

**REGULAR MEETING OF NEWBERRY CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS/ONLINE, CITY HALL, NEWBERRY, SC
April 14, 2020 – 7:00 P.M.**

This month's City Council meeting was held using an online platform. Audience members had the option to visit <https://cityofnewberry.webex.com/cityofnewberry/onstage/g.php?MTID=e8ad3d13435ee6c84d3d9f894640a6c85> on their computer, tablet or smart phone device to allow them to view the meeting.

Members Present: Mayor Foster Senn, Councilman Zebbie Goudelock, Councilman David T. Force, Councilman R. LeMont Glasgow, Councilman David E. DuBose and Councilman Edwin E. Wicker.

Also Present: City Manager Matt DeWitt, virtual audience members

Media Present: Elyssa Haven

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Senn called the meeting to order and led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilman Glasgow gave the invocation.

ORDINANCE:

**First and Final Reading of Ordinance #2020-1004 to
Temporarily Suspend the Normal Operating Procedures
Applicable to Council Meetings**

Motion was made by Councilman Wicker and seconded by Councilman DuBose to accept first and final reading of an ordinance to temporarily suspend the normal operating procedures applicable to council meetings. Mayor Senn said the ordinance allowed members to remotely participate in voting and operational procedures by telephone or other means of electronic communication provided that Council complies with the provisions of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act. The ordinance will expire in 61 days. Mayor Senn declared the motion carried following a unanimous vote of City Council members present.

UPDATE:

City Manager Matt DeWitt gave Council and the public an update on the City of Newberry's operating procedures during the COVID-19 pandemic highlighting that city staff had changed operations practices for the safety of the public and staff and had published updates to social media and the city's website on these changes. The City Hall drive-thru window is currently closed, allowing customer service representatives to disinfect payments that are put in the overnight deposit box. Customers have been encouraged to handle business by phone, online or in the overnight deposit box.

MINUTES:

Newberry City Council Minutes
April 14, 2020

Councilman Godelock made a motion, seconded by Councilman DuBose to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of Newberry City Council held on March 10, 2020, as presented. Mayor Senn declared the motion carried following a unanimous vote of City Council members present.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mayor Senn advised that members of City Council had received a copy of the Financial Report and Financial Summary for the period ending March 31, 2020 and noted that the report would be attached to the minutes. City Manager DeWitt gave a brief summary of the financial report highlighting the steady decrease in water receipts due to the reduction of Saluda usage. He also highlighted that the city had recently received funds through a PARD Grant for bathrooms at both Marion Davis and Wise Street Park restrooms. The Rear-Load Packer truck that was purchased in March through a lease purchase, DeWitt said the revenue would be shown on April's financial summary because it was received in the first week of April. DeWitt made note of a difference of \$11,368 in local hospitality and accommodations funds compared to last fiscal year due to the governor's most recent executive order regarding COVID-19.

UPDATE:

Fiber Deployment Update

City Manager Matt DeWitt gave Council and the public an update on the Fiber Network build out on behalf of Assistant Utility Director David Eldridge highlighting that Zone 3 was complete with Zone 4's construction at about 50 percent completed. The city overall was at approximately 85 percent completion, he said.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Announcements from Mayor

Mayor Foster Senn made an announcement regarding the City of Newberry recently being named a 2019 Tree City USA recipient by the Arbor Day Foundation. He said the city would continue to encourage citizens to plant trees and looked for the city to plant trees every year as well. Newberry is one of more than 3,600 Tree City USA communities with a combined population of 155 million.

ORDINANCE:

**Second and Final Reading of Ordinance #2020-1003 to
authorize the City of Newberry to enter into an
intergovernmental agreement with Newberry County for
recreational purposes.**

Motion was made by Councilman Glasgow and seconded by Councilman Godelock to accept second and final reading of an ordinance formalizing the remittance of the tax from Newberry County to the city for recreational opportunities within the county as a whole. This agreement does not create a new tax whatsoever and will need to be renewed or adjusted in ten years. Mayor Senn declared the motion carried following a unanimous vote of City Council members present.

CITY COUNCIL:

**Consideration of Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee's
Recommendations**

Newberry City Council Minutes
April 14, 2020

Mayor Senn stated that the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee (ATAC) met on March 3 to consider 12 applications received by the February 28th deadline requesting funds from the State Accommodations Tax for 2020. The total funds available for distribution were calculated at \$79,148.91. The eight applicants considered for funding submitted applications which totaled \$157,340.

After a staff presentation and a discussion of each project the Committee approved the following funding amounts for presentation to City Council for approval.

Newberry Community Players	\$	5,000.00
Newberry Opera House	\$	15,000.00
Newberry Oktoberfest	\$	7,500.00
Parks, Recreation and Tourism	\$	10,000.00
Newberry Downtown Development Association (<i>Marketing</i>)	\$	12,670.00
Newberry Downtown Development Association (<i>Ritz Marquee</i>)	\$	15,478.91
Newberry College (<i>Visitors Guide</i>)	\$	5,500.00
<u>Newberry College (<i>Digital Billboard</i>)</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>8,000.00</u>
	\$	79,148.91

Councilman Goudelock made a motion, seconded by Councilman DuBose to accept the recommendation of the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee for disbursements of the State Accommodations Tax funds. Mayor Senn declared the motion carried following a unanimous vote of City Council members present.

PROCLAMATION: **Consideration of a Proclamation Designating the Month of
April as Fair Housing Month**

Mayor Senn introduced a proclamation designating the month of April as Fair Housing Month in Newberry. He stated that passing this allowed the city to continue to apply for Community Development Block Grants.

Councilmember Wicker made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Force to adopt the proclamation as presented. The motion was carried following a unanimous vote of City Council members present.

PROCLAMATION: **Consideration of a Proclamation Designating the Month of
May as Building Safety Month**

Mayor Senn advised that Building Safety Month is sponsored by the International Code Council, to remind the public about the critical role of our communities' largely unknown guardians of public safety – our local building code officials – who assure us of safe, efficient and livable buildings.

Councilmember Glasgow made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Goudelock to proclaim the month of May as Building Safety Month. Mayor Senn declared the motion carried following a unanimous vote of City Council members present.

ANNOUNCEMENT: **Announcements from Mayor**

Mayor Foster Senn encouraged residents to fill out the 2020 Census and announced that Amir Cromer, of the Newberry County Complete Count Committee would be hosting a virtual census party through Facebook live on Wednesday, April 15 from 6-8 p.m. on the group's Facebook page.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilmember Force made a motion to enter Executive Session for the purpose of a discussion of a contractual matter concerning the City Manager's office as outlined in the agenda. Councilmember Wicker seconded the motion which was carried by a unanimous vote of the City Council members.


Councilmember DuBose made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Goudelock to return to open session. Mayor Senn declared the motion carried by a unanimous vote of the City Council members.

10A – Discussion of a contractual matter concerning the City Manager's office

Information was received and no action was taken.


ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before City Council, Councilman Goudelock made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 P.M. Councilmember DuBose seconded the motion which was carried by a unanimous vote of City Council members.



Foster Senn
MAYOR

ATTEST:



Elyssa Haven, Acting City Clerk
Newberry, South Carolina

