

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN  
REGULAR SESSION  
NOVEMBER 14, 2023**

Mayor Roland Dykes opened the public hearing for consideration of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2023-15 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar. There was no one to comment. Mayor Dykes closed the public hearing.

**November 14, 2023**

The City of Newport Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in the Newport City Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in Regular Session.

Rev. Alvin Watts led the invocation. Vice Mayor Connie Ball led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

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

Mayor Dykes declared a Quorum.

**Minutes**

**October 10, 2023 Regular Session**

**Motion by Alderwoman Ottinger and second by Alderman Ragan**, for minutes of the October 10, 2023 Regular Session to be approved as submitted.

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

**Communications from the City Administrator**

City Administrator James Finchum reported on the upcoming police chief interview process. Mr. Finchum stated there were seven resumes submitted. The interviews will be on November 27<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Finchum asked for a time to start. The Board set the interviews to start at 4:30 pm on November 27<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Finchum stated the interviewees will be brought in alphabetically. Halfway through the interviews, the Board will take a break served with

refreshments. Mr. Finchum stated he has started a list of questions if anyone wanted to add more questions. Or the Board can ask their own questions with any follow-up or more information to be added.

**Appointment of Boards, Commissions & Committees**

**Appointment to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board – Bill Buda’ Term**

Consideration of Appointment to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board – Bill Buda’ Term. Director Tim Dockery recommended appointing Malerie Sick to serve the remainder of Bill Buda’s term.

**Motion was made by Alderman Smith and second by Alderman Hansel, to appoint Malerie Sick to serve the remainder of Bill Buda’s term.**

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

**Old Business**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2023-15 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar School**

Consideration of 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2023-15 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar School.

**Motion was made by Alderwoman Ottinger and second by Alderman Ragan, to approve 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2023-15 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar School.**

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

**New Business**

**Resolution #2023-07 Newport Utilities Applying for Fiscal Year 2024 Infrastructure Planning Grant Funding**

Consideration of Resolution #2023-07 Newport Utilities Applying for Fiscal Year 2024 Infrastructure Planning Grant Funding. Joni Daniels with Newport Utilities stated this resolution was to show support from the city. This grant will be used for water and wastewater mapping in the amount of up to \$500,000 with Newport Utilities paying the five percent match.

**Motion was made by Vice Mayor Ball and second by Alderman Smith, to approve Resolution #2023-07 Newport Utilities Applying for Fiscal Year 2024 Infrastructure Planning Grant Funding.**

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

**Resolution #2023-08 Authorizing the City of Newport to Hire Engineering Services for Stormwater Project**

Consideration of Resolution #2023-08 Authorizing the City of Newport to Hire Engineering Services for Stormwater Project. Community Development Director Gary Carver stated this resolution was to hire Barge Design Solutions for the engineering for the stormwater project in Indian Hills phase one.

**Motion was made by Alderman Smith and second by Vice Mayor Ball,** to approve Resolution #2023-08 Authorizing the City of Newport to Hire Engineering Services for Stormwater Project, Barge Design Solutions.

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

**East Tennessee Artscape Mural on 116 Jefferson Avenue**

Consideration of Mural from East Tennessee Artscape on 116 Jefferson Avenue. Gretta Carr stated a letter from the building owner giving permission for a mural on the side of the building at 116 Jefferson Avenue was submitted along with draft of mural. There will be no lettering or signage on this mural. The mural is a nature scape. The Planning Commission passed this mural at the October meeting to be sent to the City Council for review.

**Motion was made by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderwoman Ottinger,** to approve the mural presented from East Tennessee Artscape on 116 Jefferson Avenue.

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

**Community Event Downtown Newport**

Consideration of Community Event Downtown Newport. Community Development Director Gary Carver stated this event is to block off Jefferson Avenue for an event to promote downtown on small business Saturday, November 25<sup>th</sup>. This will help with the main street program. This event will be working with the Chamber on small business Saturday. The street will be closed with food trucks and an information table to help promote downtown.

Mayor Dykes asked Mr. Carver to report on the grant the city just received. Mr. Carver stated the city has been approved for another ARC grant for downtown street scape. This grant is in the amount of \$1,000,000 with a \$200,000 match from the city. This grant will redo Jefferson Avenue with sidewalks, street lighting and benches to show case Jefferson Avenue. The timeline of this grant is 24 months. But will start after Animal Control is moved.

**Motion was made by Alderman Ragan and second by Alderwoman Ottinger,** to approve the community event downtown Newport closing Jefferson Avenue November 25<sup>th</sup> for small business Saturday.

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

**Event Walk, Run, Pedal Jam Festival**

Consideration of Event Walk, Run, Pedal Jam Festival. Karen Gillis gave a presentation on the Walk, Run, Pedal Jam Festival. This event is to give back to the community. There were many questions concerning this event. After much discussion, Alderman Ragan asked if anyone had spoke with Finance Director Tina Matthews about the funding of this event. Mr. Finchum suggested to table this event to check with Ms. Matthews on the financing, talk with Director Dockery about using the park and to research this further. Ms. Gillis stated she would be willing to come for a working session at any time. Mayor Dykes added he had spoken with Mr. Graham at the Partnership with the Chamber working with this event and to share the cost of the event.

Mayor Dykes tabled this item to get more information at the December 12<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting.

**Adjournment**

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

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Mayor Roland Dykes, III

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James Finchum, City Administrator

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