

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN
CITY OF NEWPORT, TENNESSEE
REGULAR SESSION
MAY 13, 2014**

Public Hearing

Mayor Connie Ball opened the public hearing for discussion on Ordinance #2014-03 Amending the Beer Ordinance. There was no one to comment.

Mayor Ball closed the Public Hearing.

May 13, 2014

The City of Newport Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in the Newport City Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, May 13, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. in Regular Session.

Rev. Alvin Watts led the invocation. Alderman Gregg led the Pledge to the Flag.

The following officials were present: Mayor Connie Ball, Vice Mayor Bill Costner, Alderman John Bugg, Alderman Freddie Gregg, Alderwoman Kathy Holt, Alderman Kenny Morgan, City Attorney Terry Hurst, and City Administrator James Finchum.

Mayor Ball declared a Quorum.

After roll call Mayor Ball stood to thank the community for the out pouring of sympathy on the loss of his father Lon Ball.

Minutes

April 13, 2014 Regular Session

Motion by Alderwoman Holt and second by Alderman Gregg for minutes of the April 13, 2014 Regular Session to be approved as submitted.

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

Proclamations and or Recognition of Citizens by the Mayor

Communications from the City Administrator

City Administrator James Finchum reported of the miscommunication of the banner hanging between the City and the Newport Utilities. After talking with Interim General Manager Sherry Frisbee, the City and Newport Utilities will be working together on hanging the banners. Mr. Finchum suggested placing the banners for upcoming events on the corner of the memorial lot instead of downtown. The last banner fell in the middle of the night after a storm. Vice Mayor Costner suggested letting Parks & Recreation Director Tim Dockery and his staff handle the banner hanging. After much discussion, there was a time limit of 10-15 days to leave the banners up.

Mr. Finchum reported the Charter & the Municipal Code is now on the website. The City Council minutes will be on the website as well. Mr. Finchum stated there was a resolution that stated of a policy to charge for copies for public records requested from citizens of .50 a copy. Mr. Finchum stated the City has not been charging people for copies. Mr. Finchum asked the Board what they would like to do.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Costner and second by Alderman Gregg to Amend the resolution to give up to 20 copies free then charge .50 a copy for public records.

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

Mr. Finchum stated documents requested from charitable organizations (the 501c3 organizations) for the audit and budget that request funding for fiscal year 2015 are on file at City Hall and available for council review. Helen Ross McNabb Center request \$1,500 donation for fiscal year 2014-2015. This letter was sent in after the budget was finished. The Street Department will rebid items for the Used Oil Grant. There were no bids submitted. Amanda White is contacting vendors.

Appointment of Boards, Commissions, and Committees

Reports from Committees, Members of Council, & Other Officers

Roland Dykes III on the Tanner Preservation Alliance reported of no changes.

Old Business

2nd Reading of Ordinance #2014-03 Amending the Beer Ordinance

Consideration of approval of 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2014-03 Amending the Beer Ordinance. An Ordinance amending Beer Ordinance #2007-19 enabling the City Recorder to issue a temporary beer permit and giving the Beer Board permission to issue Special Events Permits.

Motion was made by Alderwoman Holt and second by Alderman Gregg to approve the 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2014-03 Amending the Beer Ordinance.

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

New Business

Insurance Options for City Employees

Consideration of approval of insurance options for City employees for fiscal year 2014-2015. Cindy Moyers told the Board of 2 different options at the expense of employees.

Motion was made by Alderman Gregg and second by Vice Mayor Costner to approve option 2 submitted quote number 416 (\$2,500/\$4,000) for a total cost of \$425.82 per month per employee.

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

1st Reading of Ordinance #2014-04 City of Newport Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015

Consideration of approval of 1st Reading of Ordinance #2014-04 City of Newport Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015. Mr. Finchum stated the Newport Grammar School has not paid for their annual audit since 2012. The cost of the audit is \$20,000. This year's budget shows the \$20,000 but the City should be reimbursed. The Board requested a copy of the Newport Grammar School's budget prior to the 2nd reading of Ordinance #2014-04 City of Newport Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

Motion was made by Alderman Gregg and second by Alderwoman Holt to approve the 1st Reading of Ordinance #2014-04 City of Newport Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

ROLL CALL

Alderman Bugg	AYE
Vice Mayor Costner	AYE
Alderman Gregg	AYE
Alderwoman Holt	AYE
Alderman Morgan	AYE

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

Request of Right of Way From Jefferson Cocke Utility District

Consideration of approval of request of right of way from Jefferson Cocke Utility District located off of Church Street. The easement is necessary to upgrade the distributing system beginning from Cope Boulevard extending beyond the City property with a six inch steel distribution line.

Motion was made by Alderman Gregg and second by Alderman Morgan to approve the request of right of way from Jefferson Cocke Utility District located off of Church Street.

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

Amending Ordinance #2006-15 Prohibiting Vending and Peddling in the City Park

Discussion of amending Ordinance #2006-15 Prohibiting Vending and Peddling in the City Park. Mr. Finchum stated in order to amend this ordinance there would have to be a Charter change. Mayor Ball stated to discuss this issue at a later date.

No action was taken.

Resolution #2014-06 Changing the Name of Lisega Boulevard to Chemwood Drive

Consideration of approval of Resolution #2014-06 changing the name of Lisega Boulevard to Chemwood Drive. This request came from the Planning Commission.

Motion was made by Alderman Gregg and second by Vice Mayor Costner to approve Resolution #2014-06 Changing the Name of Lisega Boulevard to Chemwood Drive.

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

Donation to Senior Citizens Home Assistance Services

Consideration of approval of donation to Senior Citizens Home Assistance Services of \$1,000. Alderwoman Holt asked if there was any room for allocation. Mr. Finchum replied this will draw down the fund balance. Alderwoman Holt replied I don't know how we can do it. Mayor Ball asked to look at this request with the others at a later date.

No Action was taken.

Glen Ray former General Manager of Newport Utilities

Glen Ray asked the Board to listen to the bids then get to him after the bids are heard since the citizens comments had to do with his issue.

Bids, Purchases, and Expenses

Bids for Engineering Services for Safe Routes to School Phase II

Consideration of bids for engineering services for Safe Routes to School Phase II. There was only one bid from Robert G. Campbell & Associates, L.P.

Motion was made by Alderwoman Holt and second by Alderman Gregg to approve the bid From Robert G. Campbell & Associates, L.P. for the engineering services for Safe Routes to School Phase II.

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

Parks & Recreation Director Tim Dockery reported the construction on the memorial lot was from a grant the KCCB has received. Mr. Dockery has been working with KCCB Director Tim Berkel on the improvement to the memorial lot. There will be a side walk, 4 planters, and a gazebo for upcoming events.

Glen Ray former General Manager of Newport Utilities

Glen Ray former General Manager of Newport Utilities spoke on behalf of getting his job back from Newport Utilities. Mr. Ray stated he had been with the Newport Utilities for 11 months and 2 weeks and has never had a complaint against him. Mr. Ray stated he had a meeting with Alderman Kenny Morgan, Director of Human Resources Connie Frisbee, and Policeman Steve Hudson. Mr. Ray stated that when he was in the room at the meeting he was handed a negative evaluation from the board members, a form to resign and a form for severance pay if he never mentioned this again. Mr. Ray said he was not allowed to leave the room or make a call. Mr. Ray said he signed the form to resign but he would never sign the severance pay form because he was not going to let this go. Mr. Ray stated he thought everything was ok. Mr. Ray stated some of his accomplishments during his time at the Newport Utilities as General Manager. Alderman Morgan had contacted him often. Mr. Ray said he had over 100 text mails from Mr. Morgan and had more emails but he wasn't allowed to get his emails. Mr. Ray stated he felt blindsided.

Alderman Morgan read a statement from the attorneys of Newport utilities stated he could not respond due to the nature of an upcoming lawsuit. Alderwoman Holt asked the board members present to revisit this issue and get together. Mr. Ray said yes he would. Alderman Morgan stated, "Mayor I read the statement."

Citizens Comments

Roger Gribble spoke on behalf of Glenn Ray. Mr. Gribble asked, "what did he do that on March 31st we take a policeman, the head of the utility department & director of human recourse, take him to the conference room and give him this unbelievable performance appraisal form." There were 8 pages in that appraisal. Two pages were signature pages and the rest of them are blank. They have no comments. Look at the accomplishments in the past 12 months. Mr. Gribble stated the concerned citizens of Newport have a petition started to reinstate Glenn Ray to Newport Utilities with over 1,000 signatures and hoping for 2,000 more. Mr. Gribble stated, "he's done nothing to be removed." Mr. Gribble said maybe they need to remove the board and start over again. Mr. Gribble stated he would do everything he could to stop this and make sure this never happens again.

Mike Proffitt spoke on behalf of Glen Ray. Mr. Proffitt asked to give Mr. Ray a chance and work together. "I'm not saying I'm right or wrong. I'm not saying the Utility Board is right or wrong. I'm not saying Mr. Ray is right or wrong. But I am saying the way this process was handed down is very wrong."

Dr. Ken Johnson spoke on behalf of Glen Ray. Dr. Johnson stated he was concerned. Dr. Johnson asked to rethink this.

Mayor Ball stated as the Mayor of Newport I feel like I should have been notified if there was a problem with the Utilities and I was never notified.

Alderwoman Holt asked again for all the board members in the audience and the 3 sitting on City Council to please reconsider this and let's do this again.

Mayor Ball announced the graduations of Cocke County High School and Cosby high School. Relay for Life is having a celebrity waiter night that will all donations will go to Relay for Life.

Adjournment

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

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

Mayor Connie Ball

James Finchum, City Administrator

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