

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12

**CITY OF NEWPORT
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 2, 2026**

13 The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session February 2, 2026
14 in the chambers of the Municipal Courtroom.

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

19 Following the invocation by Andy May, those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

20 A motion by Lake and second by Green to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2026
21 Meeting carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Edwards, Green, Lake and May. Mansko
22 and Moss abstained due to being absent on January 5, 2026.

23 A motion by Lake and second by Moss to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2026
24 Special Meeting carried (6/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Green, Lake, Mansko, May and
25 Moss. Edwards abstained due to being absent on January 20, 2026.

26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

36 Mayor Ratliffe had the following reports:

- 37 • An electronic copy of the December 2025 Financial Statements for the General Fund,
38 Street Fund, 911 Fund, Sewer Fund, Administration of Justice Fund, Grant Fund,
39 Intoximeter Fund, District Court Cost Fund, Court Automation Fund, Drug Control
40 Fund, Advertising & Promotion Fund, Fed Aid Grant Fund, Judge/Clerk Retirement
41 Fund, NEDC Fund and Airport was sent to each Council Member with their council
42 package. Mayor Ratliffe asked that if any Council Member had any questions to
43 please direct their questions to City Clerk/Treasurer Hembrey.
- 44 • City Sales Tax received in January was \$168,944 County Sales Tax was \$115,552
45 and NEDC Sales Tax was \$84,472.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION: AMEND 2025 BUDGET

42 Mayor Ratliffe presented the Proposed 2025 Amended Budget. After discussion, City
43 Attorney Pettie read the Resolution adopting the presented 2025 Amended Budget in its
44 entirety. A motion by Edwards and second by Allen to accept the Resolution carried (7/0)
45 with “yes” votes by Green, Edwards, May, Lake, Allen, Mansko and Moss.

46 **RESOLUTION: AUTHORIZING CITY TO BORROW FUNDS FROM**
47 **MERCHANTS & PLANTERS BANK FOR PURPOSE OF FACILITATING THE**
48 **CONSTRUCTION OF A SOFTBALL FIELD IN COOPERATION WITH**
49 **ADVERTISING & PROMOTION COMMISSION AND NEWPORT SCHOOL**
50 **DISTRICT**

51

52 Mayor Ratliffe stated Jon Chadwell had agreed to help facilitate the proposal for the George
53 Kell Park new softball field project. Chadwell gave a very informative overview of the
54 proposed funding of the new softball field at George Kell Park. The proposal included
55 partnerships between the Advertising and Promotion Commission, Newport School District
56 and the City of Newport. Funding would be a combination of fund raising, Merchants and
57 Planter Bank loan (with payments by Advertising and Promotion taxes and school lease
58 agreement) and softball tournament funds. After discussion, the Resolution to authorize the
59 City of Newport to borrow funds from Merchants and Planters Bank was read in its entirety
60 by City Attorney Pettie. A motion by Lake and second by Allen to approve the Resolution
61 carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Lake, Moss, Mansko, Green, May, Edwards and Allen.

62

63 **GOOD OF THE CITY**

64

65 Mayor Ratliffe asked the Council to consider allowing fireworks to be legal for sale and
66 using during dedicated holidays and other events.

67

68 Mayor Ratliffe stated Newport Housing Authority has had an issue with residents on Lacy,
69 Ashley, Garfield and Newport Avenue. These residents have not had water since January
70 23rd. Mayor Ratliffe stated water is flowing to the main from the Newport Municipal Water
71 Company. The issue is on the Newport Housing Authority side. Newport Housing Authority
72 has gotten a plumber working on the issue. Arkansas National Guard has brought in a water
73 buffalo to distribute water to flush out the commodes. Newport Fire Department,
74 Community members and National Guard are distributing drinking water daily. Bottled
75 water has been donated by Walmart and others.

76

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

78

79 PASSED AND APPROVED THE 2ND DAY OF MARCH, 2026

80

81

82

MAYOR

83

ATTEST:

84

85

86

CITY CLERK