

CITY OF NEWPORT, KY
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Monday, March 23, 2015
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Peluso at 7:00 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Newport Municipal Building at 998 Monmouth Street. The meeting was opened with a moment for silent invocation and the mayor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

In attendance were: Commissioner Beth Fennell, Commissioner Thomas Guidugli, Commissioner John Hayden, Commissioner Frank Peluso, and Mayor Jerry Peluso. Also in attendance were: City Manager Tom Fromme. City Attorney Daniel Braun, Police Chief Thomas Collins, Fire Chief Gary Auffart, Historic Preservation Officer Scott Clark, Community Liaison Bev Holiday, and City Clerk Amy Able.

PRESENTATIONS, AWARDS & PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Peluso presented a Proclamation to Mr. Steven Smokler and Ms. Barbara Macke recognizing **Wesley Community Services and Meals on Wheels**.

The City Manager gave a "State of the City" update recapping 2014 and highlighting goals for 2015.

PUBLIC FORUM

Ms. Sue Bowling of Park Avenue asked about the status of her request to purchase a vacant lot. The city manager will discuss the matter with her.

Historic Preservation Officer Scott Clark reported that the fourth annual **Northern Kentucky Restoration Weekend** events were successful and many of the participants in attendance were from Newport as well as several of the vendors including Katharina's, LVX Painting, and Carabello Coffee.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Guidugli made a **motion to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2015 regular meeting**; second to the motion was offered by Commissioner Hayden. Upon hearing there were no comments or questions, the mayor called for a roll call vote.

Commissioner Guidugli:	Yes	Commissioner Peluso:	Yes	Mayor Peluso:	Yes
Commissioner Hayden:	Yes	Commissioner Fennell:	Abstain	<u>Motion carried 5-0.</u>	

Commissioner Hayden made a **motion to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2015 regular meeting**; second to the motion was offered by Commissioner Fennell. Upon hearing there were no comments or questions, the mayor called for a roll call vote.

Commissioner Hayden:	Yes	Commissioner Guidugli:	Yes	Mayor Peluso:	Yes
Commissioner Fennell:	Yes	Commissioner Peluso:	Yes	<u>Motion carried 5-0.</u>	

OLD BUSINESS

The city clerk gave second reading to tentative number **O-2015-002** an ordinance **closing and vacating part of Pines Alley**. Commissioner Peluso made a **motion to approve**; second to the motion was offered by Commissioner Guidugli. The city manager noted this was scheduled to be done several years ago and the formal adoption is a housekeeping measure. Upon hearing there were no further comments or questions, the mayor called for a roll call vote.

Commissioner Peluso:	Yes	Commissioner Hayden:	Yes	Mayor Peluso:	Yes
Commissioner Guidugli:	Yes	Commissioner Fennell:	Yes	<u>Motion carried 4-0.</u>	

NEW BUSINESS

The city clerk read Order **R-2015-013**, an order an order authorizing the selection of Atkins-Elrod & Associates as the City's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) administrator/consultant for the City's CDBG program for potential projects during the current funding cycle, said selection being subject to the approval of the Kentucky Department for Local Government. Commissioner Peluso made a **motion to approve**; second to the motion was offered by Commissioner Hayden. Mr. Tom Guidugli, Sr., Executive Director of Neighborhood Foundations addressed the Board. He stated they are working on a project for home ownership and Mr. Elrod has been very successful with administration of these programs. Other than the Clifton Hills Senior Project, over the last five years efforts have all been for single family home ownership. It was noted that following the loss of 160 senior units in Campbell County, Clifton Hills offered 32 units including six two-bedroom units and was an Energy Star Platinum level project and the second multi-unit LEED (Leadership in Environmental Energy Design) project in Kentucky. He added the Scholar House Project is on schedule, within the established budget, and now accepting applications. Upon hearing there were no other comments or questions, the mayor called for a roll call vote.

Commissioner Peluso:	Yes	Commissioner Guidugli:	Yes	Mayor Peluso:	Yes
Commissioner Hayden:	Yes	Commissioner Fennell:	Yes	<u>Motion carried 5-0.</u>	

The city clerk read Order **R-2015-014**, an order accepting the offer for purchase of and authorizing Mayor Jerry Peluso to **execute a deed of conveyance for the transfer of certain real property from the City of Newport, Kentucky to Newport Hotel Associates, LLC**. Commissioner Fennell made a **motion to approve**; second to the motion was offered by Commissioner Guidugli. Mr. Fromme explained the City owns the property where the hotel was built and Comfort Suites had a long term lease with the City from 1992 which included an option to purchase. Responding to questions, Mr. Braun stated the new owner intends to sign an agreement with Wyndham Hotels, owner of Comfort Suites, and they intend to continue to operate as a Comfort Suites franchise. Upon hearing there were no further comments or questions, the mayor called for a roll call vote.

Commissioner Fennell:	Yes	Commissioner Hayden:	Yes	Mayor Peluso:	Yes
Commissioner Guidugli:	Yes	Commissioner Peluso:	Yes	<u>Motion carried 5-0.</u>	

The city clerk read Order **R-2015-015** an order granting a **property assessment moratorium** to Richard W. Sims relating to the restoration of property at **732 Park Avenue**, Newport, Kentucky. Commissioner Fennell made a **motion to approve**; second to the motion was offered by Commissioner Guidugli. Mr. Fromme said Mr. Sims continues to do a remarkable job restoring properties. Commissioner Fennell added appreciation that he has made quite an investment in the city over the years. Upon hearing there were no other comments or questions, the mayor called for a roll call vote.

Commissioner Fennell:	Yes	Commissioner Hayden:	Yes	Mayor Peluso:	Yes
Commissioner Guidugli:	Yes	Commissioner Peluso:	Yes	<u>Motion carried 5-0.</u>	

The city clerk read Order **R-2015-016** an order granting a **property assessment moratorium** to Richard W. Sims relating to the restoration of property at **730 Park Avenue**, Newport, Kentucky. Commissioner Guidugli made a **motion to approve**; second to the motion was offered by Commissioner Fennell. Upon hearing there were no comments or questions, the mayor called for a roll call vote.

Commissioner Guidugli: Yes Commissioner Hayden: Yes Mayor Peluso: Yes
Commissioner Fennell: Yes Commissioner Peluso: Yes Motion carried 5-0.

The city clerk read Order **R-2015-017** an order authorizing Mayor Jerry Peluso to execute an **agreement with the City of Fort Thomas, Kentucky for the repair of a portion of Churchill Drive** in the City of Newport, Kentucky. Commissioner Hayden made a **motion to approve**; second to the motion was offered by Commissioner Guidugli. Mr. Fromme said Fort Thomas has severe issues with the portion of this street lying in their city. It is also the access road for Grand Towers. Mr. Roell has met with the engineers from Fort Thomas. Newport has only 250' of the 1,440' road. Drainage issues (likely caused during residential development above) are being corrected. Upon hearing there were no comments or questions, the mayor called for a roll call vote.

Commissioner Hayden: Yes Commissioner Peluso: Yes Mayor Peluso: Yes
Commissioner Guidugli: Yes Commissioner Fennell: Yes Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Fromme stated there was a need for a brief executive session to discuss upcoming contract negotiations with the Fire Union and AFSCME but no action would be taken following the executive session. Commissioner Peluso made a **motion to enter executive session** following the conclusion of business on the regular meeting agenda, as allowable under KRS 61.810 (1)(e) to discuss collective bargaining negotiations between public employers and their employees or their representatives. Commissioner Guidugli offered a second to the motion. Upon hearing there were no questions or comments, the mayor called for a roll call vote.

Commissioner Peluso: Yes Commissioner Hayden: Yes Mayor Peluso: Yes
Commissioner Guidugli: Yes Commissioner Fennell: Yes Motion carried 5:0.

COMMENTS FROM THE CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

City Manager Fromme

- The **Easter Egg Hunt** hosted by the Recreation Commission will be on March 29 at 1:30 at Buena Vista Park (rain site, Newport Fire Department).
- **Spring Litterfest** will be April 13 – 19. Residents may bring debris and large items for disposal at the Public Works facility on Ninth Street during this special collection. At all other times this site is a drop location for recyclables only.
- **Newport Penguins Swim and Dive Team** registrations are underway.
- **Riverboat Row** is closed to through traffic from Dave Cowan's Drive just passed the driveway for Comfort Suites. Those accessing the Chart House or other riverfront restaurants will need to use the Port of Entry.
- **Campbell County Public Library** is holding a contest for decorated Little Libraries. Visit your library or cc-pl.org to learn more.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Fennell

- **Funds may be available from OKI** to assist with the **Red Bike Program**. Mr. Tulley is completing a grant application.

- OKI has the new web page solar.oki.org to calculate the **solar energy possibilities** at your home.
- Earlier it was noted how few city employees there are outside of public safety. Mr. Roell, Mr. Ebert and the entire Public Works Department are to be commended. Following weeks of snow, they were called up to install the flood gates. Mr. Fromme added this feat was completed in five hours.

Mayor Peluso

- The Spring and Fall Litterfest events are great opportunities for our residents to keep their properties clean. From time to time we do have problems at the Public Works Facility with **illegal dumping**. Signage and cameras are in place to help curb this. Fines are considerable.
- Covington has hosted a Red Bike meeting with Jason Baron giving a presentation. Covington is hoping for as many as six stations.
- **Parking at Sixth and Dayton** is mostly completed but needs some landscaping. A letter was sent to Monmouth Street business owners. There may be a need for directional signage and striping the curb for ease of access.
- Seven months ago at a caucus meeting he gave a presentation on the need for parking meters on Monmouth to Eleventh Street and possibly one block to the east and west. He hopes this is still on everyone's radar and will be considered in the budget cycle. Please share your thoughts with the City Manager.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business on the agenda, Commissioner Peluso made a motion to adjourn for the purpose of meeting in executive session; second to the motion was offered by Commissioner Fennell. The mayor called for a roll call vote.

Commissioner Peluso:	Yes	Commissioner Guidugli:	Yes	Mayor Peluso:	Yes
Commissioner Fennell:	Yes	Commissioner Hayden:	Yes	<u>Motion carried 5:0.</u>	

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Following a motion and second to reconvene, passed by majority, the **executive session convened at 8:25 p.m.** on the first floor of the city building at 998 Monmouth. Discussion took place as allowable under KRS 61.810(1)(e). Following a motion and a second, passed by majority, **the executive session adjourned at 8:45 p.m.** There being no further business, there was no further action taken and the board did not return to open session.

Date Approved/Signed

Jerry R. Peluso, Mayor

Attest:

Amy B. Able, City Clerk