

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN  
CITY OF NEWPORT, TENNESSEE  
REGULAR SESSION  
MAY 9, 2017**

**May 9, 2017**

The City of Newport Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in the Newport City Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, May 9, 2017 at 5:45 p.m. in Regular Session.

Rev. Alvin Watts led the invocation. Fire Chief Randy Ragan 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 11, 2017 Regular Session**

**Motion by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Fancher** for minutes of the April 11, 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**

Alderman Hansel presented Chief of Police Maurice Shults and staff of the Newport Police Department with a proclamation for National Police Week May 14-20, 2017. Alderman Hansel presented Director Lindsey Ellison and staff of First Call Emergency Medical Services with a proclamation for National Emergency Services Week May 21-27, 2017.

**Communications from the City Administrator**

City Administrator James Finchum reported the Mayor has asked for \$1,000 for two (2) auditorium seats to be added to the budget for a donation to the Cocke County High School.

Mr. Finchum reported of complaints on the Broadband project have been called into City Hall. City Hall staff has been sending them to Newport Utilities.

Mr. Finchum reported a letter from the Friends of the Animal Shelter's attorney, Attorney J. Patrick Stapleton, has been received to put on a notice as of July 1, 2017 to be out or renew the lease. Mr. Finchum stated he was exploring options to fix the problem.

Vice Mayor Proffitt wanted to extend a great appreciation to Fire Chief Randy Ragan for saving the Newport Hardware from the fire.

**Appointment of Boards, Commission & Committees**

Mayor Ball announced the reappointment of Kenneth Calfee to the Fire Civil Service Board.

**Reports from Committees, Members of Council & Other Officers**

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

**Old Business**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2017-06 Amending the Zoning Map of the City of Newport From R-1 Low Density Residential To R-2 Medium Density Residential**

Consideration of Consideration of 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2017-06 Amending the Zoning Map of the City of Newport From R-1 Low Density Residential To R-2 Medium Density Residential.

**Motion by Vice Mayor Proffitt and second by Alderman Hansel to approve 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2017-06 Amending the Zoning Map of the City of Newport From R-1 Low Density Residential To R-2 Medium Density Residential.**

**Roll Call**

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

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

**New Business**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance # 2017-07 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport**

Consideration of 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2017-07 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport.

**Motion was made by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Fancher to approve 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2017-07 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport.**

**Roll Call**

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

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

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2017-08 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar School**

Consideration of 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2017-08 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar School.

**Motion was made by Alderman Gribble and second by Alderman Fancher to approve 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2017-08 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar School.**

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

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2017-09 Budget for the City of Newport for Fiscal Year 2017-2018**

Consideration of 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2017-09 Budget for the City of Newport for Fiscal Year 2017-2018.

**Motion was made by Alderman Fancher and second by Alderman Knight to approve the amendment to add the \$1,000 for auditorium seats for the Cocke County High School to Ordinance #2017-09 Budget for the City of Newport for Fiscal Year 2017-2018.**

**Roll Call**

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

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

**Motion was made by Alderman Knight and second by Alderman Fancher to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of #2017-09 Budget for the City of Newport for Fiscal Year 2017-2018.**

**Roll Call**

Alderman Fancher	AYE
Alderman Gribble	NAY
Alderman Hansel	AYE

Alderman Knight            AYE  
Vice Mayor Proffitt        AYE

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

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2017-10 Amending Municipal Code Title 4 Municipal Personnel Adding the Nepotism Policy for the City of Newport**

Consideration of 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2017-10 Amending Municipal Code Title 4 Municipal Personnel Adding the Nepotism Policy for the City of Newport.

**Motion was made by Alderman Gribble and second by Alderman Hansel** to approve 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2017-10 Amending Municipal Code Title 4 Municipal Personnel Adding the Nepotism Policy for the City of Newport.

**Roll Call**

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

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

**Bids**

**Pool Cleaners for Parks & Recreation**

Consideration of bids for pool cleaners for Parks & Recreation. The only bid received was from Tipton Builders of Knoxville, Tennessee for two (2) Dolphin C6 Plus Commercial Swimming Pool Cleaners in the total amount of \$12,427.92.

**Motion was made by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Knight** to approve the bid from Tipton Builders of Knoxville, Tennessee for two (2) Dolphin C6 Plus Commercial Swimming Pool Cleaners in the total amount of \$12,427.92.

**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.**

## Comments from Citizens

Alderman Fancher stated he has read the letter from the Friends of the Animal Shelter attorney and we may have to oblige them with their request. Mr. Fancher went to the County for the roof repairs and they will not help with the funding. Mr. Fancher stated the only thing that he can think of doing is either opt out of the animal shelter business or sit down with the County and the Friends to work out a new lease. Vice Mayor Proffitt stated 80% of the animals are from the county and the county needs to help more. Alderman Gribble stated the problem he has is the City opted out of the lease months ago so why repair the roof with no lease. Mr. Finchum stated the City is scaling back to one (1) building in the budget and never said we were closing the shelter. Having one (1) building is the way it was when the original lease was signed by the City to maintain the building. The Friends added a building after the lease. The Rollin Rescue was to offset the additional building but they are no longer doing the Rollin Rescue.

Ann Fontaine with the Friends stated the reason of the letter was the liability of the property. Ms. Fontaine stated they didn't want to close the shelter. Ms. Fontaine stated they wanted to work with the City. Alderman Hansel stated work with us. Mr. Finchum stated we opted out of the lease but nothing changed. We continued to operate the shelter as before. When meeting with the Friends, Mr. Finchum stated the Friends threatened a lawsuit with the City over the lease then they sent this letter.

Nina Huckman stated if it's over money let them (Friends) have a roadblock to fix the roof. Her husband had a flyer on his car about this situation with the animal shelter. Mr. Finchum stated we have suggested a roadblock to raise money but the City can't have a roadblock for them. Ms. Fontaine stated they would do a roadblock however they can't come up with \$14,000 a month to fund the shelter.

## 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 Hansel** to adjourn. When asked all in favor, Alderman Gribble stated NAY.

**4-1. 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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