CITY OF NEWPORT
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session September 8, 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 Leroy Mansko and Julie Moss were absent.

Following the invocation by Regina Lake, those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion by Edwards and second by Allen to approve the minutes of the August 3, 2026 Meeting carried (5/0) with "yes" votes by Allen, Edwards, Green, Lake, and May. Falwell abstained due to being absent on August 3, 2026.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Ratliffe had the following reports:

- A copy of the list of deletions made to 2025 fixed assets with detail listings of all fixed assets was given to each Council member present. After discussion, a motion by Edwards and second by Allen to accept the fixed asset listings for 2025 carried (6/0) with "yes" votes by Green, Edwards, Falwell, May, Lake and Allen.
- An electronic copy of the July 2026 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 August was $180,212, County Sales Tax was $125,199 and NEDC Sales Tax was $90,106.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

FRANCHISE AGREEMENT WITH WHITE RIVER EMS, INC./UPDATES TO AMBULANCE FRANCHISE ORDINANCE

Mayor Ratliffe stated a new Ordinance for the ambulance franchise includes updates. After discussion, a motion by Allen and second by May to suspend the rules in their entirety, read the Ordinance by caption only and forego the second and third readings carried (6/0) with "yes" votes by Lake, Green, May, Edwards, Falwell and Allen. City Attorney Pettie read the Ordinance by caption only.

A motion by Allen and second by Edwards to approve the Ordinance carried (6/0) with "yes" votes by Falwell, Allen, Edwards, May, Lake and Green.

A motion by Edwards and second by Allen to approve the emergency clause carried (6/0) with "yes" votes by Falwell, Green, May, Edwards, Lake and Allen.

Mayor Ratliffe presented the Ambulance Franchise Agreement between White River EMS and City of Newport for 1 year. After discussion, a motion by Edwards and second by Allen to approve the presented Ambulance Franchise Agreement carried (6/0) with "yes" votes by Allen, May, Edwards, Green, Falwell and Lake.

NEW BUSINESS:

AFFIDAVIT FOR DESTRUCTION OF CITY CLERK RECORDS FOR 2010 THRU 2015

Mayor Ratliffe presented an affidavit for destruction of City Clerk records for 2010 thru 2015. The list includes documents retained for at least four (4) years as specified under Ark. Code Ann. Section 14-59-114 and have been audited as required by law. After discussion, a motion by Falwell and second by Allen to approve the affidavit of destruction for City Clerk records for 2010 thru 2015 carried (6/0) with "yes" votes by Edwards, Green, May, Lake, Falwell and Allen.

REAPPOINT MARK ELLIS TO AIRPORT COMMISSION (TERM EXPIRING 9/30/2031)

Mayor Ratliffe presented a request from the Airport Commission to reappoint Mark Ellis to the Airport Commission. After discussion, a motion by Edwards and second by May to reappoint Mark Ellis to the Newport Airport Commission with a term expiring 9/30/2031 carried (6/0) with "yes" votes by May, Falwell, Edwards, Green, Allen and Lake.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ATTACH LIENS TO CERTAIN PROPERTIES

Mayor Ratliffe presented a Resolution to declare a building and/or structure within the corporate limits of the City of Newport, Arkansas, a nuisance in accordance with the City Code of Ordinances. Mayor Ratliffe recognized Newport Economic Development Director Chadwell and City Attorney Pettie. Chadwell and Pettie gave a detailed and informative overview of the process that is being used successfully in Paragould. City Attorney Pettie read the Resolution. After discussion, a motion by Allen and second by Edwards to accept the Resolution for the structure located at 1412 and 1414 Hwy 367 N, Newport, Arkansas carried (6/0) with "yes" votes by Green, Edwards, Falwell, May, Lake and Allen.

GOOD OF THE CITY

City Attorney Pettie asked the Council Members to make a list of proposed properties that need addressed.

City Attorney Pettie presented a draft copy of a Resolution to attach a lien to certain properties for the Council Members to review.

City Attorney Pettie stated he had spoken to the attorney for the State concerning when the State planned on removing the old White River Bridge. The attorney indicated it would not be done this year; however, the State recognizes they are responsible.

A motion by Allen and second by Edwards to go into Executive Session carried (6/0) with "yes" votes by May, Falwell, Edwards, Green, Allen and Lake.

A motion by Allen and second by Edwards to go back into Regular Session carried (6/0) with "yes" votes by May, Green, Allen, Edwards, Falwell and Lake.

Mayor Ratliffe stated no action required from the executive session.

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

PASSED AND APPROVED THE 5TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2026

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MAYOR

ATTEST:

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CITY CLERK