

**CALLED MEETING OF NEWBERRY CITY COUNCIL  
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, NEWBERRY, SC  
April 25, 2022 – 5:00 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

Also Present: City Manager Matt DeWitt, City Clerk Jeff Wicker, and PRT Director Scott Sawyer.

Media Present: Elyssa Haven

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Senn called the meeting to order at 5:06, led in the Pledge of Allegiance, and led in a moment of silence for Officer Drew Barr. Officer Barr was killed in the line of duty early Sunday morning while serving Cayce, SC. Councilmember Glasgow gave the invocation.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Prioritize Components of Proposed Expansion of Newberry  
Recreation Complex and Respond to Capital Project Sales Tax  
Commission Questions**

Mayor Senn explained that that the Capital Project Sales Tax Commission sent questions Friday, April 22 as a follow-up to the presentation for the proposed expansion of the Newberry Recreation Complex. The commission asked that responses be submitted by Tuesday, April 26.

The questions were as follows:

- Will there be adequate legal coverage for the skatepark due to increased risk of injury with this activity?
- There have been issues with staffing the splash pad in the past since part time employees are kept to 28 hours per week or less. What will be done to manage this if it is expanded?
- Would any part of the funds go to beautifying the existing areas: properly grass and cement around the ball fields so there is not so much mud?
- Please list the prioritization of the elements of the project.

City Manager Matt DeWitt addressed the first three questions for council's consideration.

He noted The City of Newberry will cover the skatepark as it would any other activity it pursues. The City received a quote and will expand liability coverage to include the new skate park upon completion. This will provide adequate liability coverage for the skatepark. The coverage will be provided by the Municipal Association of South Carolina's risk pool, which covers all other municipally-owned skate parks around the state.

Mr. DeWitt added the 28-hour threshold is really 30 hours per week as set by the federal mandate in the Affordable Care Act. The City stops at 28 hours so as to not hit the mark. If this part-time threshold is exceeded,

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the City must offer benefits to these seasonal workers. This proposition could become very costly and detrimental to the overall successful operations of the Gully Washer Splash Park.

The City is increasing pay for the new splash season, which will hopefully attract more workers. With unemployment low in Newberry County, it is difficult to hire. We believe those that come to work for the City of Newberry receive a quality work experience, and it allows them to consider possible future career opportunities with the City. We continue to monitor pay structure and what we can do to help gain and retain quality seasonal workers. The City of Newberry will increase outreach to local high school and college students, as well as others looking for seasonal work.

He went on to note the facility is still an active construction site as we finish out various small projects, such as a batting cage. With the expansion, the unfinished areas will see new construction and beautification. The City of Newberry has a history of ensuring our facilities look and function their very best upon completion, and this project will be no different.

Mayor Senn then turned the discussion to prioritization of the project components submitted for CPST funding. He noted Alliance's estimate for the City's proposal was \$5,160,000. City Council prioritized these in November and eliminated the walking trail (nature trail) improvement, arboretum garden, frisbee golf course, and additional parking. City Council also reduced the scope of the Hidden Lake and dock improvement, playground expansion, maintenance access drive and maintenance building, and additional restrooms. These eliminations and reductions reduced the cost estimate from \$5,160,000 to \$4,085,000, for a total reduction of \$1,075,000. Newberry City Council followed the same procedure for the 2016 CPST as it reduced its project to \$4.075 million before submitting.

For the 11 components of the projects, the City of Newberry prioritizes them as follows:

1. Splash Pad Expansion
2. Miracle Field
3. Skate Park
4. Maintenance Access Drive and Maintenance Building
5. Connector Sidewalk and Nature Trail (Paved Walking Trail)
6. Hidden Lake Dock and Nature Area
7. Additional Shelters
8. Shade Structures
9. Additional Restrooms
10. Playground Addition
11. Cabin Driveway and Parking Improvements

Councilmember Glasgow made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Holmes to approve the City's response and prioritization of the components of the proposed expansion of the Newberry Recreation Complex. Mayor Senn declared the motion carried following a unanimous vote of the Council members present.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Councilmember Holmes made a motion to enter Executive Session for the purpose of a discussion of matters as outlined in the agenda. Councilmember DuBose 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 of a Contractual Matter Related to Real Estate**

Information was received and no action was taken.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before City Council, Councilmember DuBose made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:06 P.M. Councilmember Holmes seconded, and 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

