

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN
CITY OF NEWPORT, TENNESSEE
REGULAR SESSION
MARCH 9, 2021**

March 9, 2021

The City of Newport Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in the Newport City Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, March 9, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in Regular Session.

Mike Hannon led the invocation. Chief of Police Maurice Shults led the Pledge to the Flag.

The following officials were present: Mayor Roland Dykes, III, Vice Mayor Mike Proffitt, Alderman Mike Hansel, Alderman Bobby Knight, Alderwoman Louanna Ottinger, Alderman Steve Smith, City Attorney Terry Hurst, and City Administrator James Finchum.

Mayor Dykes declared a Quorum.

Minutes

February 9, 2021 Regular Session

Motion by Alderwoman Ottinger and second by Alderman Hansel, for minutes of the February 9, 2021 Regular Session to be approved as amended.

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

Proclamations and/or Recognition of Citizens by the Mayor

Mayor Dykes recognized the Newport Grammar School boys' basketball team for winning the 2020-21 TMSAA Class A State Championship.

Communications from the City Administrator

City Administrator James Finchum gave an update on the COVID. Mr. Finchum stated there has been an employee exposed and they are currently in quarantine. This has been the first case among city employees for the month.

Mr. Finchum stated he is wanting to get a city litter crew together to work a couple days a month to clean up the city. There have not been any inmates available to clean up the town since David Veridal. Mr. Finchum stated this was on a volunteer basis for city employees and most

employees were taking comp time. The city will coordinate with Keep Cocke County Beautiful for volunteers.

Mr. Finchum gave a presentation on the uniformity of city limit signs. Mr. Finchum will have all city limit signs replaced with the new logo to uniform the signs entering the city.

Mr. Finchum stated he was wanting to have signs made to recognize the Newport Grammar School on their championship win. The signs will read something like Home of Newport Grammar School 2020-21 TMSAA Class A State Championship. These will be located behind the city limit signs.

Mr. Finchum gave a report on the storm drain project. The workers have found an underground gas tank on the old mill site. This must be looked at by a certified group that will charge \$4,500 just to evaluate the situation. This has brought this project to a standstill until further notice.

Mr. Finchum asked for guidance on new liquor stores. The State of Tennessee has issued moratorium on new retail package store that licenses cannot be issued until July 1, 2021. The State is telling people who want to apply in July to go ahead and start at the local level for their certificate of compliance. There have been four different people shown interest in opening a package store in the city. Currently we have had one to close so there are now only two liquor stores open. The city can have as many package stores as the City Council wants to allow. Mr. Finchum asked the Board how many stores you want to allow in the city. Also, there is a non-refundable application fee of \$500. Mr. Finchum asked the Board how would you want to evaluate these applications. Mr. Finchum suggested taking resumes` instead of applications because of the \$500 no-refundable application fee. Once the certificate of compliance is approved by City Council it is out of the city's hands. Mr. Finchum stated this is something to think about.

Reports from Committees, Members of Council & Other Officers

Mayor Dykes reported Congresswoman Diana Harshbarger came for a visit of the Tanner building and was very impressed with the renovation of the building.

Keep Cocke County Beautiful Meka Henderson gave a report on litter clean up.

New Business

1st Reading of Ordinance #2021-01 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport

Consideration of 1st Reading of Ordinance #2021-01 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport.

Motion was made by Alderman Hansel and second by Vice Mayor Proffitt, to approve 1st Reading of Ordinance #2021-01 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport.

Roll Call

Alderman Hansel	AYE
Alderman Knight	AYE
Alderwoman Ottinger	AYE
Alderman Smith	AYE
Vice Mayor Proffitt	AYE

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

Traffic Light Up-Grade on Cosby Highway

Consideration of traffic light up-grade on Cosby Highway. Property owners have requested an additional dedicated turn signal for the northbound turn lane at the traffic signal at Old Cave Church Rd / Cosby Highway / Heritage intersection. There have been two quotes from Progression Electric in the amount of \$7,000 and Stansell Electric Company in the amount of \$6,622.60. Staff recommends using the Stansell to install the new turn if the council chooses to move forward with this project.

Motion was made by Alderwoman Ottinger and second by Alderman Knight, to approve traffic light up-grade on Cosby Highway from Stansell Electric Company in the amount of \$6,622.60.

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

Request for Annual Events from Cocke County Partnership

Consideration of request for annual events from Cocke County Partnership. The annual events requested are as follows: Rhythm on the River June 3rd & 17th and July 1st, 15th, 29th; Newport Harvest Street Festival October 1st-3rd; and Christmas Parade December 11th. The Partnership has requested all fees to be waived.

Motion was made by Alderwoman Ottingert and second by Vice Mayor Proffitt, to approve request for annual events from Cocke County Partnership for Rhythm on the River June 3rd & 17th and July 1st, 15th, 29th; Newport Harvest Street Festival October 1st-3rd; and Christmas Parade December 11th with all fees to be waived.

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

Amended and Re-Codify of the General Orders for the Newport Police Department

Consideration of amended and re-codify of the General Orders for the Newport Police Department. Chief of Police Maurice Shults requested the re-codification to Section 5 of the Newport Police Department General Orders. This would also include the changes to the General Order that was approved in 2020. Effectively the re-codification of the General Order Section 5 would help to remain compliant with the General Order Section 5.13 requiring an annual review of policy.

Motion was made by Alderman Smith and second by Alderman Knight, to approve the amended and re-codify of the General Orders for the Newport Police Department.

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

Auditor Contract for the City of Newport

Consideration of auditor contract for the City of Newport. Due to the delay from Newport Utility, the city audit will not be on time this year. The City has informed the Comptroller’s office and they are aware of the situation. The City did not have a new contract proposal from auditors Brown, Jake & McDaniel until late today. Finance Director Tina Matthews stated there is a \$1,500 increase. The City’s increase is \$1,000 and Newport Grammar School \$500. The total cost for renewal of audit contract is \$56,900.

Motion was made by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderwoman Ottinger, to approve the renewal of auditor contract from Brown, Jake & McDaniel for a total cost of \$56,900.

Roll Call

Alderman Hansel AYE
Alderman Knight AYE
Alderwoman Ottinger AYE
Alderman Smith AYE
Vice Mayor Proffitt AYE

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

Citizens Comments

Aaron McMahan asked for support for a new liquor store to be considered for Mr. Patel.

Adjournment

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

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

Mayor Roland Dykes, III

James Finchum, City Administrator

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