

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN
CITY OF NEWPORT, TENNESSEE
SPECIAL CALLED SESSION
JUNE 30, 2017**

June 30, 2017

The City of Newport Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in the Newport City Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, June 30, 2017 11:00 a.m. in Special Called Session.

The following officials were present: Mayor Connie Ball, Vice Mayor Mike Proffitt, Alderman Roger Gribble, Alderman Mike Hansel, Alderman Bobby Knight, City Administrator James Finchum, and City Attorney Terry Hurst.

The following officials were absent: Alderman Jeff Fancher.

Mayor Ball declared a Quorum.

Mayor Ball announced there has been an offer on the city owned property on Woodlawn, the old City Bar & Grill. Mayor Ball asked for a motion to waive the rules and add this item to the agenda.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Proffitt and second by Alderman Knight to waive the rules and add to the agenda the offer to purchase the old City Bar and Grill city owned property.

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

New Business

Tanner Building Renovation Bids

Consideration of bids for the Tanner Building renovation project. City Administrator James Finchum reported the staff had understood that the \$250,000 grant for renovating the Tanner Building was to be under contract as of today or lose the money. There has been a new development that we were misinformed. The new state architect, Ann McGauran, has confirmed through a voicemail that as long as the City can show expense encumbered and we are moving forward we will not lose the money. There was only one (1) bid that came in for the renovation. This bid was over budget. Brady & Associates have missing items from the plans. The City is not happy with the plans of the Tanner Building. Alderman Gribble stated, "we are taking a chance on losing the money if we don't take the bid. We have lost grants in the pass." Planner Gary Carver stated the last state architect gave the wrong information on the grant. Attorney Terry Hurst stated to either vote yes or no on accepting the bid. You can't vote to accept the bid with modification. If you accept the bid it's a contract. After much discussion, Mr. Finchum

asked Mr. Carver to contact the state architect to get it in writing while the Board moves on to the next items on the agenda.

Resolution #2017-09 Authorizing the Newport Utilities Board to Borrow Through USDA/Rural Utilities Service/Electric Program a Sum Not to Exceed \$37,000,000.00, to be Repaid by Newport Electric System Revenues

Consideration of approval of Resolution #2017-09 Authorizing the Newport Utilities Board to Borrow Through USDA/Rural Utilities Service/Electric Program a Sum Not to Exceed \$37,000,000.00, to be Repaid by Newport Electric System Revenues.

Motion was made by Alderman Gribble and second by Alderman Hansel to approve Resolution #2017-09 Authorizing the Newport Utilities Board to Borrow Through USDA/Rural Utilities Service/Electric Program a Sum Not to Exceed \$37,000,000.00, to be Repaid by Newport Electric System Revenues.

Roll Call

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

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

Offer to Purchase City Property 119 North Woodlawn Avenue

Consideration of approval of an offer to purchase 119 North Woodlawn Avenue the old City Bar & Grill. Lori Pierce Parramore’s Camp Inc. has sent an offer of \$36,000 with \$5,000 down payment and a closing within 30 days. Mr. Finchum stated the Board had given him the authority to accept \$44,900 or up to \$39,000. Mr. Finchum stated the building needs a lot of work. Mr. Finchum recommendation is to accept the offer from Lori Pierce Parramore’s Camp Inc. of \$36,000.

Motion was made by Alderman Knight and second by Alderman Gribble to approve the offer from Lori Pierce Parramore’s Camp Inc. of \$36,000 for the property 119 North Woodlawn Avenue.

Roll Call

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

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

City Attorney Hurst announced he would be out of town at the July City Council meeting. He has spoke with Attorney Jeff Greene on the Valore LLC request to waive penalties

& interest on their delinquent property tax. Mr. Greene has a conflict due he represents Valore LLC. Only the circuit judge can waive penalties & interest through a court order. The Board can vote to ask the circuit judge to waive the penalties & interest. Mr. Hurst stated he thinks that it will create conflict down the road. Alderman Gribble thinks we should appropriate \$2,900 to Valore LLC to save the 17 jobs. Mr. Finchum suggested going back and asking to have the property reappraised. Mr. Hurst asked why they are behind in paying their taxes. Mr. Hurst thinks the Board should wait to see if the owners show up for the meeting and get more information at the July meeting.

Planner Carver came back to report the state architect was in a meeting and was waiting on her to call him.

The Board of Mayor & Alderman asked to adjourn and reconvene at 1:30 p.m., **motion by Alderman Gribble, second by Alderman Fancher** to adjourn.

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

Tanner Building Renovation Bids

Mr. Carver handed out an email from state architect Ann McGauran that stated as long as the City shows documentation of expenses encumbered related to the Tanner Building at the end of each fiscal year progressively working on the project spend those funds, it will not be mandatory the City refund money not encumbered.

Motion was made by Alderman Gribble and second by Alderman Knight to reject the bid for the renovation of the Tanner Building.

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

Mr. Carver asked for guidance on this project. Mr. Hurst suggested talking to Brady & Associates to tell them we are not happy with the plans. Report to the Board at the August meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board of Mayor & Alderman, **motion by Alderman Gribble, second by Alderman Hansel** to adjourn.

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

Mayor Connie Ball

James Finchum, City Administrator
RET