

**CITY OF NEWPORT**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL**  
**JUNE 2, 2025**

The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session June 2, 2025 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, Leroy Mansko, Andy May and Julie Moss. City Attorney Pettie was present. Council Member Regina Lake was absent.

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

A motion by Allen and second by Mansko to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2025 Meeting carried with "yes" votes by Allen, Edwards, Falwell, Green, Mansko and Moss. May abstained due to being absent on May 5, 2025.

**REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**

Mayor Ratliffe had the following reports:

- An electronic copy of the April 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 Newport 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 May was \$184,350, County Sales Tax was \$120,730 and NEDC Sales Tax was \$92,175.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**CITIZENS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL ABOUT PROPOSED ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT ORDINANCE**

- Joyce Jones
- Doctor Ronald Gore
- Doug Cash
- Ross Jones
- Betty Mooreland
- Billy Endman
- Julie Allen

Mayor Ratliffe stated several citizens of Newport had requested to be heard concerning the proposed entertainment district. Mayor Ratliffe recognized Ms. Joyce Jones. Ms. Jones stated detailed reasons she is against the entertainment district. Mayor Ratliffe recognized Dr. Ronald Gore. Dr. Gore stated detailed reasons he is against the entertainment district. Mayor Ratliffe recognized Ross Jones. Mr. Jones stated detailed reasons he is in favor of the entertainment district. Mayor Ratliffe recognized Betty Mooreland. Ms. Mooreland stated

51 detailed reasons she is in favor of the entertainment district. Mayor Ratliffe recognized Billy  
52 Endman. Mr. Endman stated detailed reasons he is in favor of the entertainment district.  
53 Mayor Ratliffe recognized Doug Cash. Mr. Cash stated detailed reasons he is in favor of the  
54 entertainment district. Mayor Ratliffe recognized Julie Allen. Ms. Allen stated detailed  
55 reasons she is in favor of the entertainment district.

56  
57 **ORDINANCE: ESTABLISHING A PERMANENT ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT**  
58 **IN DOWNTOWN NEWPORT (THIRD READING)**

59  
60 After discussion, City Attorney Pettie read the Ordinance establishing a permanent  
61 entertainment district in downtown Newport in its entirety for the third reading. A motion by  
62 Edwards and second by Moss to approve the Ordinance carried (6/1) with “yes” votes by  
63 Edwards, Green, May, Moss, Allen and Mansko – a “no” vote by Falwell.

64  
65 **ORDINANCE: AMEND FEES AND CHARGES MADE BY NEWPORT**  
66 **MUNICIPAL WATER COMPANY (THIRD READING)**

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68 Mayor Ratliffe stated this would be the third reading of an Ordinance to amend the fees and  
69 charges made by Newport Municipal Water Company. City Attorney Pettie read the  
70 Ordinance in its entirety. After discussion, a motion by Allen and second by Mansko to  
71 accept the Ordinance carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by May, Green, Moss, Allen, Mansko,  
72 Edwards and Falwell.

73  
74 **ORDINANCE: FIXING NEW WATER RATES (THIRD READING)**

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76 Mayor Ratliffe asked City Attorney Pettie to read the third reading of an Ordinance to fix  
77 new water rates for the Newport Water Company. City Attorney Pettie read the Ordinance in  
78 its entirety. After discussion, a motion by Allen and second by Mansko to approve the  
79 Ordinance carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by May, Green, Moss, Allen, Mansko, Edwards and  
80 Falwell.

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82 **NEW BUSINESS:**

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84 **GWENDLYN BRANDON TO ADDRESS COUNCIL ABOUT ROBINSON ROAD**

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86 Mayor Ratliffe recognized Ms. Gwendlyn Brandon. Ms. Brandon stated that Robinson Road  
87 needed to be widened to accommodate traffic. Mayor Ratliffe stated that Robinson Road is  
88 half in Newport and half in Diaz. Mayor Ratliffe stated he would speak to Mayor Stegall  
89 about this issue.

90  
91 **REAPPOINTMENTS TO INDEPENDENT PARKS COMMITTEE**

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93
  - **Latonya Anders (term exp. June 2028)**
  - 94 • **Marcus Hembrey (term exp. June 2028)**
  - 95 • **Candice Long (term exp. June 2028)**96

97 A motion by Allen and second by Edwards to reappoint Latonya Anders to the Independent  
98 Parks Committee with a term expiring June 2028 carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Allen,  
99 May, Edwards, Green, Moss, Falwell and Mansko.

A motion by Falwell and second by Moss to reappoint Marcus Hembrey to the Independent Parks Committee with a term expiring June 2028 carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Falwell, Moss, Allen, Edwards, May, Mansko and Green.

A motion by Falwell and second by Allen to reappoint Candice Long to the Independent Parks Committee with a term expiring June 2028 carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Moss, Mansko, Green, May, Edwards, Falwell and Allen.

#### **BID CONSIDERATION: MOSQUITO CONTROL CHEMICALS**

Mayor Ratliffe presented proof of publication from the Jonesboro Sun along with a handwritten bid tabulation. Two bids were received and opened on May 13, 2025 at 10 a.m. The bids received were as follows:

##### **ADAPCO:**

1. Permasease 30-30	\$102.98 per gal
2. Permasease 31-67	\$155.00 per gal
3. BVA 13 (oil carrier)	\$20.89 per gal (55 gal drum)
4. MTLXRP-800	\$1,960.00/case
5. VMXWSP-800	\$1,680.00/case
6. VLXWSP-800	\$992.00/case
7. FyFanon ULV	\$97.58/case (2x2.5 gal)
8. FyFanon ULV	\$91.22/gal (55 gal drum)
9. TRI (Remoa)	\$315.00/gal (2x2.5 gal)
10. Remtri-30	\$300/gal (30 gal drum)

##### **Mosquito Products, LLC**

1. 30-30 ULV Adulticide	\$98.00/gal
2. 31-66 ULV Adulticide	\$168.00/gal
3. Oil Carrier	\$9.75/gal
4. Larvacide	\$4.99/lb.
5. Fyfanon ULV	\$75.00/gal

After discussion, a motion by Edwards and second by Allen to accept all the bids from Mosquito Products, LLC carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Mansko, Falwell, Green, May, Edwards, Allen and Moss.

#### **BID CONSIDERATION: DRIVESMART BUILDING RENOVATION**

Mayor Ratliffe presented the bid tabulation from the May 20, 2025 bid opening. Mayor Ratliffe presented Miller-Newell Engineers, Inc.’s recommendation of Provence Construction Co., Inc. for the Drivesmart building renovations. After discussion, a motion by Allen and second by Moss to accept the bid of \$1,712,800.00 from Provence Construction Co., Inc. of Cave City, Arkansas carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Moss, May, Falwell, Edwards, Green, Allen and Mansko.

#### **RESOLUTION: EXECUTE CONTRACT WITH PROVENCE CONSTRUCTION FOR DRIVESMART BUILDING RENOVATIONS (EDA GRANT)**

Mayor Ratliffe stated the Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration granted an award to Newport for the renovations of the Drivesmart building in an amount of

\$2,000,000 and the Newport Economic Development Commission has approved \$500,000 to this project. City Attorney Pettie read the Resolution in its entirety. A motion by Falwell and second by Moss to approve the Resolution to award the contract to Provence Construction carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, May, Edwards, Green, Moss, Falwell and Mansko.

**ORDINANCE: AMENDING 3.04.02 OF NEWPORT MUNICIPAL CODE –  
COMPETITIVE BIDDING; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

Mayor Ratliffe stated effective as of January 1, 2025 the State of Arkansas had raised the requirement for competitive bidding threshold from \$35,000 to \$42,921. City Attorney Pettie read an Ordinance raising the threshold for competitive bidding to \$42,921 in its entirety. After discussion, a motion by Allen and second by Edwards to suspend the rules in their entirety and forego the second and third readings carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Edwards, Green, May, Falwell, Moss, Allen and Mansko.

A motion by May and second by Moss to approve the Ordinance increasing the bidding threshold to \$42,921 effective January 1, 2025 carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by May, Green, Moss, Allen, Mansko, Edwards and Falwell.

A motion by Allen and second by Moss to approve the emergency clause carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Green, Edwards, Falwell, May, Allen, Mansko and Moss.

**ORDINANCE: AMENDING PERSONNEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR  
CITY EMPLOYEES REGARDING POLICE, FIRE AND NON-UNIFORM  
EMPLOYEE VACATION AND SICK TIME POLICIES; AND DECLARING AN  
EMERGENCY**

Mayor Ratliffe stated the Ordinance was still in process and would be presented as soon as possible for consideration by the Council.

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

PASSED AND APPROVED THE 7<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JULY, 2025

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

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CITY CLERK