

**CITY OF NEWPORT  
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL  
DECEMBER 1, 2025**

The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session December 1, 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, Regina Lake, Leroy Mansko, Andy May and Julie Moss. City Attorney Pettie was present.

Following the invocation by Wendell Green, those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion by Allen and second by Edwards to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2025 Meeting carried (7/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Edwards, Falwell, Green, Lake, Mansko and May. Moss abstained due to not being present at the November 3, 2025 Meeting.

## **REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**

Mayor Ratliffe had the following reports:

- An electronic copy of the October 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 the September and October 2025 of the 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 November was \$181,846 County Sales Tax was \$136,072 and NEDC Sales Tax was \$90,923.
- Mayor Ratliffe recognized Lieutenant Mark Harmon from the Police Department. Harmon stated that \$88,000 had been seized about 1 year ago. The funds were processed through the court system and these funds are to be deposited into the City's General Fund. Harmon requested that the funds be considered to purchase a vehicle and other items for the Police Department.
- Mayor Ratliffe recognized City Attorney Pettie concerning Arkansas Department of Transportation plans for the Old Blue Bridge. City Attorney Pettie stated he had reached out to the attorney for ARDOT and he is out of the office until December 2, 2025. Pettie stated he would contact ARDOT again December 2, 2025.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE**

## NEW BUSINESS:

**PROCLAMATION FOR PARAMEDIC CALEB MCDUGAL – STAR OF LIFE  
AWARD**

Mayor Ratliffe recognized Ms. Karen James from Southern Paramedic Service dba White River Ambulance in Newport. Ms. James stated that Caleb McDougal had received the Star of Life Award, which is the highest award a paramedic can receive. Ms. James stated that there were only 147 recipients' in the United States and only 6 in the State of Arkansas and Caleb McDougal received one of those. Mayor Ratliffe read the City Proclamation honoring Caleb McDougal.

54 **RESOLUTION: DECLARING STRUCTURE(S) AND PROPERTY AT 1800**  
55 **CONGRESS STREET A NUISANCE**

56  
57 City Attorney Pettie stated notice had been sent to the owners of the properties at 1800 Congress,  
58 2500 Linwood and 2509 Linwood. City Attorney Pettie asked if anyone was present for these  
59 properties and wanted to speak. No one responded.

60  
61 City Attorney Pettie read the Resolution declaring the structure(s) and property at 1800 Congress  
62 Street a nuisance in its entirety. After discussion, a motion by Edwards and second by Allen to accept  
63 the Resolution carried (8/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Moss, Edwards, May, Green, Falwell, Lake  
64 and Mansko.

65  
66 **RESOLUTION: DECLARING STRUCTURE(S) AND PROPERTY AT 2500**  
**LINWOOD STREET A NUISANCE**

67  
68 A motion by Edwards and second by Falwell to read the Resolution declaring the structures  
69 at 2500 Linwood by caption only carried (8/0) with “yes” votes by Edwards, Moss, Allen,  
70 Mansko, Falwell, Green, Lake and May.

71  
72 City Attorney Pettie read the Resolution declaring the structure(s) at 2500 Linwood Street by caption  
73 only. After discussion, a motion by Allen and second by Edwards to accept the Resolution carried  
74 (8/0) with “yes” votes by Edwards, Moss, Allen, Mansko, Falwell, Green, Lake and May.

75  
76 **RESOLUTION: DECLARING STRUCTURE(S) AND PROPERTY AT 2509**  
**LINWOOD STREET A NUISANCE**

77  
78 A motion by Allen and second by Edwards to read the Resolution declaring the structures at  
79 2509 Linwood Street by caption only carried (8/0) with “yes” votes by Falwell, Allen,  
80 Mansko, Moss, Lake, May, Green and Edwards.

81  
82 City Attorney Pettie read the Resolution declaring the structure(s) at 2509 Linwood Street by caption  
83 only. After discussion, a motion by Edwards and second by Mansko to accept the Resolution carried  
84 (8/0) with “yes” votes by Falwell, Allen, Mansko, Moss, Lake, May, Green and Edwards.

85  
86 **RESOLUTION: REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF NEWPORT ECONOMIC**  
**DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION 2026 BUDGET**

87  
88 Mayor Ratliffe reviewed the Newport Economic Development Commission Proposed 2026  
89 Budget. City Attorney Pettie read the Resolution in its entirety. After discussion, a motion by  
90 Edwards and second by Green to approve the Proposed 2026 Newport Economic  
91 Development Commission Budget carried (8/0) with “yes” votes by Green, Edwards, May,  
92 Mansko, Allen, Lake, Moss and Falwell.

93  
94 **RESOLUTION: REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF NEWPORT AIRPORT**  
**COMMISSION 2026 BUDGET**

95  
96 Mayor Ratliffe reviewed the Newport Airport Commission Proposed 2026 Budget. City  
97 Attorney Pettie read the Resolution in its entirety. After discussion, a motion by Edwards  
98 and second by Allen to approve the Proposed 2026 Newport Airport Commission Budget  
99 carried (8/0) with “yes” votes by May, Green, Moss, Allen, Mansko, Edwards, Falwell and  
100 Lake.

107 **RESOLUTION: ADOPT 2026 CITY BUDGET**

108

109 Mayor Ratliffe reviewed the Proposed 2026 City Budget in detail. City Attorney Pettie read  
110 the Resolution in its entirety. After discussion, a motion by Allen and second by Moss to  
111 approve the Proposed 2026 City Budget carried (8/0) with “yes” votes by Mansko, Allen,  
112 Falwell, May, Moss, Edwards, Lake and Green.

113

114 Mayor Ratliffe stated A.C.A. §14-43-313 requires the salaries of the City Clerk/Treasurer and  
115 City Attorney be set by Ordinance. City Attorney Pettie read the Ordinance in its entirety.  
116 A motion by Allen and second by Moss to suspend the rules in their entirety and forego the  
117 second and third readings carried (8/0) with “yes” votes by May, Allen, Green, Edwards,  
118 Mansko, Lake, Falwell and Moss.

119

120 A motion by Allen and second by Edwards to approve the Ordinance carried (8/0) with “yes”  
121 votes by Moss, May, Falwell, Lake, Green, Allen, Mansko and Edwards.

122

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

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125 PASSED AND APPROVED THE 5<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JANUARY, 2026

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MAYOR

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129 ATTEST:

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CITY CLERK