

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN
REGULAR SESSION
SEPTEMBER 12, 2023**

Public Hearing

Vice Mayor Connie Ball opened the public hearing for the 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2023-12 Creating a Museum and History Board. There was no one to comment.

Vice Mayor Ball closed the public hearing.

September 12, 2023

The City of Newport Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in the Newport City Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in Regular Session.

Rev. Alvin Watts led the invocation. Alderman Mike Hansel led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

The following officials were present: 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.

The following officials were not present: Mayor Roland Dykes, III.

Vice Mayor Ball declared a Quorum.

Minutes

August 8, 2023 Regular Session

Motion by Alderman Ragan and second by Alderwoman Ottinger, for minutes of the August 8, 2023 Regular Session to be approved as submitted.

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

Communications from the City Administrator

City Administrator James Finchum reported the Transfer Station loan has been paid off. Mr. Finchum stated the debt ratio was 57.5% when he started at city hall. The debt ratio is now 13.25% which is a great improvement with savings of interest fees around \$179,000 by paying off loans early.

Mr. Finchum recognized the Newport Fire Department for their great work on the recent fire of a local recycling business next to the gas company. The Newport Fire Department worked for days with the help of other local fire departments. The Newport Fire Department was able to save the office of this recycling company but not the entire building. They were able to keep the fire under control for the surrounding buildings to be safe.

Community Development Director Gary Carver reported Ole Smoky is ready to build a new road parallel to Oliver Cromwell. Ole Smoky has concerns about the city accepting it and then releasing the right-of-way of the old Oliver Cromwell once this street is completed. The planning commission has approved the site plan for the new road, but by rule we would not accept the new street until it has been completed and inspected. The City Council could then vote to properly accept the street and then abandon the right-of-way of the old Oliver Cromwell. This would need to go to the Planning Commission then come back to the City Council.

Old Business

2nd Reading of Ordinance #2023-12 Creating a Museum and History Board

Consideration of 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2023-12 Creating a Museum and History Board. Community Development Director Gary Carver stated this board will consist of seven members to serve without pay appointed by the City Council. This board will help with the input and guidance of the new museum and history room for a four-year term.

Motion was made by Alderwoman Ottinger and second by Alderman Hansel, to approve 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2023-12 Creating a Museum and History Board.

Roll Call

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

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

New Business

1st Reading of Ordinance #2023-13 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport

Consideration of 1st Reading of Ordinance #2023-13 Budget Amendment for the City of Newport.

Motion was made by Alderman Smith and second by Alderman Ragan, to approve 1st 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- Vice Mayor Ball declared the motion passed and approved.

1st Reading of Ordinance #2023-14 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar School

Consideration of 1st Reading of Ordinance #2023-14 Budget Amendment for Newport Grammar School.

Motion was made by Alderwoman Ottinger and second by Alderman Ragan, to approve 1st 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- Vice Mayor Ball declared the motion passed and approved.

Resolution #2023-05 Closing and Quitclaim the Public Right of Way of Birch and Cody Street

Consideration of Resolution #2023-05 Closing and Quitclaim the Public Right of Way of Birch and Cody Street. This is for the closing and quitclaim of right-of-way for the woodland park property for the City of Newport. This has been approved by the Planning Commission.

Motion was made by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Ragan, to approve Resolution #2023-05 Closing and Quitclaim the Public Right of Way of Birch and Cody Street.

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

Routes of the River Festival

Consideration of Routes of the River Festival. John Worley, with Clean Water Expected in East Tennessee, is asking permission to host the Routes of the River Festival behind city hall May 4, 2024. This is a one-day event funded by the grant from Tennessee Arts Commission for \$10,000 for an event.

Motion was made by Alderwoman Ottinger and second by Alderman Hansel, to approve Routes of the River Festival behind city hall.

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

Bids

Pickup Truck for the Street Department

Consideration of bids for a Pickup Truck for the Street Department. The Street Department took the state bid from Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram of Columbia for a 2023 Dodge 1500 4X4 Tradesman SWB-V8 in the total amount of \$45,708. This purchase will replace the 1991 Dodge pickup mowing truck.

Motion was made by Alderman Hansel and second by Alderman Ragan, to approve the state bid from Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram of Columbia for a 2023 Dodge 1500 4X4 Tradesman SWB-V8 in the total amount of \$45,708.

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

Decking Around the Pool at the Community Center

Consideration of bids for Decking Around the Pool at the Community Center. The only bid received was from Team Red Coating for the total amount of \$30,650 for the resurfacing of the indoor pool at the community center.

Motion was made by Alderman Ragan and second by Alderman Smith, to approve the bid from Team Red Coating for the total amount of \$30,650 for the resurfacing of the indoor pool at the community center.

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

Heating and Air Computer System for Parks & Recreation

Consideration of bids for Heating and Air Computer System for Parks & Recreation. The state bid from Trane Network to furnish and install the Building System Integration heating and air computer system in the total amount of \$33,145.

Motion was made by Alderwoman Ottinger and second by Alderman Ragan, to approve the state bid from Trane Network to furnish and install the Building System Integration heating and air computer system in the total amount of \$33,145.

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

Adjournment

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

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

Mayor Roland Dykes, III

James Finchum, City Administrator

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