CITY OF NEWPORT
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
AUGUST 3, 2026

The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session August 3, 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, Wendell Green, Regina Lake, Leroy Mansko and Andy May. City Attorney Pettie was present. Council Members Carol Falwell and Julie Moss were absent.

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

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

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Ratliffe had the following reports:

- A copy of the 2025 Sewer Department Audit Report was given to each Council Member. The report stated "In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the modified cash basis financial position of the City of Newport, Arkansas Sewer Department as of December 31, 2025 and 2024, and the respective changes in modified cash basis financial position and modified cash basis cash flows for the years then ended, in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting as described in Note 1(B) to the financial statements." No action was required by the Council.
- An electronic copy of the June 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 July was $177,637 County Sales Tax was $119,804 and NEDC Sales Tax was $88,819.
- Mayor Ratliffe reported that Trey Randolph, Jon Chadwell, Benjy Harris and Mayor Ratliffe went to Paragould and visited with Paragould's Mayor and others concerning how they have successfully used the land bank to improve their City. Mayor Ratliffe recognized Jon Chadwell. Mr. Chadwell gave a very informative overview of the things they had learned about the processes that Paragould is using successfully.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

FRANCHISE AGREEMENT WITH WHITE RIVER EMS, INC.

A proposed ambulance franchise agreement was given to each Council Member. Assistant Fire Chief Gerald Nash gave an overview of the proposed agreement. After discussion, City

Attorney Pettie will look at revising the current Ordinance while the Council Members will review the proposed ambulance franchise agreement for any changes.

ORDINANCE IMPLEMENTING A TEN PERCENT BENEFIT INCREASE FOR ALL ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS OF THE NEWPORT LOCAL FIRE PENSION FUND

Mayor Ratliffe presented the LOPFI actuarial valuation report for a proposed 10% benefit increase for the Newport Local Fire Pension Fund. The actuarial report stated that the well-funded condition of the Local Plan would keep the monthly employer contribution rate at $0.00/month with the proposed 10% benefit increase. After discussion, City Attorney Pettie read the Ordinance in its entirety. A motion by Allen and second by Edwards to suspend the rules in their entirety and forego the second and third readings carried (6/0) with "yes" votes by May, Edwards, Green, Allen, Lake and Mansko.

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

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

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

PASSED AND APPROVED THE 8TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2026

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MAYOR

ATTEST:

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CITY CLERK