

**REGULAR MEETING OF NEWBERRY CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, NEWBERRY, SC
OCTOBER 8, 2013 – 5:30 P.M.**

Members Present: Mayor Foster Senn, Councilmember R. LeMont Glasgow, Councilmember Edwin E. Wicker, Councilmember Zebbie D. Goudelock, Councilmember Thomas Louis Boyd, Councilmember David E. DuBose, Councilman David T. Force.

Also Present: City Manager W. A. Harvey, Municipal Clerk Tina P. Wicker, Assistant City Manager Matt Dewitt, Utility Director Marc Regier, Finance Director Shannon Smith, Police Chief Jackie Swindler. Others Present: Jay Brogdon, Teresa Cawley, Lisa Toland, Debra Shaw, Neicy Polifrone, and others. News representatives: Elyssa Parnell.

CALL TO ORDER

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

MINUTES

Councilmember Goudelock made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Boyd, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of Newberry City Council held on September 10, 2013 as presented, and the minutes of the special meeting of Newberry City Council held on September 17, 2013 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 for the period ending September 30, 2013 and noted that the report would be attached to the minutes. City Manager Harvey stated that the City was almost a quarter through the fiscal year and both revenues and expenditures were at approximately 25%.

RECOGNITION OF EMPLOYEES:

Mayor Senn and City Manager Harvey recognized Jay Brogdon, Police Lieutenant, for his twenty years of service. He received a certificate and gift selection packet commensurate with his years of service.

COUNCIL:

Proposed Capital Improvements Plan (CIP)

Ms. Teresa Cawley, Financial Advisor, was present to guide City Council through its review of the Capital Improvements Plan for the Gross Revenue Fund (utilities). She reinforced that this was part of multi-meeting work sessions and tonight's meeting was to have interaction and discussion of the projects in the utility. She indicated that she would call on the City Manager and Utility Director to explain the projects and the justification for these projects.

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Utility Director Marc Regier opened with discussion of the 6600 fund which encompasses City Hall, the warehouse and finance divisions of utility capital. He explained the plan to relocate the warehouse to the property on Louis Rich Road, the utility billing software/system replacement to enhance services both to the City and the customers along with some equipment upgrades, the computer replacement which occurs every four years, and utility switching gear, etc. that cycles for replacement every few years. In response to Councilman DuBose's inquiry, Utility Director Regier explained that the automated meter replacement would be for commercial electric service and begin to move to the automated water meters.

Utility Director Regier moved on to the electrical capital in fund 6601 stating that the new electric substation was the largest capital improvement in this fund. He stated that most of the remaining projects were on-going operational projects like vehicle replacement, electric service extensions. He noted the additional expenditures for automated metering and the LED street lights which would lessen the loss on the electrical system for providing this service throughout the City. He pointed out that future plans were contained in the CIP for replacement of Substation 2 at an estimated cost of 4 million dollars. Mayor Senn asked about completion of the new substation and Utility Director Regier indicated that it would probably be spring/summer of next year before the station is on-line. Councilman Force asked about the fiber optic expenditures and Utility Director Regier remarked that most of the major arteries in the City had fiber optic hung and was used for City communications as well as providing some service to the County, the hospital and some private industry.

Utility Director Regier pointed out that the water and sewer improvements were the most costly in the CIP. He stated receiving grants through the CDBG helped offset the cost to the City but should that funding not materialize the City had to be prepared to fund the costs for these projects. He indicated that most of the equipment at the water plant was approaching a forty year life. He stated that the most immediate need was the clear well at the plant which would entail building a new clear well and then repairing the existing facility. He noted there were additional regulations being imposed by DHEC and EPA that would require some operational changes like in the handling of sludge. He noted that the asbestos pipe removal would have to be addressed very soon as would the construction of a new water tower on Louis Rich Road to increase storage capacity. He said that the water distribution repair would be to address the pressure issues on the system because of increased demand on the system and lessen the need for the booster pumps to handle the pressure. He reported that some of the line replacement spread out over the next ten years was to make improvements to the existing major water distribution lines and noted that when you looked at the sewer capital you would see that these water line replacements were coordinated with sewer line replacements along the same corridors.

Utility Director Regier moved to sewer capital in the 6603 fund again noting that most projects for sewer line replacement correlated with water line projects. He stated that the belt press was not replaced when the plant was upgraded last year and would need to be replaced in the near future.

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insurance companies. He stated that the proposed Ordinance incorporated these changes as they applied to municipalities. He noted that the State would collect the two percent municipal broker's premium tax and remit that amount to the City and that insurance companies will pay a business license fee based on gross revenue derived in the City. He advised that the changes set forth in the Ordinance would bring the City into compliance with the new legislation.

Councilman Boyd made a motion, seconded by Councilman Goudelock, to approve first reading of the Ordinance as presented. Mayor Senn declared the motion carried following a unanimous vote of City Council members present.

RESOLUTION:

Personnel Policy Amendment (Sec. 19.0 – Return to Work for Worker's Compensation Light Duty and Sec. 21.0 - Grievances)

Mayor Senn presented for Council's consideration a Resolution to repeal the current language contained in Section 19.0 – Return to Work for Worker's Compensation Injury/Illness and Section 21.0 – Grievances of the City's Personnel Policies. He explained that Section 19.0 would not require certification from a physician that the employee can perform the essential functions of his position before returning to work. He indicated that the grievance procedure would be eliminated and that all terminations would be reviewed by the Human Resources Director with final review and authorization to termination in the sole discretion of the City Manager.

Councilman Boyd made a motion, seconded by Councilman DuBose, to adopt the Resolution as presented. Mayor Senn declared the motion carried following a unanimous vote of City Council members present.

UTILITY:

Annexation Agreement – Water Service to 790 Pine Meadow Road

Mayor Senn reported that an Annexation Agreement requesting the extension of water service to the property at 790 Pine Meadow Road had been submitted by the property owners, Eunice M. Trefsgar and Betsy Medlock. He noted that a service line was immediately adjacent to the property and no further extension would be required by the City.

Councilman Glasgow made a motion, seconded by Councilman Goudelock, to accept the Annexation Agreement and authorize the extension of water service to the property. Mayor Senn declared the motion carried following a unanimous vote of City Council members present.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilman Goudelock made a motion, seconded by Councilman Boyd, to enter an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a contractual matter related to the annexation of properties. Mayor Senn declared the motion carried following a unanimous vote of City Council members present.

Councilmember Goudelock made a motion, seconded by Councilman Glasgow, to return to Open Session. Mayor Senn declared the motion carried following a unanimous vote of City Council members present.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before City Council, Councilmember Goudelock made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:22 P.M. Councilmember Boyd seconded the motion which was carried by a unanimous vote of City Council members present.

Foster Senn
MAYOR

ATTEST:

Tina P. Wicker, City Clerk
Newberry, South Carolina

(SEAL)