

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN
CITY OF NEWPORT, TENNESSEE
REGULAR SESSION
MAY 12, 2020**

May 12, 2020

The City of Newport Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in the Newport City Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in Regular Session.

Alderman Bobby Knight led the invocation. Alderman Mike Hansel led the Pledge to the Flag.

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

The following officials were not present: Vice Mayor Mike Proffitt.

Mayor Dykes declared a Quorum.

Minutes

March 10, 2020 Regular Session

Motion by Alderwoman Ottinger and second by Alderman Hansel for minutes of the March 10, 2020 Regular Session to be approved as submitted.

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

Proclamations and/or Recognition of Citizens by the Mayor

Mayor Dykes recognized the first responders through the COVID-19 pandemic. Alderwoman Ottinger recognized City Administrator James Finchum on his work with the City through the pandemic. Alderman Hansel stated it was National Police Week and National Police Memorial Day May 13th. Flags should be flown at half-staff.

Communications from the City Administrator

City Administrator James Finchum commended his staff and city employees on their work through the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Finchum stated he was following the governor's orders for the City of Newport.

Mr. Finchum stated he would like to modify the sanitation ordinance. There have been citizens putting loose garbage to be picked up. Mr. Finchum wrote a letter to be handed out to citizens stating the Street Department would not pick up loose garbage.

Appointment of Boards, Commissions & Committees

Re-appointment to the Newport Utilities Board – Dianne Stokley

Consideration of re-appointment to the Newport Utilities Board – Dianne Stokley.

Motion was made by Alderwoman Ottinger and second by Alderman Hanse, to approve the re-appointment of Dianne Stokley to the Newport Utilities Board.

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

Re-appointment to the Equalization Board – John Clark

Consideration of re-appointment to the Equalization Board – John Clark.

Motion was made by Alderman Smith and second by Alderman Knight to approve the re-appointment of John Clark to the Equalization Board.

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

Reports from Committees, Members of Council & Other Officers

Community Development Director Gary Carver gave updates on the Tanner Building project and stated the Tanner Building report was in their City Council books.

New Business

Annual Employee Insurance Renewal for Fiscal Year 2020-21

Consideration of annual employee insurance renewal for Fiscal Year 2020-21. Mr. Finchum stated the City had received the renewal insurance rates from Humana with a 34% increase in cost. Blue Cross Blue Shield has offered a proposal with a 15% increase.

Motion was made by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Smith to approve proposal from Blue Cross Blue Shield for the annual employee insurance renewal for Fiscal Year 2020-21.

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

1st Reading of Ordinance #2020-02 Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year 2019-20 for the City of Newport

Consideration of 1st Reading of Ordinance #2020-02 Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year 2019-20 for the City of Newport.

Motion was made by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Knight to approve 1st Reading of Ordinance #2020-02 Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year 2019-20 for the City of Newport.

Rollcall

Alderman Hansel	AYE
Alderman Knight	AYE
Alderwoman Ottinger	AYE
Alderman Smith	AYE

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

1st Reading of Ordinance #2020-03 Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year 2019-20 for the Newport Grammar School

Consideration of 1st Reading of Ordinance #2020-03 Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year 2019-20 for the Newport Grammar School.

Motion was made by Alderman Smith and second by Alderman Hansel to approve 1st Reading of Ordinance #2020-03 Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year 2019-20 for the Newport Grammar School.

Rollcall

Alderman Hansel	AYE
Alderman Knight	AYE
Alderwoman Ottinger	AYE
Alderman Smith	AYE

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

1st Reading of Ordinance #2020-04 Budget for the City of Newport for Fiscal Year 2020-21

Consideration of 1st Reading of Ordinance #2020-04 Budget for the City of Newport for Fiscal Year 2020-21.

Motion was made by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Knight to approve 1st Reading of Ordinance #2020-04 Budget for the City of Newport for Fiscal Year 2020-21.

Rollcall

Alderman Hansel	AYE
Alderman Knight	AYE
Alderwoman Ottinger	AYE
Alderman Smith	AYE

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

Resolution #2020-09 Authorizing the Closing of Grant Fund Bank Account for the City of Newport from US Bank

Consideration of Resolution #2020-09 Authorizing the Closing of Grant Fund Bank Account for the City of Newport from US Bank.

Motion was made by Alderwoman Ottinger and second by Alderman Smith to approve Resolution #2020-09 Authorizing the Closing of Grant Fund Bank Account for the City of Newport from US Bank.

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

Hiring a Fire Fighter for the Newport Fire Department

Consideration of hiring a Fire Fighter for the Newport Fire Department. Frank Lunsford is the next on the Civil Service list to be hired.

Motion was made by Alderman Smith and second by Alderman Knight to approve hiring Frank Lunsford as Fire Fighter for the Newport Fire Department.

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

Mural Placement for East Tennessee Artscapes – Gretta Carr Program Director

Consideration of Mural Placement for East Tennessee Artscapes – Gretta Carr Program Director. Ms. Carr stated the mural will be on the side on the building on 325 East Broadway, a yoga studio, with native plants. Ms. Carr handed out a portfolio of artist Shannon Kelley who will doing the mural if approved. After much discussion, the Board asked Ms. Carr to bring this to the Planning Commission for their approval.

There was no action taken.

Proposal to Honor Graduating Seniors

Discussion of Proposal to Honor Graduating Seniors. Jeff Fancher asked the Board to approve hanging 19 banners with spring sports, the valedictorian and salutatorian from both Coker County High School and Cosby School. Mr. Fancher also asked for the Board to give from their public relations fund for this project. After much discussion, it was determined there are no brackets on Broadway. The Parks & Recreation would need to hang the banners & brackets with the bucket truck.

Motion was made by Alderman Smith and second by Alderman Knight to approve the project for graduating seniors' banners downtown on Broadway and utilizing the City bucket truck for this project.

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

Signage for the Downtown

Discussion of signage for the downtown. Community Development Director Gary Carver gave examples of sign images for the concept art for the wayfinding signage that the Development Department has been working on with design firm IBI Placemaking. The design work is being funded by a health department grant as well as partially by the state ECD asset enhancement grant. The actual signs are being purchased with the downtowns grant. There will be three the large signs placed at the "gateways" into downtown. The additional signage will be placed strategically through downtown to identify parking, the greenway and point direction toward other landmarks. The Board gave Mr. Carver approval to move forward with signage for downtown Newport.

There was no action taken.

Bids

Newport Downtown Storm Drain Project - CDBG Grant

Consideration of bids for Newport Downtown Storm Drain Project - CDBG Grant. Mr. Carver stated he was not aware of a resolution that had to be approved for the this bid due to the bid exceeding the available project budget.

Motion was made by Alderwoman Ottinger and second by Alderman Hansel to approve suspending the rules and adding Resolution #2020-10 Authorizing the City of Newport to Hire Charles Blaylock & Sons, Inc. for the Drainage System Improvement Project for the Community Development Block Grant.

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

Motion was made by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderwoman Ottinger to approve Resolution #2020-10 Authorizing the City of Newport to Hire Charles Blaylock & Sons,

Inc. for the Drainage System Improvement Project for the Community Development Block Grant.

Rollcall

Alderman Hansel	AYE
Alderman Knight	AYE
Alderman Ottinger	AYE
Alderman Smith	AYE

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

Replacing Tasers for the Police Department

Consideration of replacing tasers for the Police Department. The proposal for 22 Taser X2 in the amount of \$28,050 by Axon Enterprise, Inc. was submitted by Police Chief Maurice Shults.

Motion was made by Alderman Smith and second by Alderman Hansel to approve bids from Axon Enterprise, Inc. for 22 Taser X2 in the amount of \$28,050.

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

Replacing Tasers for the Police Department

Consideration of replacing tasers for the Police Department. The proposal for 22 Taser X2 in the amount of \$28,050 by Axon Enterprise, Inc. was submitted by Police Chief Maurice Shults.

Motion was made by Alderman Smith and second by Alderman Hansel to approve bids from Axon Enterprise, Inc. for 22 Taser X2 in the amount of \$28,050.

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

Replacing a Truck for the Street Department

Consideration of Bids for Replacing a Truck for the Street Department. This is to replace the salt truck. There was only one bid from Fincher Truck & Equipment for a 2004 F350 4 X 4 truck in the amount of \$14,600.

Motion was made by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Ottinger to approve bids from Fincher Truck & Equipment for a 2004 F350 4 X 4 truck in the amount of \$14,600.

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

Citizens Comments

State Representative David Hawk from Greeneville stated he was a candidate for the congressional race.

Adjournment

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

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

Mayor Roland Dykes, III

James Finchum, City Administrator

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