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

The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session September 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, Wendell Green, Andy May and Julie Moss. City Attorney Pettie was present. Council Members Carol Falwell, Regina Lake and Leroy Mansko were absent.

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

A motion by Moss and second by Green to approve the minutes of the August 4, 2025 Meeting carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Edwards, Green, May and Moss.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Ratliffe had the following reports:

- An electronic copy of the July 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 August was \$182,304, County Sales Tax was \$122,721 and NEDC Sales Tax was \$91,152.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE: NEW SEWER RATES (SECOND READING)

City Attorney Pettie read the second reading of the Ordinance establishing new rates rendered by the Sewer System of Newport in its entirety.

NEW BUSINESS:

PHIL MCDONALD TO ADDRESS COUNCIL REGARDING REMMEL PARK

Mayor Ratliffe recognized Mr. Phil McDonald. Mr. McDonald gave an informative overview of the history of Remmel Park.

46 **REAPPOINT BILLY KEEDY TO AIRPORT COMMISSION FOR TERM**
47 **EXPIRING 9/30/30**

48
49 Mayor Ratliffe stated Billy Keedy's term on the Airport Commission is set to expire on
50 9/30/25. A motion by Allen and second by May to reappoint Billy Keedy to the Newport
51 Airport Commission with a term expiring 9/30/30 carried (5/0) with "yes" votes by Allen,
52 May, Edwards, Green and Moss.
53

54 **BID CONSIDERATION: NEW BACKHOE FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT**
55 **PLANT**

56
57 Mayor Ratliffe reported that Stribling Equipment's 320 P-Tier Backhoe (from the February
58 Council Meeting) was not available. On August 7, 2025, a new request for bids was
59 published in the Jonesboro Sun. Mayor Ratliffe presented proof of publication in the
60 Jonesboro Sun and the handwritten bid tabulation for the backhoe. Three sealed bids were
61 received include a trade-in of a 2009 New Holland B95B Backhoe with a net bid of:
62

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| 63 | 1. Riggs Cat – Little Rock, Arkansas | |
| 64 | Caterpillar 420 Backhoe | \$ 99,905.00 |
| 65 | 2. Progressive Tractor & Implement | |
| 66 | Jonesboro, Arkansas | |
| 67 | Case 580SN Backhoe | \$110,000.00 |
| 68 | 3. Bobcat of Batesville | |
| 69 | Batesville, Arkansas | |
| 70 | Bobcat B760 Backhoe | \$ 80,605.00 |

71
72 After discussion, a motion by Allen and second by Edwards to accept the bid for the Bobcat
73 B760 Backhoe for \$80,605.00 carried (5/0) with "yes" votes by Edwards, Green, May, Moss
74 and Allen.
75

76 **ORDINANCE: AMENDING THE PERSONNEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**
77 **FOR CITY OF NEWPORT EMPLOYEES, DELINEATING SEPARATE POLICIES**
78 **FOR VACATION AND SICK TIME AS TO FIRE, POLICE, AND NON-**
79 **UNIFORMED EMPLOYEES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

80
81 Mayor Ratliffe stated this would be tabled until the next meeting.

82
83 With no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.
84

85 PASSED AND APPROVED THE 6TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2025
86

87
88 _____
MAYOR

89 ATTEST:

90
91 _____
92 CITY CLERK