

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN  
CITY OF NEWPORT, TENNESSEE  
REGULAR SESSION  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2021**

**Public Hearing**

Mayor Roland Dykes, III opened the public hearing for 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2021-07 Amending the City of Newport Municipal Code Title 9 Business, Peddlers, Solicitors, Etc., Adding Chapter 10 Yard Sale/Garage Sales. There was no one to comment.

Mayor Dykes closed the public hearing.

**September 14, 2021**

The City of Newport Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in the Newport City Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. in Regular Session.

Chief of Police Maurice Shults 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: Mayor Roland Dykes, III, Vice Mayor Mike Proffitt, Alderman Mike Hansel, Alderman Bobby Knight, Alderman Steve Smith, City Attorney Terry Hurst, and City Administrator James Finchum.

The following officials were not present: Alderwoman Louanna Ottinger.

Mayor Dykes declared a Quorum.

**Minutes**

**August 10, 2021 Regular Session**

**Motion by Vice Mayor Proffitt and second by Alderman Hansel**, for minutes of the August 10, 2021 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 recognized Alderman Mike Hansel and City Administrator James Finchum by wishing them both a happy birthday.

**Communications from the City Administrator**

City Administrator James Finchum reported the Covid numbers are up in Cocke County. There have been a few employees test positive. Forty percent of city employees have been vaccinated. Mr. Finchum gave an executive order not to pay city employees for time missed due to the Covid unless they have been vaccinated. If city employee hasn't been vaccinated, they will have to take sick time or vacation.

Mr. Finchum gave an update on Cares Act, there are more requirements before the city can receive the stimulus money. Finance Director Tina Matthews has started a ten-week training that is required.

Mr. Finchum stated he has been researching the travel expense and would like to meet with the auditors for their advice before bringing back to the board.

The Rhythm on the River Fall Kickoff Concert has been moved to October 23<sup>rd</sup> by the Partnership.

**Reports from Committees, Members of Council & Other Officers**

Mr. Finchum stated Love Henderson will be getting the Board information on the Work Ethic Diploma Program Report.

**Old Business**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2021-07 Amending the City of Newport Municipal Code Title 9 Business, Peddlers, Solicitors, Etc., Adding Chapter 10 Yard Sale/Garage Sales**

Consideration of 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2021-07 Amending the City of Newport Municipal Code Title 9 Business, Peddlers, Solicitors, Etc., Adding Chapter 10 Yard Sale/Garage Sales.

**Motion was made Alderman Smith by and second by Vice Mayor Proffitt**, to approve 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2021-07 Amending the City of Newport Municipal Code Title 9 Business, Peddlers, Solicitors, Etc., Adding Chapter 10 Yard Sale/Garage Sales.

**Roll Call**

Alderman Hansel	AYE
Alderman Knight	AYE
Vice Mayor Proffitt	AYE
Alderman Smith	AYE

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

**New Business**

**Resolution #2021-05 Driver Safety Matching Grant Program**

Consideration of Resolution #2021-05 Driver Safety Matching Grant Program. This is a 50/50 match program.

**Motion was made Alderman Hansel by and second by Alderman Knight,** to approve Resolution #2021-05 Driver Safety Matching Grant Program.

**Roll Call**

Alderman Hansel	AYE
Alderman Knight	AYE
Vice Mayor Proffitt	AYE
Alderman Smith	AYE

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

**Charter Change for the Fire Department**

Discussion of Charter Change for the Fire Department – Alderman Mike Hansel. Alderman Hansel asked to change the Charter for the Fire Department on the hiring and firing to be mirrored as the Police Department. This would allow the City Administrator and Fire Chief to do the hiring and firing with any personnel matters. The Fire Department is the only department in the city that the City Council does all hiring and personnel matters. Mr. Finchum suggested to take this request to the Fire Civil Service Board for discussion. Mayor Dykes asked Alderman Hansel if he would take this to the Fire Civil Service Board with other City Council members. Alderman Smith volunteered to meet as well. City Attorney Hurst stated MTAS would help with the final draft of this charter change.

**No action was taken.**

**Sale of City of Newport Property 119 North Woodlawn**

Consideration of sale of city property 119 North Woodlawn Avenue. There have been two offers that have been made on the city owned building at 119 North Woodlawn Avenue. One has submitted a proposal to pay \$20,000 for the building, which will put it back on the tax roll. They will immediately begin repairs after closing on the property. The space would be used for materials storage for their business as well as office space and residential on the second level.

Joe Baker sent a letter of an offer on both 119 North Woodlawn Avenue and 219 East Main Street to renovate both properties for mixed use and retail. Mr. Baker proposed to purchase the buildings for \$1.00 each and lease the Animal Control building to the city for \$1.00 until Animal Control is moved to their new location.

Mr. Finchum stated the animal control building needs a roof quickly. Mr. Carver stated he would recommend, if the City Council agrees to take this offer, to ask for the contract of sale

to have language for the roof to be repaired within 30 days after closing, to authorize the City Administrator to negotiate the final contract and the timeline on the renovation on the other property to be 365 days after the city leaves the Animal Control building.

**Motion was made Alderman Smith by and second by Alderman Hansel**, to approve the offer from Joe Baker for purchase of 119 North Woodlawn and 219 East Main Street for \$1.00 each with the contract of sale to have language for the roof repair on the Animal Control building (219 East Main Street) 30 days after closing, to authorize the City Administrator to negotiate the final contract and the timeline on the renovation on both 119 North Woodlawn Avenue and 219 East Main Street to be 365 days after the city leaves the Animal Control building.

**Roll Call**

Alderman Hansel	AYE
Alderman Knight	AYE
Vice Mayor Proffitt	AYE
Alderman Smith	AYE

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

**Comments from Citizens**

Cocke County Partnership President Locus Graham gave a report on upcoming projects that he and his staff are working on.

**Adjournment**

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

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

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Mayor Roland Dykes, III

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James Finchum, City Administrator

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