

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN
CITY OF NEWPORT, TENNESSEE
REGULAR SESSION
June 9, 2015**

Public Hearing

Mayor Connie Ball opened the public hearing for discussion on Ordinance #2015-01 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport. Joan Lambert asked if the Board gets an increase in salary. Mayor Ball responded no.

Discussion on Ordinance #2015-02 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar School. Michael Overholt spoke on behalf of Newport Grammar School and Newport City Board of Education with gratitude of the support from the City of Newport.

Discussion on Ordinance #2015-03-A City of Newport Budget for Fiscal Year 2015-2016. Tommy Smith stated the citizen comments shouldn't be at the end of the meetings. Mr. Smith is against the property tax increase. Mr. Smith stated the City didn't get in this shape overnight.

Fire Chief Randy Ragan wanted to be on the record to say thank you to the Board. In 25 years of working for the City this is the first time we have a plan for purchasing equipment the City needs. The City employees deserve a raise in pay.

Discussion on Ordinance #2015-03-B Newport Grammar School Budget for Fiscal Year 2015-2016. There was no one to comment.

Discussion on Ordinance #2015-04 Capital Project Funds. There was no one to comment.

Mayor Ball asked for anyone who came in late wanted to speak. There was no one to comment.

Mayor Ball closed the Public Hearing.

June 9, 2015

The City of Newport Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in the Newport City Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, June 9, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. in Regular Session.

Rev. Alvin Watts led the invocation. Fire Chief Randy Ragan 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

May 12, 2015 Regular Session

Motion by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Fancher for minutes of the May 12, 2015 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

Communications from the City Administrator

City Administrator James Finchum reported the blinking traffic lights are not torn up. The State is trying something new to see if it will help the traffic flow downtown. The new traffic lights the City will get in 2016 will be synchronized.

Mr. Finchum spoke of the high volume of public records request. Some of the request has taken hours to prepare. Mr. Finchum stated he would like the Board to consider changing the policy to start charging for the bigger request.

Finance Director Tina Matthews wanted the Board to be aware of a request that was sent in from Cocke County Senior Center in the amount of \$3,600 that is not included in the budget.

Old Business

2nd Reading of Ordinance #2015-01 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport

Consideration of 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2015-01 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport. Alderman Gribble asked about the additional money for sales tax. Mr. Finchum reported the additional revenue in sales tax is \$100,000 but this amendment is for line items to be transferred.

Motion was made by Alderman Fancher and second by Alderman Knight to approve 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2015-01 Budget Amendment 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- Mayor Ball declared the motion passed and approved.

2nd Reading of Ordinance #2015-02 Budget Amendment for the Newport Grammar School

Consideration of 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2015-02 Budget Amendment for the Newport Grammar School.

Motion was made by Alderman Gribble and second by Vice Mayor Proffitt to approve 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2015-02 Budget Amendment for the Newport Grammar School.

Roll Call

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

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

2nd Reading of Ordinance #2015-03-A City of Newport Budget for Fiscal Year 2015-2016

Consideration of 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2015-03-A City of Newport for Fiscal Year 2015-2016. Alderman Gribble asked to cut the tax rate increase to twenty five cents or thirty five cents instead of the dollar increase. Alderman Gribble stated there is several property owners who can't afford this tax increase. Mr. Finchum stated there are tax relief that can be applied for. Alderman Fancher stated the Board asked for a plan. Alderman Fancher stated he didn't want a tax increase but it's got to be done. Vice Mayor Proffitt asked the public to give the City Council a chance to fix this. Alderman Gribble stated the City will still have to borrow the \$600,000 in fiscal year 2016. Alderman Hansel stated the City has good service but it could be better. Alderman Hansel asked the public to invest in your city. Alderman Knight stated he loves this City and wants to do things to make it better with the plan that Ms. Matthews & Mr. Finchum has given the City Council.

Motion by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Knight to approve 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2015-03-A City of Newport for Fiscal Year 2015-2016.

Roll Call

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

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

2nd Reading of Ordinance #2015-03-B Newport Grammar School Budget for Fiscal Year 2015-2016

Consideration of 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2015-03-B Newport Grammar School for Fiscal Year 2015-2016.

Motion by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Knight to approve 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2015-03-B Newport Grammar School for Fiscal Year 2015-2016.

Roll Call

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

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

2nd Reading of Ordinance #2015-04 Capital Project Funds

Consideration of 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2015-04 Capital Project Funds.

Motion by Vice Mayor Proffitt and second by Alderman Knight to approve 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2015-04 Capital Project Funds.

Roll Call

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

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

2nd Reading of Resolution #2015-04 Charter Changes for the City of Newport

Consideration of 2nd Reading of Resolution #2015-04 Charter Changes for the City of Newport approved by Tennessee General Assembly on April 22, 2015.

Motion by Alderman Knight and second by Alderman Hansel to approve 2nd Reading of Resolution #2015-04 Charter Changes 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- Mayor Ball declared the motion passed and approved.

New Business

Review of Proposal from the Planning Commission for Yard Sales Regulation

Mr. Finchum explain the Planning Commission has prepared regulations for yard sales for the Board to review. No action was taken.

Insurance for the City of Newport Employees

Consideration of approval of insurance for the City of Newport employees. Broker Cindy Moyers has prepared renewal options for the Board to review. If chosen, United Health Care would save the City \$60,000 over Blue Cross Blue Shield. Mr. Finchum stated there was a comment that the City doesn't bid out our insurance but actually we do.

Motion was made by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Fancher to approve United Health Care for the City of Newport employee insurance.

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

1st Reading of Ordinance #2015-05 Ordinance to Repeal Ordinance #2008-06 Annexation of Area Two

Consideration of 1st Reading of Ordinance #2015-05 to Repeal Ordinance #2008-06 Annexation of Area Two. Mr. Hurst stated that after meeting with annexation lawyer Charlton DeVault for the City of Newport he has stated there is a new law stating if annexation law suits are not completed May 2015 that all law suits will be considered null and void.

Motion was made by Alderman Fancher and second by Alderman Knight to approve 1st Reading of Ordinance #2015-05 to Repeal Ordinance #2008-06 Annexation of Area Two.

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

1st Reading of Ordinance #2015-06 Ordinance to Repeal Ordinance #2008-07 Annexation of Area Three

Consideration of 1st Reading of Ordinance #2015-06 to Repeal Ordinance #2008-07 Annexation of Area Three.

Motion was made by Alderman Knight and second by Alderman Gribble to approve 1st Reading of Ordinance #2015-06 to Repeal Ordinance #2008-07 Annexation of Area Three.

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

1st Reading of Ordinance #2015-07 Ordinance to Repeal Ordinance #2008-08 Annexation of Area Four

Consideration of 1st Reading of Ordinance #2015-07 to Repeal Ordinance #2008-08 Annexation of Area Four.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Proffitt and second by Alderman Fancher to approve 1st Reading of Ordinance #2015-07 to Repeal Ordinance #2008-08 Annexation of Area Four.

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

Appointment of Boards, Commissions, and Committees

Consideration of appointment for the Newport Utilities Board – Jeff Fancher appointment. Nominations began from Alderman Gribble who nominated Willie Green. Vice Mayor Proffitt nominated Bill Lewis.

Motion by Vice Mayor Proffitt and second by Alderman Hansel to cease nominations.

Roll Call for Willie Green

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

Roll Call for Bill Lewis

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

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

Consideration of appointment for the Newport Utilities Board – Roger Gribble appointment. Nominations began from Alderman Gribble who nominated Willie Green. Alderman Fancher nominated Craig Wild.

Motion by Alderman Knight and second by Alderman Fancher to cease nominations.

Roll Call for Willie Green

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

Roll Call for Craig Wild

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

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

Citizens Comments

Alderman Fancher stated he would like for the City to have open communication with citizens through social media.

Claude Gatlin spoke of organizing a town meeting for citizens to be heard.

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 Fancher** to adjourn.

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

Mayor Connie Ball

James Finchum, City Administrator

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