

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN
CITY OF NEWPORT, TENNESSEE
REGULAR SESSION
MAY 10, 2016**

May 10, 2016

The City of Newport Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in the Newport City Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, May 10, 2016 at 5:45 p.m. in Regular Session.

Rev. Alvin Watts led the invocation. Alderman Mike Hansel 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

April 12, 2016 Regular Session

Motion by Alderman Gribble and second by Alderman Fancher for minutes of the April 12, 2016 Regular Session to be approved as submitted.

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

April 25, 2016 Special Called Meeting

Motion by Vice Mayor Proffitt and second by Alderman Knight for minutes of the April 25, 2016 Special Called to be approved as submitted.

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

Proclamations and/or Recognition of Citizens by the Mayor

Mayor Ball reported on the discussion of donating a surplus fire truck in the February 2016 City Council meeting. The Board was in an agreement of the donation to a volunteer fire department. On May 2, 2016 the City of Newport donated the surplus fire truck to Long Creek Volunteer Fire Department. The City has received lots of feed back with great thanks to the City of Newport and the Board of Mayor & Aldermen. Mayor Ball wanted to thank the Board

personally for the donation of the fire truck. Alderman Gribble stated there was no formal vote on the donation of the fire truck.

Motion by Alderman Knight and second by Alderman Fancher for the approval of donating a surplus fire truck to Long Creek Volunteer Fire Department.

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.

Communications from the City Administrator

City Administrator James Finchum apologized for not having a formal vote on the fire truck donation. Mr. Finchum stated for the record that the City put a stipulation if Long Creek Volunteer Fire Department ever closes, the fire truck will go to another fire department.

Mr. Finchum reported the June City Council meeting needs to be rescheduled due to the Board attending the TML Conference. The Board agreed to have the June City Council meeting June 16th at 5:30.

Mr. Finchum stated the information that was requested at the budget workshop was given to the Board in their packets. Also, Mr. Finchum stated the county gives Stokely Library \$70,795 annually.

Mr. Finchum reported on the railroads barriers. Street Superintendent Ben Hicks contacted the railroad on this issue. The railroad barriers are on the railroad maintenance schedule.

Reports from Committees, Members of Council & Other Officers

Carlene Robinson of the Tanner Preservation Alliance gave a report to City Council.

New Business

Opting Out of the Lease Agreement for the Animal Shelter

Consideration of approval of opting out of the lease agreement for the Animal Shelter. Mr. Finchum stated there was a discussion at the budget workshop to opt out of the lease agreement due to funding of operation the city taxpayers are paying and not being reimbursed by the Friends of the Animal Shelter from the Rolling Rescue. Mr. Finchum stated that people have been misinformed. The City is not trying to close the animal shelter. The City is looking at a transition of operation and control of the animal shelter over to the Friends of the Animal Shelter/Humane Society. After looking at surrounding counties, we are the only government run shelter. The City will still provide animal control and funding will stay the same as it is now.

The City will work with the Friends on the transition. With the transition, the tax payers will not eat the loss.

Robert Brannon stated the information that Mr. Finchum gave was untrue. Mr. Brannon stated “we are not set up to do what he (Mr. Finchum) says. We are not wasting money. The Rolling Rescue generates money. The only money we keep is for expense. We have to fix the roof and other problems. We have bought beds for the animals because they were sleeping on the floor.” Mr. Brannon stated he would get information from other shelters on how they are doing in detail to the Board. Mr. Brannon gave copies of the lease. Mr. Brannon stated, “if you violate the lease I will take you to court for a million dollars, ask for legal fees and mention James Finchum name in the lawsuit.

Vice Mayor Proffitt stated people has a problem with what the county pays and what the city pays. Two-thirds of the animals come from the county. Mr. Brannon agreed with Vice Mayor Proffitt. Mr. Brannon stated he would work with the City to pressure the county for more funding.

Rolling Rescue gave the City \$27,000. Finance Director Tina Matthews state there is a \$71,000 short fall. The City is paying cost of day to day operation. Ms. Matthews stated, “you ask why now? There was an audit finding. The City cannot support outside organization like this. This is not a City function. We can give donations but not run the shelter.” The books show \$89,000 is due to the City but only \$27,000 has been paid to date. By the end of the year they should generate \$100,000. This is a short fall of \$71,000.

Alderman Fancher stated the numbers don’t add up. The City funds more than the county. Alderman Gribble stated he feels like we are not ready for a vote. He would like to get more information. Mr. Gribble stated he don’t think we should opt out of the program that we have had for 20 years.

Motion was made by Alderman Gribble and second by Alderman Fancher to postpone next meeting.

Roll Call

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

Vote 3-2- Mayor Ball declared the motion failed.

Mr. Finchum stated Mr. Brannon admitted to holding money to do other things. Mr. Brannon agreed he would fund the repairs to the roof and other issues with his own money. The City is using tax payer’s money to operate the shelter and pay the bills. Everything is in the City’s name. Ms. Matthews stated last year the City budgeted \$147,000 for the animal shelter. By the end of the fiscal year, the City will have \$218,000 for the animal shelter if the Rolling Rescue money is held. Mr. Finchum stated he told Vice President of Friends Ann Fountain that Finance Director Matthews and he will be at the Friends monthly meeting to help make transition.

Motion was made by Alderman Hansel and second by Vice Mayor Proffitt to opt out of the lease between the City of Newport & Friends of the Animal Shelter.

Roll Call

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

Vote 3-2- Mayor Ball declared the motion passed and approved.

1st Reading of Ordinance #2016-03 City of Newport Budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017

Consideration of approval of 1st Reading of Ordinance #2016-03 City of Newport Budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017.

Motion was made by Alderman Knight and second by Alderman Fancher to approve the 1st Reading of Ordinance #2016-03 City of Newport Budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017.

Roll Call

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

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

1st Reading of Ordinance #2016-04 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport for Fiscal Year 2015-2016

Consideration of approval of 1st Reading of Ordinance #2016-04 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport for Fiscal Year 2015-2016.

Motion was made by Alderman Fancher and second by Alderman Hansel to approve 1st Reading of Ordinance #2016-04 Budget Amendment for the 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

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

1st Reading of Ordinance #2016-05 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar School for Fiscal Year 2015-2016

Consideration of approval of 1st Reading of Ordinance #2016-05 Budget Amendment for the Newport Grammar School for Fiscal Year 2015-2016.

Motion was made by Alderman Gribble and second by Vice Mayor Proffitt to approve 1st Reading of Ordinance #2016-05 Budget Amendment for 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.

Discussion of Auditors for the City of Newport

Discussion of auditors for the City of Newport. Alderman Gribble suggested putting the auditors out to bid. Vice Mayor Proffitt stated if it's not broken don't fix it.

Motion was made by Gribble putting the auditors out to bid.

Motion failed for lack of second.

Discussion of City of Newport Logo

Alderman Hansel suggested changing the City of Newport logo. Alderman Hansel gave copies to the Board of different logo's to look at. After much discussion, the Board agreed to form a committee to look at updating the logo. The members of the committee are Alderman Hansel, Alderman Fancher, and Planner Gary Carver.

Police Department Adding a New Policy to the General Orders – Body-Worn Cameras Policy

Consideration of approval of the Police Department adding a new policy to the General Orders – Body-Worn Cameras Policy.

Motion was made by Gribble and second by Alderman Knight to approve the Police Department adding a new policy to the General Orders – Body-Worn Cameras Policy.

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

Bids

Utility Vehicle for Parks & Recreation

Consideration of approval of bids for a Utility Vehicle for Parks & Recreation. The following bids were submitted: Dal-Kawa Cycle Center for a 2016 Kawasaki 4010 Mule 4X4 in the amount of \$9,092.48 and Tri-County Power Equipment for a Kubota RTV 500-H in the amount of \$8,709.00.

Motion was made by Alderman Gribble and second by Alderman Fancher to approve the bid for utility vehicle from Tri-County Power Equipment for a Kubota RTV 500-H in the amount of \$8,709.00.

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

Gym Equipment for Community Center

Consideration of approval of bids for gym equipment for the Community Center. The following bids were submitted: Fit Worx Interza treadmill \$9,000 and elliptical 7,170 for a total of \$16,170, Direct Fitness treadmill and elliptical combined for a total of \$20,080 & True treadmill \$9,300 and elliptical 9,350 for a total of \$18,650.

Motion was made by Alderman Fancher and second by Alderman Knight to approve the bid for a treadmill only from Fit Worx in the amount of \$9,300 and to rebid the elliptical.

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

Citizens Comments

Jimmy Clark presented the Board with the Tennessee Child Identification Program (CHIP). The program consists of photographs, fingerprints, child information & emergency contacts, DNA samples, & dental record information. Mr. Clark asked the Board if they would fund the purchase of a 26 EZ Child ID Computer System in the amount of \$2,883. The Board asked Ms. Matthews to check the budget for the funds and bring back to next month's meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board of Mayor & Alderman, a **motion was made by Aldermen Knight 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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