

CITY OF NEWPORT, KY
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Monday, April 20, 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 Services Director Doug Roell, Community Liaison Bev Holiday, and City Clerk Amy Able.

PRESENTATIONS, AWARDS & PROCLAMATIONS

The City Clerk read **Order R-2015-018** an order authorizing Mayor Jerry Peluso to proclaim the month of **May as "Historic Preservation Month"** in the city of Newport. Commissioner Peluso made a **motion to approve**; second to the motion was offered by Commissioner Guidugli. Mayor Peluso read the proclamation noting that 2015 marks the nineteenth anniversary of the registration of the Monmouth Street National Register District, the twentieth year since the registration of the York Street National Register District, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the East Row Historic District, and the thirty-fifth anniversary of the Mansion Hill National Register District. Historic Preservation Officer Scott Clark thanked the Board for supporting and recognizing the importance of Historic Preservation. On May 28 the Excellence in Preservation Awards will be hosted in Newport at Corpus Christi which was a past award winner. 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 5-0.</u>

PUBLIC FORUM No one present responded to the invitation to address the Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Hayden made a **motion to approve the minutes of the March 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 Peluso:	Yes	Commissioner Guidugli:	Yes	Mayor Peluso:	Yes
Commissioner Hayden:	Yes	Commissioner Fennell:	Yes		<u>Motion carried 5-0.</u>

NEW BUSINESS

The city clerk gave first reading to tentative number **O-2015-003** an ordinance amending sections 37.214(c) and 37.215(d) of the Code of Ordinances, concerning eligibility requirements and application and review procedures for the **Job Development Incentive Program**. Commissioner Fennell made a **motion to approve**; second to the motion was offered by Commissioner Hayden. The city manager explained this incentive program rebates a certain percentage of payroll tax. This benefits incoming or expanding businesses in the City. There are approximately six actively participating businesses. A State program introduced prior to the City

JDIP only applied to new employees living in Kentucky. The proposed change allows leeway to give more or less based on what income an individual company will generate. Upon hearing there were no further comments or questions, the mayor called for a roll call vote.

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

The city clerk gave first reading to tentative number **O-2015-004** an ordinance an ordinance pursuant to Section 71.60 of the Code of Ordinances amending the one-way street schedule in Chapter 73, **restricting the direction of traffic on Sixteenth Street to an (one-way) easterly direction from Eighteenth Street to Monmouth Street.** Commissioner Peluso made a **motion to approve**; second to the motion was offered by Commissioner Guidugli. Discussion followed. A traffic study was done by the Police Department. Letters were sent twice to residents in the area. There were three responses and two were favorable. This was a public safety decision. Travel through the area is difficult as there is parking on both sides and two cars cannot pass. Trucks choosing this as an alternate route based on mobile apps cannot make the turn. If necessary the fire department can pass through the alley. If approved upon second reading in May the change would likely be effective and new signs installed in June. 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 Motion carried 5:0.

COMMENTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS

Chief Collins noted the Police Department is planning for a busy event season starting with the Flying Pig which has grown by 3% and will bring 38,000 people. The Police Department is assisting with the organization of the Rides on Monmouth Newport Car Show and appreciates the assistance of other volunteers, Bev Holiday, and the Fire Department on this and all the events.

COMMENTS FROM THE CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

City Manager Fromme

- Lots of exciting projects are underway. It will be a busy and productive summer and fall.
- From a revenue perspective we are doing well. There is room to grow but we are headed in the right direction.
- A plate recently installed in front of a home on Liberty Street which may indicate problems with the sewer lateral. Sink holes will continue to be one of the challenges we face going forward. Installation of our sewers began in the 1880's and they are among the oldest in the state.
- Positive changes ahead include the proposed adjustment to the JDIP program, working to get an office building downtown, the Fourth Street School property becoming available for development, and the Factory (a German deli) opening at Fifth and Monmouth. Bourbon and Broad is doing well and has expanded with a lease of the adjoining property.
- Covington's Beyond the Curb was well attended last weekend with 700 people in attendance. Newport's tour will be in the fall.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Former Police Chief and former City Commissioner Robbie Hall was in attendance at the meeting and was recognized by the Board and wished well.

Commissioner Hayden

- Asked for an update following the informational **Red Bike** meeting in Newport last week. Mr. Fromme said it was well attended. Fundraising efforts for a possible fourth site were off to a good start even before the meeting. Commissioner Fennell added Greg Tulley is working on a grant application for funds from OKI. Estimated cost for four stations would be about \$180,000. It would be best to have these in place in advance of the All-Star Game. This will be discussed at the Caucus meeting. Mayor Peluso said according to Jason Barron the order should be placed by the end of the month.
- Newport's School Board has approved some funding to provide access for pre-school aged children under the "**Footsteps 2 Brilliance**" internet based reading program. However the school cannot pay for children who would benefit but are outside the NISD system (including Newport students attending private schools). Over 10,000 books from notable authors will be available through the application for tablets and smart phones which includes a feature for the user to have the book read aloud via the app. There are English and Spanish titles available. The program is designed for pre-school through third grade aged students. Statistics show children in urban areas are less likely to come to kindergarten prepared and well over half of those who are not prepared for kindergarten are students who never catch up. Suggested funding amounts were \$12,000 from the school and \$12,000 from the community. This will be added to the Caucus agenda.

Commissioner Guidugli

- **Historic Preservation** efforts are one of the greatest success stories of the city in partnership with residents. This was a resident-driven initiative. The most successful programs are often when residents lead the way and the city then fosters an environment support. Other examples of this include the Penguins and the Dog Park. The Board remains willing to work with any organization - whether it is the Garden Club, neighborhood associations, or others – and we look forward to the next exciting idea. Thanks to all who have invested their time and money in our urban area – this trend will continue. It is great knowing our residents recruit others to come live and raise a family. Over time this will work it's way through the basin area from the historic district across Monmouth and into the west end, and continuing to grow that historic district that has been so successful to other areas because of residents driving the effort. Thanks to Scott Clark and all who have been involved in historic preservation.

Commissioner Fennell

- There have been a number of people who have stepped up to fund the **Red Bike** program. The neighborhood has lead that effort. It is important that the City also offer support.
- Sympathy is extended to the family of Mel King, a former Newport firefighter who passed away. Both he and his wife were from Newport and raised their son here and the family was always very involved in the community.

Commissioner Peluso

- Presented a personal check as a donation to assist the **Red Bike** program stating it is important for leaders to get behind the program. The Clifton neighborhood also made a

donation. At the meeting he was assured the agreement will include provisions that stations funded for Newport will remain in the city but if use is low the location (within the city) may change.

Mayor Peluso

- **Northern Kentucky Home Consortium**, consisting of the five river cities (Ludlow, Covington, Newport, Bellevue and Dayton) met to approve the budget. The main focus is establishing funds for assistance to first time home buyers - usually \$5,000. Found funds will be dedicated to home development. Also working on a home ownership program.
- Thanks to Scott Wartman (Enquirer) and Michael Monks (River City News) for articles about the **Red Bike** program and meetings.
- The **Campbell County Public Library** contest for Little Libraries hosted at the Newport branch had twenty imaginative entries and the event was well attended.
- Next week the **Campbell County Mayors Group** may consider a resolution similar to one approved by the Kenton County Mayors Group concerning **sewer laterals**.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business on the agenda, Commissioner Hayden made a motion to adjourn; second to the motion was offered by Commissioner Guidugli. The mayor called for a roll call vote.

Commissioner Hayden: Yes Commissioner Peluso: Yes
Commissioner Guidugli: Yes Commissioner Fennell: Yes

Mayor Peluso: Yes
Motion carried 5:0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Date Approved/Signed

Jerry R. Peluso, Mayor

Attest:

Amy B. Able, City Clerk