

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN
CITY OF NEWPORT, TENNESSEE
REGULAR SESSION
MAY 11, 2021**

Public Hearing

Mayor Roland Dykes, III opened the public hearing for discussion of 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2021-02 Amending the Privilege of Occupancy in Hotel/Motel Tax. Attorney Ed Summer spoke on behalf of Mike Shuler.

Mayor Dykes closed the Public Hearing.

May 11, 2021

The City of Newport Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in the Newport City Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. in Regular Session.

Alderman Bobby Knight led the invocation. Alderwoman Louanna Ottinger led the Pledge to the Flag.

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

The following officials were not present: Alderman Mike Hansel.

Mayor Dykes declared a Quorum.

Minutes

April 13, 2021 Regular Session

Motion by Alderwoman Ottinger and second by Vice Mayor Proffitt, for minutes of the March 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 presented a proclamation to Tennessee Voices, a statewide family support network, for National Children's Mental Health Awareness Month.

Communications from the City Administrator

City Administrator James Finchum stated Alderman Mike Hansel had to work and asked to remind everyone of National Police Week.

Mr. Finchum asked for two items to be added to the agenda that were last minute. First a police officer has been out due to a surgery. This policeman needs to get into his early retirement. A letter was presented by Chief of Police Maurice Shults requesting the access of his early retirement.

Motion was made by Alderman Smith and second by Alderman Knight, to suspend the rules and add the access of early retirement for a police officer to the agenda.

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

Mr. Finchum stated there has been an internal investigation for wrongdoing of a fire fighter. The City Council hires per charter and must also do the termination.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Proffitt and second by Alderman Smith, to suspend the rules and add the termination of a fire fighter to the agenda.

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

Mr. Finchum gave an update on the COVID. Mr. Finchum stated there has been an outbreak at the Police Department. There has also been one at City Hall. This has been the worst outbreak to date.

Mr. Finchum talked briefly about the gas shortage. He has sent a directive to all department directors to conserve as much as possible until this is resolved.

Mr. Finchum spoke about needing part-time workers. To open the pool, Parks & Recreation needs 16 lifeguards but only has six. Also there has been an opening for kennel aide for over a year. Mr. Finchum will increase the minimum wage jobs to \$10.00 an hour. He is also looking at considering giving a signing bonus and an ending bonus.

Mr. Finchum stated he has been looking into the Cares Act. There is a lot of need that is not covered. There are a few projects such as sewer and storm drain that is covered in the Cares Act. One thing that recommended is a premium pay bonus for employees. Finance Director Tina Matthews has been working on the plan with Mr. Finchum.

Mr. Finchum stated the insurance rates for fiscal year 2021-22 for city employees will be a 6% increase.

Mr. Finchum reported the litter pickup in the city was a success. There were 111 bags on trash picked up on the first time. There will be another litter pick-up in the next couple of weeks.

Old Business

2nd Reading of Ordinance #2021-02 Amending the Privilege of Occupancy in Hotel/Motel Tax

Consideration of 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2021-02 Amending the Privilege of Occupancy in Hotel/Motel Tax. Mr. Finchum stated this was for funding of the new welcome center at the Tanner Building. These tax dollars must be spent on improvement of tourism.

Motion was made by Alderman Smith and second by Alderwoman Ottinger, to approve 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2021-02 Amending the Privilege of Occupancy in Hotel/Motel Tax.

Roll Call

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

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

New Business

1st Reading of Ordinance #2021-03 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport

Consideration of 1st Reading of Ordinance #2021-03 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport.

Motion was made by Alderman Smith and second by Alderman Knight, to approve 1st Reading of Ordinance #2021-03 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport.

Roll Call

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

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

1st Reading of Ordinance #2021-04 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar School

Consideration of 1st Reading of Ordinance #2021-04 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar School.

Motion was made by Alderwoman Ottinger and second by Vice Mayor Proffitt, to approve 1st Reading of Ordinance #2021-04 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar School.

Roll Call

Alderman Knight AYE
Alderwoman Ottinger AYE
Alderman Smith AYE

Vice Mayor Proffitt AYE

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

1st Reading of Ordinance #2021-05 Budget for the City of Newport for Fiscal Year 2021-22

Consideration of 1st Reading of Ordinance #2021-05 Budget for the City of Newport for Fiscal Year 2021-22.

Motion was made by Alderman Smith and second by Alderwoman Ottinger, to approve 1st Reading of Ordinance #2021-05 Budget for the City of Newport for Fiscal Year 2021-22.

Roll Call

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

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

1st Reading of Ordinance #2021-06 Amending the Zoning Map of the City of Newport from R-2 Residential to C-2 Commercial Located at 644 East Broadway

Consideration of 1st Reading of Ordinance #2021-06 Amending the Zoning Map of the City of Newport from R-2 Residential to C-2 Commercial Located at 644 East Broadway. Community Development Director Gary Carver stated this was for a sale of property and has been approved by the Planning Commission.

Motion was made by Alderman Smith and second by Alderman Knight, to approve 1st Reading of Ordinance #2021-06 Amending the Zoning Map of the City of Newport from R-2 Residential to C-2 Commercial Located at 644 East Broadway.

Roll Call

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

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

Amendment of Contract to Remove an Old Fuel Tank

Consideration of Amendment of Contract to Remove an Old Fuel Tank. Mr. Carver stated there was one quote from Blalock for the removal of the tank to the project scope. The

tank must be removed and disposed of properly. The soil will then be tested under the tank for possible soil contamination. The total cost of this project is in the amount of \$29,500.

Motion was made by Alderwoman Ottinger and second by Vice Mayor Proffitt, to approve Amendment of Contract to Remove an Old Fuel Tank.

Roll Call

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

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

Applicants for a Liquor Store in City of Newport

Consideration of Applicants for a Liquor Store in City of Newport. The following submitted a resume for the certificate of compliance for a liquor store: The Bottle Store- Mike Ottinger; Mark Smith, Steve Smith & Dennis Thornton; Krupa Patel; and Pratima Patel with Kishor Patel. Packets were given to the City Council prior to the meeting for review. Alderwoman Ottinger stated for the record Mike Ottinger is of no relation to her.

Motion was made Alderman Smith by and second by Alderwoman Ottinger, to approve The Bottle Store – Mike Ottinger applicant for a liquor store in City of Newport.

Roll Call

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

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

Access of Early Retirement Time for a Police Officer

Consideration of access of early retirement time for a police officer. Chief of Police Maurice Shults stated Derrick Webb had surgery and needs to access his early retirement time. Chief Shults recommended the access of early retirement time for Derrick Webb.

Motion was made by Alderman Knight and second by Alderwoman, to approve 1st Reading of Ordinance #2021-04 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar School.

Roll Call

Alderman Knight AYE
Alderwoman Ottinger AYE
Alderman Smith AYE

Vice Mayor Proffitt AYE

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

Termination of a Fire Fighter

Consideration of termination of a fire fighter. Fire Chief Jeremy Shelton stated there was an internal investigation into theft of property with video evidence of Fire Engineer Toran Hedgepath removing cash from another employee's private locker. Engineer Hedgepath has been suspended without pay. Fire Chief Shelton has recommended the termination of Engineer Hedgepath.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Proffitt and second by Alderman Smith, to approve the termination of Fire Engineer Toran Hedgepath.

Roll Call

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

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

Bids

Roof Replacement for Both Newport Fire Station One and Two

Consideration of roof replacement for both Newport Fire Station one and two. There were two bids: J & W Roofing & Sheet Metal station one \$73,719 and station two \$31,233; and Preen Construction LLC station one \$89,995 and station two \$39,930.

Motion was made by Alderman Knight and second by Alderman Smith, to approve the bid roof replacement for both Newport Fire Station one and two with the low bid from J & W Roofing & Sheet Metal.

Roll Call

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

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

Fitness Flooring for the Community Center

Consideration of bids for fitness flooring for the Community Center. There was only one bid from AJ Sports Company in the amount of \$23,078.03.

Motion was made by Alderwoman Ottinger and second by Vice Mayor Proffitt, to approve the bid from AJ Sports Company in the amount of \$23,078.03 for fitness flooring for the Community Center.

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

Heating & Air Units and Duct Work for the Operation and Wellness Areas at the Community Center

Consideration of bids for heating & air units and duct work for the operation and wellness areas at the Community Center. There was only one bid from Scott Thornton Heating & Air for electric \$46,500 or for gas \$44,500.

Motion was made by Alderman Smith and second by Alderwoman Ottinger, to approve the bid from Scott Thornton Heating & Air for \$46,500 for heating & air units and duct work for the operation and wellness areas at the Community Center.

Roll Call

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

Gem Liser from Empower Cocker County gave a presentation for transportation for senior’s program. Ms. Liser requested a one time donation.

Adjournment

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