

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN  
REGULAR SESSION  
OCTOBER 10, 2023**

Mayor Roland Dykes opened the public hearing for consideration of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2023-13 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport. There was no one to comment.

Consideration of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2023-14 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar School. There was no one to comment.

Mayor Dykes closed the public hearing.

**October 10, 2023**

The City of Newport Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in the Newport City Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, October 10, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in Regular Session.

Rev. Alvin Watts led the invocation. City Attorney Terry Hurst 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**

**September 12, 2023 Regular Session**

**Motion by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderwoman Ottinger**, for minutes of the September 12, 2023 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 commended Tennova Hospital for hosting Paint the Town Pink for breast cancer awareness month. City Council and other city employees wore pink in support of breast cancer awareness month.

## **Communications from the City Administrator**

City Administrator James Finchum reported the street festival was a great success. Mr. Finchum stated he attended the festival and had positive feedback. The businesses had a successive weekend with most selling out of products. Also, lots of good things about downtown improvement.

Mr. Finchum announced Police Chief Maurice Shults has turned in his paperwork to retire January 16<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Finchum stated he wanted to set a timeline for the replacement of Chief Shults so that he can train the new Police Chief. Mr. Finchum asked to start taking resumes through November. The interview date will be November 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm. Mr. Finchum recommended to have this on the December agenda so the new Police Chief can start January 2<sup>nd</sup> for training and take office midnight January 16<sup>th</sup> after Police Chief Shults last day. This will give us two weeks to train. Alderwoman Ottinger asked if two weeks is enough time to train. Mr. Finchum stated due to the holidays, this is the best. Mayor Dykes asked if this position will be opened to the outside as well as in the department. Mr. Finchum stated this is up to the Police Civil Service Board. Attorney Hurst and Mr. Finchum have researched the opening to outside resumes. Mr. Finchum will be attending the Police Civil Service Board meeting to express the options.

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

### **Re-Appointment to the Newport Housing Authority – Richard Harwood**

Consideration of Re-Appointment to the Newport Housing Authority – Richard Harwood. Mr. Harwood would like to be re-appointed.

**Motion was made by Alderwoman Ottinger and second by Vice Mayor Ball, to re-appoint Richard Harwood to the Newport Housing Authority.**

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

## **Old Business**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2023-13 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport**

Consideration of 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2023-13 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport.

**Motion was made by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Ragan, to approve 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2023-13 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport.**

## **Roll Call**

Alderman Hansel     AYE  
Alderwoman Ottinger AYE  
Alderman Ragan     AYE

Alderman Smith      AYE  
Vice Mayor Ball      AYE

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

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2023-14 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar School**

Consideration of 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2023-14 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar School.

**Motion was made by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Smith,** to approve 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2023-14 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar School.

**Roll Call**

Alderman Hansel      AYE  
Alderwoman Ottinger AYE  
Alderman Ragan      AYE  
Alderman Smith      AYE  
Vice Mayor Ball      AYE

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

**New Business**

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

Consideration of 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2023-15 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar School.

**Motion was made by Alderman Ragan and second by Alderwoman Ottinger,** to approve 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2023-15 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar School.

**Roll Call**

Alderman Hansel      AYE  
Alderwoman Ottinger AYE  
Alderman Ragan      AYE  
Alderman Smith      AYE  
Vice Mayor Ball      AYE

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

**Resolution #2023-06 Authorizing the City of Newport to Participate in the Drivers Safety Grant Through Public Entity Partners**

Consideration of Resolution #2023-06 Authorizing the City of Newport to Participate in the Drivers Safety Grant Through Public Entity Partners.

**Motion was made by Alderwoman Ottinger and second by Alderman Hansel, to approve Resolution #2023-06 Authorizing the City of Newport to Participate in the Drivers Safety Grant Through Public Entity Partners.**

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

**Purchase of Newport Utilities Property**

Consideration of Purchase of Newport Utilities property. Community Development Director Gary Carver reported the City of Newport would like to enter into an agreement with Newport Utilities to purchase acreage in the old industrial park off Cope Boulevard for the purpose of a land swap and sale to Naillon & Sons Septic Tanks business. This would relocate their business onto the new acreage and the city would acquire Mr. Naillon's property on the Pigeon River. The sale will be for \$10,000 an acre. Mr. Carver asked for a vote from the council to be able to complete this transaction of land and complete negotiations with Mr. Naillon regarding the property swap and sale.

**Motion was made by Vice Mayor Ball and second by Alderwoman Ottinger, to approve entering into an agreement with Newport Utilities to purchase property in the old industrial park off Cope Boulevard for the land swap and sale to Naillon & Sons Septic Tanks.**

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

**Comments from Citizens**

Community Development Director Gary Carver reported the downtown merchants are asking to do an event the Saturday after black Friday closing Jefferson Avenue for a community event. The Newport main street program must have a non-profit group in the community. Several of the downtown business community have got together to form a committee. This event will be on the November agenda for approval.

**Adjournment**

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

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Mayor Roland Dykes, III

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James Finchum, City Administrator

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