

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN  
REGULAR SESSION  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2024**

Mayor Roland Dykes opened the public hearing for consideration of 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2024-06 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar School.

Mayor Dykes closed the public hearing.

**September 10, 2024**

The City of Newport Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in the Newport City Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, September 10, 2024 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, Alderman Randy Ragan, City Attorney Terry Hurst, and City Administrator James Finchum.

The following officials were not present: Alderwoman Louanna Ottinger and Alderman Steve Smith.

Mayor Dykes declared a Quorum.

**Minutes**

**August 13, 2024 Regular Session**

**Motion by Alderman Ragan and second by Alderman Hansel**, for minutes of the August 13, 2024 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 asked to suspend the rules and add to the agenda a parade permit for CCHS Homecoming. This parade permit was submitted late.

**Motion by Vice Mayor Ball and second by Alderman Ragan**, to approve suspending the rules and add a parade permit for CCHS Homecoming.

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

City Administrator James Finchum called on Fire Chief Jeremy Shelton to announce an award for the Newport Fire Department. Fire Chief Shelton stated the Newport Fire Department has been chosen to receive an award from East Tennessee Development District for their Swiftwater grant. This award will be given on September 26<sup>th</sup> at their annual meeting. Mayor Dykes stated he has been on the ETDD Board for twelve years and the City has never been awarded.

**Appointment of Boards, Commissions and Committees**

Discussion of Appointment to the Industrial Development Board – Jason Oury’s Term. Mayor Dykes appointed Dave Johnson to fill Jason Oury’s position on the Industrial Development Board.

Discussion of Appointment to the Industrial Development Board – Page Rhodes Term. Mayor Dykes appointed Bill Shults to fill Page Rhodes’ position on the Industrial Development Board.

**Old Business**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2024-06 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar School**

Consideration of 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2024-06 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar School.

**Motion by Alderman Ragan and second by Alderman Hansel, to approve 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2024-06 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar School.**

**Roll Call**

Alderman Hansel	AYE
Alderman Ragan	AYE
Vice Mayor Ball	AYE

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

**New Business**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2024-07 Amending the Municipal Code Title 12 Building, Utility, Etc. Codes, Chapter 11 Residential Code, Section 1102 Modifications, Adding Section 304.1 Total Area of a Structure**

Consideration of 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2024-07 Amending the Municipal Code Title 12 Building, Utility, Etc. Codes, Chapter 11 Residential Code, Section 1102 Modifications, Adding Section 304.1 Total Area of a Structure. This ordinance creates a minimum home size

standard for the City of Newport of 1,000 square feet. This is roughly the size of a single wide trailer.

**Motion by Alderman Hansel and second by Vice Mayor Ball**, to approve 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2024-07 Amending the Municipal Code Title 12 Building, Utility, Etc. Codes, Chapter 11 Residential Code, Section 1102 Modifications, Adding Section 304.1 Total Area of a Structure.

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

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2024-08 Contracting the City of Limits of Newport, Tennessee**

Consideration of 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2024-08 Contracting the City of Limits of Newport, Tennessee.

Gary Carver stated the resident at 715 Briarwood Way, Phillip Haddad, has requested removal from Newport City Limits. 715 Briarwood sits at the end of a private drive and does not have access to a city street, sanitary sewer or other services. This property was likely brought in as a large parcel years ago and was subdivided and sold before Newport had subdivision regulations. Briarwood Way is not a city street and does not meet our road standards. After review of the planning commission, due to the lot not meeting the standards of a Newport city limits property, the request was recommended to council for approval. This ordinance removes that lot from city limits.

Mr. Finchum stated no one had spoken to him about this request. Mr. Finchum had been out of work with Covid when this was presented to the Planning Commission. Mr. Finchum stated he had talked with City Attorney Terry Hurst on this issue. Attorney Hurst told Mr. Finchum he had no way to reject this issue at the Planning Commission because it was voted on so quickly. Mr. Finchum stated the Fire Department got a new brush truck to provide services to properties like this one. After much discussion on this matter, Mr. Finchum told Mr. Haddad he would meet with him at any time to make sure services were provided to him.

Gary Carver stated he could do more research and bring back to the Board if they wanted him to.

There was no motion made for this agenda item.

**Mayor Dykes declared this agenda failed for lack of motion.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2024-09 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport**

Consideration of 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2024-09 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport.

**Motion by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Ragan**, to approve 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2024-09 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport.

**Roll Call**

Alderman Hansel     AYE  
Alderman Ragan     AYE

Vice Mayor Ball      AYE

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

**Resolution #2024-15 Authorizing the City of Newport to Participate in the Drivers Safety Grant Through Public Entity Partners**

Consideration of Resolution #2024-15 Authorizing the City of Newport to Participate in the Drivers Safety Grant Through Public Entity Partners.

**Motion by Vice Mayor Ball and second by Alderman Ragan**, to approve Resolution #2024-15 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.**

**Resolution #2024-16 Endorsing and Funding the Use of Visual Surveillance Devices to Enhance Law Enforcement in the City of Newport, Tennessee**

Consideration of Resolution #2024-16 Endorsing and Funding the Use of Visual Surveillance Devices to Enhance Law Enforcement in the City of Newport, Tennessee. Deputy Chief Matthew Elliott gave a presentation requesting to approve and fund for the Flock Safety Automated License Plate Recognition Cameras in the amount of \$18,900 initially the first year and \$18,000 sequential annually for six flock cameras. These cameras are being used or about to be used in neighboring counties. This would give the Newport Police Department access to over 147 cameras locally and to over 7,344 cameras nationally. Flock Safety would enhance productivity, support the department criminal intelligence function and aide in criminal investigations.

John Rush opposes Flock cameras in the City of Newport. Mr. Rush stated this information goes to a server that is stored for 30 days. This will give too much power to companies across the nation.

**Motion by Alderman Hansel and second by Vice Mayor Ball**, to approve Resolution #2024-16 Endorsing and Funding the Use of Visual Surveillance Devices to Enhance Law Enforcement in the City of Newport, Tennessee.

**Roll Call**

Alderman Hansel      AYE  
Alderman Ragan      AYE  
Vice Mayor Ball      AYE

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

**Amending the Newport Police Department General Order by Adding the Automated License Plate Recognition Policy**

Consideration of Amending the Newport Police Department General Order by Adding the Automated License Plate Recognition Policy.

**Motion by Vice Mayor Ball and second by Alderman Ragan**, to approve Amending the Newport Police Department General Order by Adding the Automated License Plate Recognition Policy.

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

**Authorizing the Newport Police Department to Apply for the Safety-First Grant from Norfolk Southern Grant Programs**

Consideration of Authorizing the Newport Police Department to Apply for the Safety-First Grant from Norfolk Southern Grant Programs. The grant is up to \$15,000 with no match from the city. Chief of Police Scott Lamb stated he would purchase drones to aid in law enforcement activities if they get this grant.

**Motion by Alderman Ragan and second by Alderman Hansel**, to approve Authorizing the Newport Police Department to Apply for the Safety-First Grant from Norfolk Southern Grant Programs.

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

**Hiring an Architect for the Renovation of a Breakroom at the Newport Police Department**

Consideration of Hiring an Architect for the Renovation of a Breakroom at the Newport Police Department. Currently the Newport Police Department does not have a breakroom for employees. Police Chief Lamb stated he would like to hire SRA Architect for drawings and specs to do a complete kitchen.

**Motion by Vice Mayor Ball and second by Alderman Ragan**, to approve Hiring SRA Architect for the Renovation of a Breakroom at the Newport Police Department.

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

**Authorizing the Renaissance Faire to use the City Park for a Halloween Event**

Consideration of Authorizing the Renaissance Faire to use the City Park for a Halloween Event. Jerry Martin stated the Renaissance Faire would like to use the City Park on October 19-20 for a Halloween event. Mr. Martin stated he has liability insurance for this event.

**Motion by Vice Mayor Ball and second by Alderman Ragan,** to approve Authorizing the Renaissance Faire to use the City Park for a Halloween Event on October 19-20.

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

**The Wizards vs Cocke County Fund Raiser for CCHS Baseball - Coach Randy Harrell**

Discussion of The Wizards vs Cocke County Fund Raiser for CCHS Baseball - Coach Randy Harrell. Coach Harrell told the Board about a fund raiser for the CCHS Baseball Team with a basketball game on October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Closing McSween Avenue and Court Avenue October 29<sup>th</sup> for Boo Bash Event – Sheriff CJ Ball**

Consideration of Closing McSween Avenue and Court Avenue October 29<sup>th</sup> for Boo Bash Event – Sheriff CJ Ball. Boo Bash is an event hosted by the City of Newport Tourism, Cocke County Government and downtown businesses on October 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Motion by Vice Mayor Ball and second by Alderman Ragan,** to approve Closing McSween Avenue and Court Avenue October 29<sup>th</sup> for Boo Bash Event.

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

**CCHS Parade Permit**

Consideration of CCHS Parade Permit on Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 -2:15 pm for Homecoming Celebration and to waive the permit fee.

**Motion by Vice Mayor Ball and second by Alderman Ragan,** to approve CCHS Parade Permit on Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 -2:15 pm for Homecoming Celebration and to waive the permit fee.

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

**Citizens Comment**

Phillip Haddad at 715 Briarwood Way stated this was his dream property and had no idea that it was in the city until he got a late tax notice. Mr. Haddad stated that he had purchased equipment to help with the road condition with his neighbors as well as himself. Mr. Haddad stated he didn't receive any services that he knows of. Mr. Finchum stated he would work with Mr. Haddad on the services and Mr. Finchum said he has an open-door policy to come by any time. They both agreed to meet.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board of Mayor & Alderman, **motion was made by Alderman Ragan 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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