CITY OF NEWPORT
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
JULY 6, 2026

The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session July 6, 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, Leroy Mansko, Andy May and Julie Moss. City Attorney Pettie was present.

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

A motion by Falwell and second by Allen to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2026 Meeting carried (6/0) with "yes" votes by Allen, Edwards, Falwell, Green, May and Moss. Lake and Mansko abstained.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Ratliffe had the following reports:

- A copy of the Federal Awards Audit for the year ending 12/31/ 2025 was given to each Council Member. Title 2 requires a Federal Single Audit when $1,000,000 or more of Federal Grant Funds are spent by a Non-Federal Entity. Welch, Couch & Company, PA Certified Public Accountants conducted the required 2025 Audit for the City. The audit stated "In our opinion, the accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards presents fairly, in all material respects, the expenditures of federal awards of City of Newport, Arkansas for the year ended December 31, 2025, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America." No action was needed by the Council.
- An electronic copy of the May 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 June was $174,130 County Sales Tax was $114,385 and NEDC Sales Tax was $87,065.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

RE-APPOINT DIANE CLARK TO THE NEWPORT HOUSING AUTHORITY WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE 5/01/2030

Mayor Ratliffe presented a letter from the Newport Housing Authority Executive Director David Gates requesting the reappointment of Diane Clark to the Newport Housing Authority with a term expiring 05/01/2030. After discussion, a motion by Allen and second by Green to reappoint Diane Clark to the Newport Housing Authority with a term expiring 5/1/2030 carried (8/0) with "yes" votes by Allen, May, Edwards, Green, Moss, Falwell, Mansko and Lake.

ORDINANCE: REZONING PROPERTY FOR NEEDHAM RENTALS, LLC FROM RESIDENTIAL R-1 TO RESIDENTIAL R-3

Mayor Ratliffe presented the Newport Planning Commission application from Andy Needham dba Needham Rentals, LLC for the rezoning of "Parcel 013-00176-000, part of the East Half of the Southwest Quarter of Section1, Township 11 North, Range 3 West, approximately .516 acres, located at 1401 McLain St. Newport, Arkansas" from R-1 to R-3. City Attorney Pettie read the Ordinance in its entirety. After discussion, a motion by Allen and second by Mansko to suspend the rules in their entirety and forego the second and third readings carried (8/0) with "yes" votes by May, Green, Moss, Allen, Mansko, Edwards, Falwell and Lake.

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

ORDINANCE: REZONING PROPERTY FOR MANUEL FUENTES FROM AGRICULTURAL A-1 TO RESIDENTIAL R-2

Mayor Ratliffe presented the Newport Planning Commission application from Manuel Fuentes for the rezoning of "Parcels 013-00066-000, Part of Lot 3 Northwest, Section 31, Township 12 North, Range 2 West, approximately 8 acres and 013-00060-000, Part of Lot 3 Northwest, Section 31, Township 12 North, Range 2 West, approximately 3 acres, Newport, Arkansas" from Agricultural A-1 to R-2.

City Attorney Pettie read the Ordinance in its entirety. After discussion, a motion by May and second by Edwards to suspend the rules in their entirety and forego the second and third readings carried (8/0) with "yes" votes by Edwards, Green, May, Lake, Falwell, Moss, Allen and Mansko.

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

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

PASSED AND APPROVED THE 3RD DAY OF AUGUST, 2026

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MAYOR

ATTEST:

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CITY CLERK