

**CITY OF NEWPORT
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
JANUARY 5, 2026**

The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session January 5, 2026 in the chambers of the Municipal Courtroom.

Mayor Ratliffe called the meeting to order. City Clerk/Treasurer Hembrey called the roll. Council members present were Michael Allen, Allen Edwards, Carol Falwell, Wendell Green, Regina Lake, and Andy May. City Attorney Pettie was present. Council Members Mansko and Moss were absent.

Following the invocation by Carol Falwell, those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion by Lake and second by Falwell to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2025 Meeting carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Edwards, Falwell, Green, Lake and May.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Ratliffe had the following reports:

- An electronic copy of the November 2025 Financial Statements for the General Fund, Street Fund, 911 Fund, Sewer Fund, Administration of Justice Fund, Grant Fund, Intoximeter Fund, District Court Cost Fund, Court Automation Fund, Drug Control Fund, Advertising & Promotion Fund, Fed Aid Grant Fund, Judge/Clerk Retirement Fund, NEDC Fund and Airport was sent to each Council Member with their council package. Mayor Ratliffe asked that if any Council Member had any questions to please direct their questions to City Clerk/Treasurer Hembrey.
- City Sales Tax received in December was \$179,310 County Sales Tax was \$119,818 and NEDC Sales Tax was \$89,655.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS.

ORGANIZATION OF CITY COUNCIL: ACA 814-43-501

Mayor Ratliffe stated ACA §14-43-501 requires the Organization of the City Council at the first meeting of the year. Mayor Ratliffe asked the Council how they would like the City Council Meetings to be organized for 2026. After discussion, all agreed to keep the same organization as 2025.

NEWPORT SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT JOHN BRADLEY TO ADDRESS COUNCIL ABOUT SOFTBALL FIELD

Mayor Ratliffe recognized Newport School Superintendent John Bradley. Mr. Bradley presented a handout which highlighted the purpose and vision of a new softball field at George Kell Park. Mr. Bradley gave a very informative overview of the benefits to the City of Newport, Jackson County and the Newport School District.

49 With no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

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51 PASSED AND APPROVED THE 2ND DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2026

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MAYOR

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55 ATTEST:

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58 CITY CLERK