

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN
CITY OF NEWPORT, TENNESSEE
REGULAR SESSION
MARCH 8, 2016**

Public Hearing

Mayor Connie Ball opened the public hearing for discussion on Ordinance #2016-01 to Amend Budget Amendment for the City of Newport. There was no one to comment.

Mayor Ball opened the floor for discussion on Ordinance #2016-02 Amending the Municipal Code Title 8 Alcoholic Beverages Adding Chapter 7 Wine Sales in Retail Stores. City Attorney Terry Hurst reported this ordinance has a \$250 non-refundable application fee. There was no one to comment.

Mayor Ball closed the Public Hearing.

March 8, 2016

The City of Newport Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in the Newport City Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in Regular Session.

Rev. Alvin Watts led the invocation. Planner Gary Carver 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

February 16, 2015 Regular Session

Motion by Alderman Knight and second by Alderman Hansel for minutes of the February 16, 2015 Regular Session to be approved with the corrections of page two on the motion and second of Police Civil Service Board.

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

Communications from the City Administrator

City Administrator James Finchum reported an employee with the City has contacted State Representative Jeremy Faison concerning the recent discussion of military leave. Mr.

Faison stated he went to the comptroller's office with the question on military leave. Mr. Faison told Mr. Finchum it was considered standard to give 4 weeks pay for military leave that is equal to 160 hours. The City is in the guidelines of the law. Mr. Faison told Mr. Finchum he was impressed that the City goes above and beyond the guidelines. City Attorney Hurst reported when going to the Attorney General only a state official can ask request for an opinion. No City or private citizen can request information. Mr. Finchum stated, "I hope this lays this to rest for the third time."

Mr. Finchum report the City has paid off the tax anticipation note early with a savings of \$2,400.

Mr. Finchum reported of a big turnout at the 2nd public forum regarding blighted properties. Mr. Finchum stated the downtown area is a working progress.

Appointment of Boards, Commissions & Committees

Consideration of appointment for the Beer Board. Vice Mayor Proffitt nominated L.C. Gregg to be reappointed with a second from Alderman Fancher.

Motion by Vice Mayor Proffitt and second by Alderman Fancher to reappoint L.C. Gregg to the Beer Board. Alderman Gribble voted no.

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

Reports from Committees, Members of Council & Other Officers

Cocke County Partnership President Lucas Graham gave a report to City Council on progress.

Newport Utilities Manager Glen Ray gave a report to City Council. Newport Utilities Board Chairman Claude Gatlin reported to City Council.

Old Business

2nd Reading of Ordinance #2016-01 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport

Consideration of approval of 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2016-01 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Proffitt and second by Alderman Hansel to approve the 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2016-01 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport. Alderman Gribble voted no.

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

2nd Reading of Ordinance #2016-02 Amending the Municipal Code Title 8 Alcoholic Beverages Adding Chapter 7 Wine Sales in Retail Stores

Consideration of approval of 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2016-02 Amending the Municipal Code Title 8 Alcoholic Beverages Adding Chapter 7 Wine Sales in Retail Stores.

Motion was made by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Fancher to approve 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2016-02 Amending the Municipal Code Title 8 Alcoholic Beverages Adding Chapter 7 Wine Sales in Retail Stores.

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

New Business

Resolution #2016-06 Authorizing the City of Newport to Submit an Application to Participate in the Tennessee Downtowns Program

Consideration of approval of Resolution #2016-06 Authorizing the City of Newport to Submit an Application to Participate in the Tennessee Downtowns Program. Planner Gary Carver stated this program through the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development will pick 6 cities throughout Tennessee a year.

Motion was made by Alderman Fancher and second by Alderman Hansel to approve Resolution #2016-06 Authorizing the City of Newport to Submit an Application to Participating in the Tennessee Downtowns Program.

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

911 Building Contract Between the City of Newport and Cocke County Emergency Communications District

Consideration of approval of the 911 Building Contract between the City of Newport and Cocke County Emergency Communications District. Mr. Finchum stated this is a 20 year contract.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Proffitt and second by Alderman Knight to approve the 911 Building Contract between the City of Newport and Cocke County Emergency Communications District.

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

Funding Request for Industrial Recruitment

Consideration of approval of funding request in the amount of \$100,000 for industrial recruitment from the Cocke County Partnership. Mr. Graham reported Hatfield and McCoy Distillery is wanting to locate a distillery with gift shop and museum tours of the history of moonshine on the corner of Cosby Highway and Main Street. This will be a 15,000 square foot building. The City of Newport does not own this building.

Mr. Graham is asking for a rehab grant in the amount of \$100,000 each from both the City of Newport and Cocke County. This grant will repair the building's roof. The rehab grant will depend on the CLB voting for the same amount in their monthly meeting. The City is projected to receive in property taxes around \$135,000 in the next 5 years. This grant will be in lieu of tax abatement.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Proffitt and second by Alderman Hansel to approve the request of a rehab grant in the amount of \$100,000 for industrial recruitment.

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.

Owner Mark Bunch with his wife Angie and son Anthony stated he hopes to start the roof in the next 3 weeks and hopes to open in July. Gary Human of Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development is in support of this project.

Bids

Mower for Parks & Recreation

Consideration of approval of bids for 2 mowers for Parks & Recreation with 3 old units being traded in. The following bids were submitted: Sims Tractor, \$22,500; Kubota of Knoxville \$27,750; Richie Tractor \$16,000; and Tri-County Power Equipment \$23,669. Sims Tractor and Ritchie Tractor did not meet bid specs. Director Tim Dockery recommended Tri-County Power Equipment's bid.

Motion was made by Alderman Knight and second by Alderman Fancher to approve the bid for mower from Tri-County Power Equipment in the amount of \$23,669.

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.

Citizens Comments

Mayor Ball stated there were requests in the City Council books from Alexis Suggs and Department of Children Services event to take out of the City Council public relations. The City Council agreed to give \$25.00 each to Alexis Suggs for her sponsorship to America's Homecoming Queen in Nashville.

Kathryn Morgan from Beat the Heat Alliance submitted a request for funding in the amount of \$1,250 for next year's budget.

Adjournment

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

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

Mayor Connie Ball

James Finchum, City Administrator

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