CITY OF NEWPORT
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
MAY 4, 2026

The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session May 4, 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 Allen Edwards, Carol Falwell, Wendell Green, Regina Lake, Andy May and Julie Moss. City Attorney Pettie was present. Council Members Allen and Mansko were absent.

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

A motion by Lake and second by Falwell to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2026 Meeting carried (5/0) with "yes" votes by Edwards, Falwell, Green, Lake and Mayor Ratliffe. May and Moss abstained.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Ratliffe had the following reports:

- An electronic copy of the March 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 April was $165,088 County Sales Tax was $109,531 and NEDC Sales Tax was $82,544.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE: PERMITTING DISCHARGE OF FIREWORKS FOR PERIOD BEGINNING JUNE 21 AND EXPIRING JULY 5 OF EACH YEAR (SECOND READING)

City Attorney Pettie read the second reading of an Ordinance permitting discharge of fireworks from June 21st and expiring July 5th each year in its entirety.

DISCUSS FIRE STATION #1 ROOF REPAIR

Mayor Ratliffe recognized Nate Easley owner of Clean-Way. Mr. Easley introduced his associate Darren Addison who gave a very informative overview of the process. After discussion, this item will be placed on the June agenda for further consideration.

NEW BUSINESS:

REAPPOINTMENT OF WENDELL GREEN TO THE NEWPORT HOUSING AUTHORITY WITH A TERM EXPIRING 5/28

A motion by Lake and second by Falwell to reappoint Wendell Green to the Newport Housing Authority with a term expiring 5/28 carried (5/0) with "yes" votes by Moss. May, Falwell, Edwards and Lake. Wendell Green abstained.

BID CONSIDERATION: CONSTRUCTION OF A TURF SOFTBALL FIELD - GEORGE KELL PARK

City Attorney Pettie stated a special meeting on Thursday 7th at 8:30 a.m. is needed to pass a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a lease agreement with the Newport School District for the George Kell Park Softball Complex. Bid consideration will also be addressed at the special meeting.

GOOD OF THE CITY

Mayor Ratliffe stated Mr. Matt Johnson has a construction company and has been tearing down condemned houses for the City. Mr. Johnson also builds houses and plans to build new homes in Newport.

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

PASSED AND APPROVED THE 1ST DAY OF JUNE, 2026

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MAYOR

ATTEST:

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CITY CLERK