

**REGULAR MEETING OF NEWBERRY CITY COUNCIL  
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS/ONLINE, CITY HALL, NEWBERRY, SC  
May 12, 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=ece97d85640bbbc07944047e54da59b5> on their computer, tablet or smart phone device to allow them to view the meeting.

Members Present: Mayor Foster Senn, Councilman Zebbie Goudeock, 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 #2020-1005 to Amend  
Ordinance #2020-1004 to Temporarily Suspend the Normal  
Operating Procedures Applicable to Council Meetings**

Motion was made by Councilman Wicker and seconded by Councilman Glasgow to accept first and final reading of an ordinance to amend Ordinance #2020-1004 temporarily suspend the normal operating procedures applicable to council meetings. Mayor Senn said the ordinance was amended to allow not only council members to remotely participate in voting and operational procedures by telephone or other means of electronic communication, but the city's boards and commissions provided that they complied with the provisions of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act. 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 back open and the lobby is planned to open on Monday, May 18 and precautions had been taken such as placing sneeze guards at the customer service counter and markers on the floor to encourage customers to keep a social distance when in line for service.

Newberry City Council Minutes  
May 12, 2020

**MINUTES:**

Councilman DuBose made a motion, seconded by Councilman Glasgow to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of Newberry City Council held on April 14, 2020, and minutes for budget work sessions on May 5, 2020 and May 6, 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 April 30, 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 a Rear-Load Packer Truck that was purchased in March for Public Works Sanitation department through a lease-purchase. Under Local Hospitality and Accommodations Funds, DeWitt said sales during March 2020 reflect \$57,813 compared to \$87,907 in March 2019.

**ANNOUNCEMENT:**                      **City of Newberry receives first place in Group B of American Public Power Association's 2019 Safety Awards of Excellence**

Mayor Foster Senn made an announcement regarding the city's utilities department earning the American Public Power Association's safety award of excellence for safe operating practices in 2019. The utilities department earned first place in the category for utilities with more than 25,000 worker-hours of annual worker exposure.

**ANNOUNCEMENT:**                      **Recognition of 2020 Newberry-PMPA Scholarship Recipients**

Mayor Foster Senn made an announcement congratulating this year's recipients of the Newberry PMPA Community Scholar Scholarship: Jordyn Clark, Ethan Hawkins and Noah Yi. Each student will receive a \$700 scholarship in the fall toward their tuition.

**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 the entire system was roughly 95 percent complete. As an update for Council, DeWitt said there were 806 potential customers for the fiber system, with 564 of them being active customers. There are currently 210 customers signed up and waiting to be connected to the system.

**ANNOUNCEMENT:**                      **Drinking Water Week**

Mayor Foster Senn announced that the city celebrated Drinking Water Week with a proclamation the week of May 3-9 and commended the city's water treatment plant for producing high quality water for customers.

**ORDINANCE:**                      **First Reading of Ordinance #2020-1006 to set a fee schedule for the City of Newberry recreation complex splash park**

Councilmember Force made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Wicker to accept first reading of ordinance #2020-1006 to set a fee schedule for the City of Newberry recreation complex splash park. Both children and adults will be charged a \$3 fee for admission. Mayor Senn stated there was also an option to purchase a 10-day punch pass for \$25. Locker rentals will be available for visitors at a rate of \$2 per day, per locker. The motion was carried following a unanimous vote of City Council members present.

**ORDINANCE:**                      **First Reading of Ordinance #2020-1007, amending Article 5, Section 506.4 of the Zoning District Table of Permitted Uses as it pertains to Tattoo Parlors**

Councilmember Wicker made a motion, seconded by Councilmember DuBose to accept the report of the city's Planning Commission that disapproved amending Article 5, Section 506.4 of the Zoning District Table of Permitted Uses as it pertains to Tattoo Parlors. The motion was carried following a unanimous vote of City Council members present. The amendment would change the city's current zoning ordinance to allow tattoo parlors in the core commercial district.

With council's acceptance of the report from the Planning Commission, only one reading is required of this ordinance.

**ORDINANCE:**                      **First Reading of Ordinance #2020-1008, amending Article 9, Table 905 and Adding Section 907.7 for Digital Billboards**

Councilmember DuBose made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Goude-lock to approve first reading of an ordinance amending Article 9, Table 905 and Adding Section 907.7 for Digital Billboards. The motion was carried following a unanimous vote of City Council members present. This ordinance would allow digital billboards to be permitted in the Main Street interstate overlay.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Councilmember Goude-lock made a motion to enter Executive Session for the purpose of a discussion of appointments to the Planning Commission and a contractual matter concerning the City Manager's office as outlined in the agenda. Councilmember Glasgow seconded the motion which was carried by a unanimous vote of the City Council members.

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

Newberry City Council Minutes  
May 12, 2020

**10A – Discussion of appointments to the Planning Commission**

Councilmember Wicker made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Goude-lock to nominate Nancy Harvey to the city's Planning Commission. Mayor Senn declared the motion carried by a unanimous vote of City Council members.

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

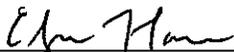
Information was received and no action was taken.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before City Council, Councilman Goude-lock made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 P.M. Councilmember Force 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

