

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN  
CITY OF NEWPORT, TENNESSEE  
REGULAR SESSION  
MAY 8, 2018**

**May 8, 2018**

The City of Newport Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in the Newport City Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, May 8, 2018 at 5:45 p.m. in Regular Session.

Rev. Alvin Watts led the invocation. Chief of Police Maurice Shults led the Pledge to the Flag.

The following officials were present: Mayor Connie Ball, Vice Mayor Mike Proffitt, Alderman Jeff Fancher, Alderman Mike Hansel, Alderman Bobby Knight, Alderman Steve Smith, City Attorney Terry Hurst, and City Administrator James Finchum.

Mayor Ball declared a Quorum.

**Minutes**

**April 10, 2017 Regular Session**

**Motion by Vice Mayor Proffitt and second by Alderman Smith** for minutes of the April 10, 2017 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**

Mayor Ball presented Tennessee Voices for Children a proclamation for National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day. Vice Mayor Proffitt gave recognition to Cruise Against Cancer and Nathan Manning. Alderman Hansel gave recognition of Police Peace Officers Memorial Day May 15. Mayor Ball gave recognition of Street Public Works Week May 21-27.

**Communications from the City Administrator**

City Administrator James Finchum reported the rehabilitation of city buildings. The Police Department building is the last building for rehabilitation. Mr. Finchum has spoke with Architect Mike Smelcher in Pigeon Forge on this project. Mr. Smelcher has worked with other

municipalities buildings. Mr. Smelcher will charge by the hour which will save money on this project. Mr. Finchum stated he wanted to get this project completed and if it's ok with the Board will he hire Mr. Smelcher for this project.

Mr. Finchum has cracked down on the sick leave policy. There have been a few employees abuse the sick leave policy in the past. Mr. Finchum stated he was going to enforce the sick policy by allowing the employees to take the first week of sick time but asking for a doctor statement for any other days thereafter.

Alderman Fancher stated he appreciated the Police Department on their work for the City. Alderman Fancher stated that Animal Control is working well and that he appreciated the work the staff has done.

Mr. Finchum stated the bids to paint the animal control building have been put out with no bids being sent in. Mr. Finchum asked if anyone knew a painter that is qualified to please contact City Hall.

The speed limit on the new Cosby Highway will be 45 mile per hour to Wilton Springs until the construction is completed. After the construction, the state will set the speed limit.

### **Appointment of Boards, Commissions & Committees**

#### **Equalization Board – Ray Kiefer**

Consideration of re-appointment to the Equalization Board – Ray Kiefer.

**Motion was made by Vice Mayor Proffitt and second by Alderman Fancher to approve of re-appointment of Ray Kiefer to the Equalization Board.**

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

#### **City of Newport School Board to Fill Charlotte Mims Appointment Until the November Election**

Consideration of appointment for City of Newport School Board to fill Charlotte Mims appointment until the November election.

**Motion was made by Vice Mayor Proffitt and second by Alderman Fancher to approve appointing David Perryman to the City of Newport School Board to fill Charlotte Mims appointment until the November election. Alderman Hansel stated he would have liked to have taken applications for this appointment.**

#### **Roll Call**

Alderman Fancher	AYE
Alderman Hansel	AYE
Alderman Knight	AYE
Alderman Smith	AYE
Vice Mayor Proffitt	AYE

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

**Newport Housing Authority Board**

Consideration of appointment to the Newport Housing Authority Board for the remainder of the appointment of the late Charlotte Mims. Mayor Ball stated Director Walter Cole had submitted both a verbal and a written request for the recommendation of Regina Thornton to the Newport Housing Authority Board.

**Motion was made by Alderman Knight and second by Vice Mayor Proffitt to approve of appointment of Regina Thornton to the Newport Housing Authority Board.**

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

**New Business**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2018-07 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport**

Consideration of 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2018-07 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport.

**Motion was made by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Knight to approve 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2018-07 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport.**

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

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2018-08 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar School**

Consideration of 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2018-08 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar School.

**Motion was made by Alderman Fancher and second by Alderman Hansel to approve 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2018-08 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar School.**

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

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2018-09 Budget for the City of Newport for Fiscal Year 2018-2019**

Consideration of 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2018-09 Budget for the City of Newport for Fiscal Year 2018-2019. Mr. Finchum stated the Board has worked hard to keep their promise on cutting taxes in three years. This budget will have a tax cut of twenty five cents.

**Motion was made by Alderman Smith and second by Alderman Knight to approve 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2018-09 Budget for the City of Newport for Fiscal Year 2018-2019.**

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

## **Political Signs**

Discussion of Political Signs. Mr. Finchum stated the problems with the political signs through the election was not enforceable with the ordinance that the city has now. Buildings & Codes Director Mark Robinson had got research from surrounding municipalities. Mr. Finchum reported he had meet with the Planning Commission on the political signs. Mr. Finchum wanted to get everyone's input on the change of the political signs ordinance. The final draft will be presented at next month's meeting.

## **Mutual Agreement Between the City of Newport and Cocke County for the Animal Control**

Consideration of Mutual Agreement between the City of Newport and Cocke County for the Animal Control. TML has recommended this agreement between the city and the county for Animal Control.

**Motion was made by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Fancher** to approve Mutual Agreement between the City of Newport and Cocke County for the Animal Control.

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

## **Hiring a Firefighter**

Consideration of hiring a firefighter. Fire Chief Randy Ragan stated Josh Valentine was the number one person on the hiring list. There will be two firefighters deployed by the National Guard. There will also be a firefighter retire at the first of the year.

**Motion was made by Alderman Smith and second by Alderman Knight** to approve hiring Josh Valentine for the Fire Department.

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

## **Cruise Against Cancer at Newport City Park for Next Year**

Consideration of Cruise Against Cancer at Newport City Park for next year. This event has out grown Lowes parking lot. This group has asked to move to the Newport City Park.

**Motion was made by Alderman Fancher and second by Vice Mayor Proffitt** to approve Cruise Against Cancer at Newport City Park for next year.

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

## **Bids**

### **Bids for ADA Borders for Parks & Recreation**

Consideration of Bids for ADA Borders for Parks & Recreation. Parks & Recreation Director Tim Dockery stated this is for borders for ten sites that are to be ADA approved. Mr. Dockery stated there was only one bid from NJPA Government Contract Little Tikes Commercial in the amount of \$12,946.

**Motion was made by Alderman Smith and second by Alderman Fancher** to approve Bids for ADA Borders for Parks & Recreation from Little Tikes Commercial in the amount of \$12,946.

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

**Comments from Citizens**

Carlene Robinson stated she June 15<sup>th</sup> is Elderly Abuse Awareness Day. She asked for a proclamation for next month.

**Adjournment**

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

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

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Mayor Connie Ball

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James Finchum, City Administrator

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