

**REGULAR MEETING OF NEWBERRY CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN MEMORIAL PARK AND COUNCIL CHAMBERS, NEWBERRY, SC
January 11, 2022 – 4:00 P.M.**

Members Present: Mayor Foster Senn, Councilmember R. LeMont Glasgow, Councilmember Edwin E. Wicker, Councilmember Carlton L. Kinard, Councilmember David T. Force, Councilmember Jackie Holmes, and Councilmember David E. DuBose (present for 7:00 p.m. session only)

Also Present: City Manager Matt DeWitt, City Clerk Jeff Wicker, Assistant Director of Utilities David Eldridge, Police Chief Kevin Goodman, Fire Chief Keith Minick, Director of Utilities Tim Baker, Director of HR and Risk Management Jana Boice, and audience members.

Media Present: Elyssa Haven

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Senn called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. and led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmember Glasgow gave the invocation.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION:

Tim Baker

City Manager DeWitt recognized him for five (5) years of service with the Utilities Department. Tim began working with the city on November 28, 2016, and holds the position of utilities director.

Robbie Long

City Manager DeWitt recognized him for five (5) years of service with the Utilities Department. Robbie began working with the city on December 19, 2016, and holds the position of electric lineman A.

Casey Proctor

City Manager DeWitt recognized him for five (5) years of service with the Utilities Department. Casey began working with the city on September 12, 2016, and holds the position of water/sewer foreman.

Britt Worthy

City Manager DeWitt recognized him for ten (10) years of service with the Public Works Department. Britt began working with the city on October 3, 2011, and holds the position of heavy equipment operator III.

Chris Bouknight

City Manager DeWitt recognized him for fifteen (15) years of service with the Public Works Department. Chris began working with the city on September 5, 2006, and holds the position of maintenance worker.

Jody Day

City Manager DeWitt recognized him for fifteen (15) years of service with the Public Works Department. Jody began working with the city on September 11, 2006, and holds the position of supervisor.

Shannon Smith

City Manager DeWitt recognized her for fifteen (15) years of service with the Finance Department. Shannon began working with the city on October 9, 2006, and holds the position of finance director.

William Brown

City Manager DeWitt recognized him for twenty-five (25) years of service with the Utilities Department. William began working with the city on September 30, 1996, and holds the position of electric foreman.

Leo Cannon

City Manager DeWitt recognized him for twenty-five (25) years of service with the Public Works Department. Leo began working with the city on July 31, 1995, and holds the position of maintenance worker.

Kevin Longshore

City Manager DeWitt recognized her for thirty (30) years of service with the Utilities Department. Kevin began working with the city on October 8, 1991, and holds the position of water plant operator A.

Keith Minick

City Manager DeWitt recognized him for thirty (30) years of service with the Fire Department. Chief Minick began working with the city on September 16, 1991, and holds the position of fire chief.

Frank Partridge

City Manager DeWitt recognized him for forty-five (45) years of service with the Justice and Law Department. Judge Partridge began working with the city on December 14, 1976, and holds the position of municipal judge.

Brian Moran

City Manager DeWitt recognized him for his retirement. Brian worked Public Works from September 1986- September 2021, retiring as the garage supervisor.

Angela Summer

City Manager DeWitt recognized her for her retirement. Angela worked for Utilities from February 1989- January 2022, retiring as water plant superintendent.

Tamra Tootle

City Manager DeWitt recognized her for her retirement. Tamra worked in Administration from November 2014- July 2021, retiring as a division director.

RECESS:

To reconvene in Council Chambers, Councilmember Kinard made a motion for a recess of the meeting at 4:21 P.M. Councilmember Holmes seconded the motion, and Mayor Senn declared the motion carried following a unanimous vote of the Council members present.

MINUTES:

The meeting reconvened at 7:01 p.m. at the call of the chair (Mayor Senn), with Councilmember Holmes making a motion, seconded by Councilmember Kinard to approve the minutes of the meeting of Newberry City Council

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held on December 14, 2021, as presented. Mayor Senn declared the motion carried following a unanimous vote of City Council members present.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

City Manager DeWitt advised that members of City Council received a copy of the Financial Report and Financial Summary for the period ending December 31, 2021, and, noted that the report would be attached to the minutes. City Manager DeWitt gave a summary of the financial report highlighting that when comparing units sold this month to December 2020, the City saw decreases in water and sewer units, while electric units remained flat. The City of Newberry received \$10,652 in CDBG funds in December for West End demolition. The loan with Truist Bank for the lease purchase of the automatic side loader closed in December and the equipment should arrive before the end of February. Mr. DeWitt also noted the continued year-over-year growth of local hospitality and accommodations revenue.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

City Manager Matt DeWitt Named to South Carolina Municipal Insurance Trust Board

The South Carolina Municipal Insurance Trust was formed in 1983 as an unincorporated entity sponsored by the Municipal Association of South Carolina for the purpose of providing worker's compensation coverage to its members. The City of Newberry joined the SCMIT pool in 1984 as one of the charter cities to participate. Matt was nominated and duly elected to serve a full, three-year-term on the SCMIT board and is honored to be able to represent Newberry and the other participating municipalities from around the state of South Carolina.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Main Street Water Line

City manager DeWitt shared that the City of Newberry is trying to get water lines under Main Street into the right-of-way prior to SCDOT repaving the street from Wilson Road to Nance Street. Utilities Director Tim Baker shared that a pre-construction meeting was held December 16, 2021. The bid, which was awarded to Tom Brigman Contractors, was higher than expected due to increased construction costs. Mr. Baker shared that this increase was reflected in the upcoming budget adjustment request from utilities. He shared a starting date of February 1, 2022, and that the project would run from Kinard Street to Holman Street. Although the official closeout of the project isn't expected until July 31, he anticipated having the street ready for SCDOT to repave by late spring.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

First Reading of Ordinance #2022-1001 to Change the Date of Regular Elections for the Office of Mayor and Members of City Council to SC Municipal Election Day

Per Section 2-14(a) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Newberry, regular elections for the offices of mayor and members of council are currently held in even-numbered years on the second Tuesday in September. A run-off election, if necessary, is currently held two (2) weeks following the election.

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It is estimated that over 60% of the 271 municipalities in the State of South Carolina presently hold their general elections in November of odd-numbered years, such that that day is now generally known as "Municipal Election Day."

If passed, Section 2-14(a) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Newberry will be amended to state:
Regular elections for the offices of mayor and members of council shall be held on the first Tuesday following the first Monday in November of each odd-numbered calendar year beginning November 7, 2023. A run-off election, if necessary, shall be held two (2) weeks following the election.

This Ordinance shall be effective such that the election presently scheduled for September 2022 for Districts 1, 3, 5 and the office of Mayor shall be held in November of 2023 and the elections presently scheduled for Districts 2, 4 and 6 presently scheduled to be held in September 2024 will be held in November 2025.

Mayor Senn shared a letter from Amy Perkins, Director of the Newberry County Registration and Election Commission, stating that the South Carolina State Election Commission continues to encourage her office and board to work with local municipalities to change their election to fall on Municipal Election Day. Two of the main reasons for encouraging the change are statewide focus on local elections and streamlining election administration.

Mayor Senn also stated council is studying the current starting date for elected officials and election filing fees. Those items may be addressed in a future ordinance.

Councilmember DuBose made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Wicker to approve first reading of ordinance 2022-1001. Mayor Senn declared the motion carried following a unanimous vote of the Council members present.

NEW BUSINESS: **First Reading of Ordinance #2022-1002 to Provide for Amendments to the Revenue and Expenditure Appropriations in the Fiscal Year 2021-22**

City staff see the need to amend the fiscal year 2021-22 budget due to various unknown factors when submitting the original budget requests. City Manager DeWitt shared the factors with council, which are as follows: Purchase of police cars, Addition of one position in the Police Department, Completion of the Marion Davis bathroom, Purchase of the Arts Center building, Renovations at Wise Street Park, Gear and training for new Fire Department hires, Accounting for American Rescue Plan funds, Repairs for the Firehouse Conference Center, Purchase of a front gate and mower, as well as polish for the Newberry Recreation Complex, Renovations at Wells Japanese Garden, Adjustments for the Main Street waterline project, and adjustments in the Utility Capital Fund.

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Councilmember Kinard made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Glasgow to approve first reading of ordinance 2022-1001. Mayor Senn declared the motion carried following a unanimous vote of the Council members present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilmember Glasgow made a motion to enter Executive Session for the purpose of a discussion of matters as outlined in the agenda. Councilmember Wicker seconded and Mayor Senn declared the motion carried following a unanimous vote of the Council members present.

There was a call of the chair (Mayor Senn) to return to open session. With no objections, council entered open session.

10A- Discussion Related to Two Appointments to the A-TAX Committee

10B- Discussion Related to Three Appointments to the Architectural Review Board

10C- Discussion Related to Two Appointments to the Miss Newberry Scholarship Committee

Information was received and no action was taken.

10D- Discussion Related to Two Appointments to the Planning Commission

10E- Discussion Related to Three Appointments to the Zoning Board of Appeals

10F- Discussion of a Personnel Issue Related to City Employees

11A- Two Appointments to the A-TAX Committee

Councilmember Kinard made a motion to reappoint Steve Foulis and Frank Kelly to the A-TAX Committee for two-year terms. Councilmember Holmes seconded, and Mayor Senn declared the motion carried following a unanimous vote of the Council members present.

11B- Three Appointments to the Architectural Review Board

Councilmember Force made a motion to reappoint Cile Hursey, Robert Montgomery, and Lisa Senn to the Architectural Review Board for two-year terms. Councilmember Wicker seconded, and Mayor Senn declared the motion carried following a unanimous vote of the Council members present.

11D- Two Appointments to the Planning Commission

Councilmember Holmes made a motion to reappoint Charles Sims to the Planning Commission for a three-year term. Councilmember Kinard seconded, and Mayor Senn declared the motion carried following a unanimous vote of the Council members present. Mayor Senn made a motion to appoint Scott Malyerck to

the Planning Commission for a three-year term. Councilmember Holmes seconded, and Mayor Senn declared the motion carried following a unanimous vote of the Council members present.

11E- Three Appointments to the Zoning Board of Appeals

Councilmember DuBose made a motion to reappoint Mike Graham and Ed Satcher and to appoint Scott Bellows to the Zoning Board of Appeals for two-year terms. Councilmember Holmes seconded, and Mayor Senn declared the motion carried following a unanimous vote of the Council members present.

11F- Premium Pay City Employees

Mayor Senn once again thanked city staff for all their hard work throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Councilmember Glasgow made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Kinard to approve Tier 3 premium pay of \$500 for volunteer firefighters. Mayor Senn declared the motion carried following a unanimous vote of the Council members present.

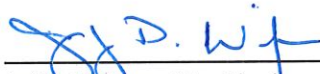
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before City Council, Councilmember DuBose made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 P.M. Councilmember Holmes seconded Mayor Senn declared the motion carried following a unanimous vote of the Council members present.



Foster Senn
MAYOR

ATTEST:



Jeff Wicker, City Clerk
Newberry, South Carolina

