinger and second by Vice Mayor Ball,** to approve the Playdate Downtown Event on July 20<sup>th</sup>.

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

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

#### **Purchase of Garbage Compactor for the City of Newport**

Consideration of purchase of Garbage Compactor for the City of Newport. Mr. Finchum recommended the city to purchase a garbage compactor for around \$80,000 to save money from the county taking the garbage to the landfill.

**Motion by Alderman Ragan and second by Alderman Hansel,** to approve purchase of Garbage Compactor for the City of Newport for around of \$80,000.

**Roll Call**

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

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

**Two Four-Wheelers for the Newport Fire Department**

Consideration of bids for two four-wheelers for the Newport Fire Department. Fire Chief Jeremy Shelton has requested the purchase of two 2024 Honda Rancher four-wheelers to give the fire department quick access to the woodland property in case of emergencies. There were three bids submitted: Waynesville Cycle Center for \$7,014 each, Mountain Motorsports for \$7,787 each, and Honda Yamaha of Knoxville for \$8,311.50 each. Mr. Shelton’s recommendation is to take the low bid from Waynesville Cycle Center in the total amount of \$14,028.

**Motion by Vice Mayor Ball and second by Alderwoman Ottinger, to approve bid for two 2024 Honda Rancher four-wheelers for the Newport Fire Department from Waynesville Cycle Center in the total amount of \$14,028.**

**Roll Call**

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

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

**Concrete and Water Drainage System for the Tanner Building**

Consideration of bids for concrete and water drainage system for the Tanner Building. There were two bids submitted: J.S. Lawn & Garden Center for \$18,500 and Williams Lawn Care for \$18,700. Manger Monica Hommell recommendation for Williams Lawn Care due to the scheduling of the project before the end of the current budget year.

**Motion by Alderman Ragan and second by Alderwoman Ottinger, to approve bid for concrete and water drainage system for the Tanner Building from Williams Lawn Care for the total amount of \$18,700.**

**Roll Call**

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

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

**Comments from Citizens**

Kenneth Hickey of 415 College Street talked about the Christmas parade from Lincoln and Broad Street was very dark with no security. Mr. Hickey was concerned with the liability for the city.

Shane Winser asked about the tennis courts at the park. Mr. Winser stated they were cracked up and asked to have them resurfaced. Mr. Finchum explained there were water issues that formed the cracked surface. Parks & Rec is trying to determine where the water is coming from to solve the solution.

**Adjournment**

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

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Mayor Roland Dykes, III

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James Finchum, City Administrator

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