

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN  
CITY OF NEWPORT, TENNESSEE  
REGULAR SESSION  
OCTOBER 6, 2015**

**Public Hearing**

Mayor Connie Ball opened the public hearing for discussion on Ordinance #2015-10 Amending Municipal Offenses to add Panhandling Restrictions for the City of Newport. There was no one to comment.

Mayor Ball closed the Public Hearing.

**October 6, 2015**

The City of Newport Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in the Newport City Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, October 6, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. in Regular Session.

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

**September 8, 2015 Regular Session**

**Motion by Alderman Gribble and second by Vice Mayor Proffitt** for minutes of the September 8, 2015 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**

Fire Chief Randy Ragan presented Captain Eric Herdon and Firefighter Blaine Hartsell with employees of the month with each a plaque and \$50.00. Fire Chief Ragan stated how these two employees saved a lady whose husband had stopped by station 2 and told the employees his wife was not responsive. After calling 911, they performed CPR & used the AED to save her. The lady was then taken to the ER.

## **Communications from the City Administrator**

City Administrator James Finchum reported of private property improvements. The City cannot go on private property and do any kind of clean up unless its due to storm damage. Mr. Finchum stated the City has budgeted \$10,000 for a grant program to help property owners to improve their property up to \$500. Mr. Finchum stated he was hoping to have this grant in place by January 2016.

Mr. Finchum reported the property tax notice will be coming out soon. After researching, Mr. Finchum reported of citizens paying partial payments for their property taxes. But Mr. Finchum stated these partial payments for property taxes have to be paid in full by February 28, 2016 or they will be delinquent.

**Motion by Alderman Fancher and second by Vice Mayor Proffitt** to waive the rules to add partial payments of property taxes to the agenda.

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

Finance Director Tina Matthews stated there has never been a partial payment for property taxes here in Newport. The system is set up to take partial payments. Alderman Hansel stated there needs to be guide lines for partial payments. The Board will look at a plan for taking partial payments next month.

Planning Director Gary Carver reported to the Board of a forum for blighted property in the City of Newport. This forum will help the citizens to work with the City on the cleaning up. The Board agreed to November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:45 p.m. at the City Hall.

## **Old Business**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2015-10 Amending Municipal Offenses to Add Panhandling Restrictions for the City of Newport**

Consideration of 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2015-10 Amending Municipal Offenses to Add Panhandling Restrictions for the City of Newport.

**Motion was made by Alderman Hansel and second by Vice Mayor Proffitt** to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2015-10 Amending Municipal Offenses to Add Panhandling Restrictions for the City of Newport.

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

## **New Business**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2015-11 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport**

Consideration of 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2015-11 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport.

**Motion was made by Alderman Knight and second by Alderman Hansel** to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2015-11 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport.

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

### **1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2015-12 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar School**

Consideration of 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2015-12 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar School.

**Motion was made by Alderman Gribble and second by Alderman Fancher** to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2015-12 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar School.

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

### **Updates on Red Lights – Mayor Connie Ball**

Mayor Ball reported on a study from TDOT for the red light request in front of Pizza Hut on the Cosby Highway, and that TDOT will not recommend a red light. The study for the Carson Springs & 25/70 red light TDOT has not recommended a red light. Mayor Ball stated there are two ways to solve this problem: get the state involved in widening Carson Springs Road or move the city light poles and make a right turn. Alderman Gribble stated we have to get help from Nashville.

### **Cell Tower Restrictions for the City of Newport – Alderman Roger Gribble**

Alderman Gribble reported of two cell towers going up in the city. Alderman Gribble Stated the city has no zoning regulations on cell towers. Alderman Gribble suggested adding zoning regulations. Buildings & Codes Mark Robinson stated the city cannot regulate the location of a cell tower but can regulate the site plan. After much discussion, the Board agreed to let City Attorney Terry Hurst prepare an ordinance for next month's meeting.

### **Partial Payment for Property Taxes**

Consideration of the City of Newport taking partial payments on property taxes.

**Motion was made by Alderman Fancher and second by Vice Mayor Proffitt** to approve the City of Newport taking partial payments on property taxes. Plan to be presented in November.

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

Alderman Fancher asked who is responsible for the library maintenance on the building. Mr. Finchum reported the library is its own ownership.

**Bids**

**Administration Services for the 2012-2013 Home Project**

Consideration of administration services bid for the 2012-2013 Home Grant project. The only bid submitted was from Community Development Partners, LLC.

**Motion by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Knight** to accept the bid from Community Development Partners, LLC. as submitted for the administration services for the 2012-2013 Home Grant Project.

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

**Construction for the RTP Parks & Float Project**

Consideration of bids for the construction for the RTP Parks & Float grant project. Two bids were submitted: Andrews Construction Inc. \$90,176 and HS Construction & Excavation, LLC. \$96,557. Recommendation from Tim Dockery was to take the low bid Andrews Construction Inc. \$90,176.

**Motion by Vice Mayor Proffitt and second by Alderman Knight** to accept the low bid from Andrews Construction Inc. \$90,173.

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

**Citizens Comments**

Alderman Fancher asked if the city was responsible for maintenance on the library. Mr. Finchum replied no, the Library Board is responsible for maintenance. The city gives an annual donation.

**Adjournment**

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