

**City OF NEWPORT, KY**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Monday, November 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 Thomas Guidugli, Commissioner John Hayden, Commissioner Frank Peluso, and Mayor Jerry Peluso. Absent: Commissioner Beth Fennell. Also in attendance were: City Manager Thomas Fromme, City Attorney Daniel Braun, Police Chief Thomas Collins, Fire Chief Gary Auffart, Human Resources Director Terry Fornash, Historic Preservation Officer Scott Clark, Development Services Director Greg Tulley, Community Liaison Bev Holiday, and City Clerk Amy Able.

**PERSONNEL ORDERS**

The city clerk read Order **R-2015-076**, appointing **Daylin Garland** to the position of **Code Enforcement Officer**. Commissioner Guidugli made a **motion to approve**; 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**  
**Commissioner Hayden: Yes      Mayor Peluso: Yes**

**Motion carried 4-0.**

Mr. Garland was introduced and welcomed.

The city clerk read Order **R-2015-077**, appointing **Samantha Allyson Schaefer** to the position of **Animal/Litter Control Officer**. Commissioner Peluso made a **motion to approve**; second to the motion was offered by Commissioner Guidugli. Upon hearing there were no comments or questions, the mayor called for a roll call vote.

**Commissioner Peluso: Yes      Commissioner Hayden: Yes**  
**Commissioner Guidugli: Yes      Mayor Peluso: Yes**

**Motion carried 4-0.**

Ms. Schaefer was introduced and welcomed.

The city clerk read Order **R-2015-078**, reappointing **Commissioner Elisabeth Fennell as representative** and J. Gregory Tulley as alternate from the City of Newport **to the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments**. Commissioner Peluso made a **motion to approve**; second to the motion was offered by Commissioner Guidugli. Upon hearing there were no comments or questions, the mayor called for a roll call vote.

**Commissioner Peluso: Yes      Commissioner Hayden: Yes**  
**Commissioner Guidugli: Yes      Mayor Peluso: Yes**

**Motion carried 4-0.**

The city clerk read Order **R-2015-079**, appointing as patrol officers in the Newport Police Department **Michael Preston as Grade VI, Steven Linville as Grade III, and Kory Bailey as Grade II** effective December 7, 2015. Commissioner Guidugli made a **motion to approve**; second to the motion was offered by Commissioner Peluso. Upon hearing there were no comments or questions, the mayor called for a roll call vote.

**Commissioner Guidugli: Yes      Commissioner Hayden: Yes**  
**Commissioner Peluso: Yes      Mayor Peluso: Yes**

**Motion carried 4-0.**

Mayor Peluso administered the oath to the three newest members of the Police Department.

### **PRESENTATIONS, AWARDS & PROCLAMATIONS**

Mayor Peluso presented Cannoli Awards to two individuals. **Rachel Comte**, an East Row resident and certified arborist was recognized for her efforts to revitalize and rebuild the urban forest and organizing volunteers to plant over ninety trees in the City during the past year. **Sean “Spanky” Caudill** of Spanky & Co. Barber Shop in Newport was recognized for giving back to the community through offering free services to persons who are homeless.

Mayor Peluso called for a brief recess at 7:12 p.m. The meeting reconvened in regular session at 7:22 p.m. with Mayor Peluso and Commissioners Guidugli, Haden, and Peluso present and responding to roll call

### **PUBLIC FORUM**

**Ms. Robson**, a resident of Linden, announced details of the East Row Christmas Tour and Tea to be held December 5 and 6. Tickets are available in advance for \$16 from EastRow.org.

**Ms. Stephany Mastin** of Waterworks Road stated concerns about speeding on that street and asked about installation of speed bumps. Chief Collins responded that police presence can be increased but speed bumps are not used due to safety concerns (obstruction and damage for emergency and service vehicles (snow plows)).

**Ms. Nancy Deaton** of Waterworks Road also expressed concerns about speeding in the area and noted with the stop light at Waterworks and Memorial, with increased traffic from the Pavilion, there are long back-ups especially in the morning. There are long waits to at Wilson and there is no stop sign between Fort Thomas and the corner of Waterworks and Wilson. Another complication is the lack of sidewalks through Woodlawn.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Peluso made a **motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on October 19, the minutes of the special meetings on October 28, and the minutes of the special meeting on October 29**; second to the motion was offered by Commissioner Guidugli. Upon hearing there were no comments or questions, the mayor called for a roll call vote.

**Commissioner Peluso: Yes      Commissioner Hayden: Yes**  
**Commissioner Guidugli: Yes      Mayor Peluso: Yes**

**Motion carried 4-0.**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

The city clerk read Order **R-2015- 080** an order authorizing the city manager to enter into an **agreement with Custom Design Benefits** to act as the City’s third party administrator with various insurance companies to provide for the City of Newport’s employees’ health and dental insurance needs. Commissioner Hayden made a **motion to approve**; second to the motion was offered by Commissioner Guidugli. Ms. Lisa Stamm of Sherrill Morgan and Associates and Cindy Feters of Custom Design Benefits were present to answer questions from the Board. Ms. Fornash noted there will be several meetings for employees to explain changes. Ms. Stamm stated there were no changes to the plan since 2009, the recommendation is to offer a third plan option called a True Cost Plan. Claims are not paid based on contract with Health Span providers but based on Medicare payment amounts plus a percentage; this will result in significantly lower costs compared to traditional plans. Employees choosing this option have copays rather than deductibles. The employee premiums for continuing in the HRA plan will increase 30%; the premium amounts for those choosing True Cost will see no increase over the amounts paid last year for the HRA Plan.

Kenton County Fiscal Court has offered this plan for one year and 60% of their employees choose the True Cost plan. Upon hearing there were no further comments or questions, the mayor called for a roll call vote.

Commissioner Hayden: Yes      Commissioner Peluso: Yes  
Commissioner Guidugli: Yes      Mayor Peluso: Yes      Motion carried 4-0.

The city clerk read Order **R-2015- 081** an order authorizing and directing the mayor to execute any and all documents required for the City to receive **Community Development Block Grant funds** and implement its 2015 **Homeownership Development Project**. Commissioner Peluso made a **motion to approve**; second to the motion was offered by Commissioner Guidugli. The Mayor invited Tom Guidugli, Sr., Neighborhood Foundations/Millennium Housing Corp. III, and Dennis Elrod, grant administrator, to address the Board. Mr. Guidugli explained the project will be eight new houses for home ownership in Newport: five on Thirteenth Street, one on Central, one on West Tenth, and one on Isabella. Construction will begin as soon as funds are available. The target selling price will be \$159,000. The program is for up to 80% median income so the price point is at within the market range of \$125,000-\$165,000. The program allows people to enter the housing market if they are not making a large salary; most are at about \$35,000 annual income. Homes will be approximately 17,900 square feet. Commissioner Peluso stated he received a call about a land mover piling up brush on Thirteenth Street, the City Manager will have Code Enforcement check for permits and follow up as necessary. Upon hearing there were no further comments or questions, the mayor called for a roll call vote.

Commissioner Peluso: Yes      Commissioner Hayden: Yes  
Commissioner Guidugli: Yes      Mayor Peluso: Yes      Motion carried 4-0.

The city clerk read Order **R-2015-082** an order agreeing to and accepting the proposal of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Transportation Cabinet, Department of Highways concerning construction within the Ky Route 9 Extension. Commissioner Guidugli made a **motion to approve**; second to the motion was offered by Commissioner Hayden. The City Manager explained this concerns underground utilities and will provide manholes allowing us to proceed with the long-discussed plans. The cost will be \$40,000. Commissioner Peluso asked if the City will have a project manager on site and Mr. Fromme replied the City Engineer will be used. Upon hearing there were no further comments or questions, the mayor called for a roll call vote.

Commissioner Guidugli: Yes      Commissioner Peluso: Yes  
Commissioner Hayden: Yes      Mayor Peluso: Yes      Motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Peluso made a **motion to withdraw** from the agenda tentative Ordinance number O-2015-013 (concerning adoption of a revised and updated Comprehensive Plan). Commissioner Hayden offered a second to the motion. Mr. Fromme stated this can be discussed at the next caucus meeting. Upon hearing there were no comments or questions, the mayor called for a roll call vote.

Commissioner Peluso: Yes      Commissioner Guidugli: Yes  
Commissioner Hayden: Yes      Mayor Peluso: Yes      Motion carried 4-0, agenda item withdrawn.

The city clerk gave first reading of tentative number **O-2015-014** an ordinance amending Sections 72.11 (b) (4) (b) and (d) concerning **parking and storage of devices on public ways**. Commissioner Peluso made a **motion to approve**; second to the motion was offered by Commissioner Guidugli. Mr. Fromme noted the City was contacted by a company asking that the City remove language that mirrored their trademark name. Language is also being added about

damage to the roadway as there have been reports of dumpsters damaging blacktop. When permits are obtained from the Police Department the applicants will be advised to use plywood under these items and that they will be responsible for damage. Chief Collins and Mr. Braun confirmed there will now be a policy created. Upon hearing there were no further comments or questions, the mayor called for a roll call vote.

Commissioner Peluso: Yes      Commissioner Hayden: Yes  
Commissioner Guidugli: Yes      Mayor Peluso: Yes

**Motion carried 4-0.**

The city clerk gave first reading to tentative number **O-2015-014** an ordinance **expanding the Central Business District Façade Improvement Program**. Commissioner Guidugli made a **motion to approve**; second to the motion was offered by Commissioner Hayden. Mr. Fromme noted this has been discussed at several meetings and there have been many interested businesses outside of the original boundaries on Monmouth. This expands boundaries from York to Washington. Dennis Elrod noted the expansion is the main change, the rules are largely unchanged. The Commission had designated \$100,000 of CDBG funds that came back from pre-payment of earlier grants. They chose to first give the opportunity to businesses along the major commercial thoroughfare and now, having heard requests from those outside of that area to be included, the boundaries will be roughly the same as the Renaissance District. The only other change was for the occasional buildings that front on two streets where improving one façade and leaving the other unimproved was not the best choice. This remains a matching program and now allows for those with façades on two streets to apply for an increased benefit, for those fronting on two streets the maximum will go up from \$7,500 to \$15,000. Commissioner Guidugli added it is good to see the program expanding for others to take advantage of the funds available. Commissioner Peluso asked about any updates on the residential program, there is no new information at this time, the City Manager will follow up. Upon hearing there were no further comments or questions, the mayor called for a roll call vote.

Commissioner Guidugli: Yes      Commissioner Peluso: Yes  
Commissioner Hayden: Yes      Mayor Peluso: Yes

**Motion carried 4-0.**

### **COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Mayor Peluso wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Commissioner Hayden made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Guidugli offered a second to the motion. The Mayor asked for a roll call vote.

Commissioner Hayden: Yes      Commissioner Peluso: Yes  
Commissioner Guidugli: Yes      Mayor Peluso: Yes

**Motion carried 4-0.**

**The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Approved/Signed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jerry R. Peluso, Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Amy B. Able, City Clerk