

**REGULAR MEETING OF NEWBERRY CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, NEWBERRY, SC
JUNE 10, 2014 – 7:00 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 T. Force, Councilmember David DuBose.

Also Present: City Manager W. A. Harvey, Municipal Clerk Tina P. Wicker, Assistant City Manager Matt Dewitt, Finance Director Shannon Smith, Utility Director Marc Regier, Fire Chief Keith Minick, Public Works Director Mac Bartley. Others Present: Debra Shaw, Hannah Grace Carey and family, Amber Elizabeth Meadow and family, Alex Cole and family, Tim Swygert and others. News representatives: Elyssa Parnell and Tammy Kitchen.

CALL TO ORDER

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

MINUTES

Councilmember Boyd made a motion, seconded by Councilmember DuBose to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of Newberry City Council held on May 6, 2014 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 May 31, 2014 and noted that the report would be attached to the minutes. City Manager Harvey stated that as the City was nearing the end of the fiscal year there was no unusual activity to report and he expected the City to end the fiscal year in good shape.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION: **Scholarship Award**

Mayor Senn announced and introduced the recipients of the Newberry-PMPA Community Scholar award. He indicated that this year's recipients were Hannah Grace Carey and Amber Elizabeth Meadow. He also recognized last year's award recipient, Alex Cole.

PUBLIC HEARING: **Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget**

City Manager Harvey provided a summation of the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget reading from the Budget Message which is attached to the minutes and offered to answer any questions from Council.

Mayor Senn declared a public hearing for the purpose of receiving comments concerning the proposed budget. There were no comments and Mayor Senn declared the public hearing closed.

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ORDINANCE:

Sections 9-134, 9-136 & 9-137 (Sanitation Fees) - First Reading

Mayor Senn introduced for first reading an Ordinance (#2014-1002) amending Sections 9-134, 9-136 and 9-137 of the City Code pertaining to fees charged by the City for sanitation services. He noted that residential mobile cart fees will increase from \$7.00 per month to \$10.00 per month, six cubic yard commercial containers will increase from \$20.00 per month to \$23.00 per month and eight cubic yard commercial containers will increase from \$22.00 to \$25.00 per month. He stated that the increase in fees will generate approximately \$138,713.00 in revenue.

Councilmember Boyd made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Wicker, to approve first reading of the Ordinance as presented. Mayor Senn declared the motion carried by a unanimous vote of City Councilmembers present and voting.

ORDINANCE:

Chapter 9 of City Code (Electric, Water & Sewer Rates) – First Reading

Mayor Senn presented for consideration an Ordinance (#2014-1003) to amend various Sections of Chapter 9 of the City Code which will result in an increase in electric, water and sewer rates. He advised that the electric rate increase was to offset the 9.88% wholesale electric rate adjustment which was implemented by Piedmont Municipal Power Agency (PMPA) in May of 2014. He added that the increases in water and sewer rates were necessary to fund capital improvement projects needed to upgrade the facilities at the treatment plants and infrastructure.

Mayor Senn asked about the projects that are to be funded by future rate increases and encouraged the staff to review and prioritize the most critical needs. He expressed concern over future year increases as contained in the Ordinance. Utility Director Regier and Finance Director Smith informed Council that these rates may need to be modified depending on the projects undertaken. Utility Director Regier indicated that these rate increases will show the bonding agency that the City is willing to fund the projects and will be able to repay the debt.

Mayor Senn endorsed some of the major projects contained in the Capital Improvement Plan and acknowledged that the City currently had some of the lowest rates for utility services. He requested that the City explore other areas of funding sources like the Capital Project Sales Tax, CDBG funding and energy grants in order to avoid some of the higher rate increases as projected in future years in the Ordinance. He gave several suggestions for City staff to explore.

Councilman Glasgow stated that Council would want to see the rate increases reduced if additional funding sources became available. Utility Director Regier stated that the staff would continue to seek other funding sources like CDBG and he also noted that actual costs for projects could be lower than estimated.

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UTILITIES:

Annexation Agreement – 78 Hawkins Road

Mayor Senn remarked that Ms. Suong Dao, owner of 78 Hawkins Road, had executed an Annexation Agreement requesting outside water service to her property. He stated the property is adjacent to an existing City water line and would require no extension beyond a standard tap.

Councilmember DuBose made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Glasgow, to accept the Annexation Agreement and authorize the water service extension to 78 Hawkins Road as requested. Mayor Senn declared the motion carried by a unanimous vote of City Councilmembers present and voting.

FIRE:

ISO Classification

Mayor Senn announced that the Insurance Service Office, Inc. had recently completed an evaluation of the City structural fire suppression delivery system which had resulted in an ISO Classification of 2. He stated that the previous Classification was a 3 and that the new rate should result in a savings to the citizens of the City on their property/casualty insurance.

Chief Minick made a brief presentation summarizing the analysis made by ISO.

Mayor Senn and Council commended the fire department staff and water treatment plant staff for their hard work.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Personnel Matter

Councilmember Goudelock made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Boyd, to enter an Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter as outlined on the agenda. Mayor Senn declared the motion carried following a unanimous vote of City Council members present.

Councilmember Force made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Goudelock to go into Open Session. Mayor Senn declared the motion carried following a unanimous vote of City Councilmembers present and voting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before City Council, Councilmember Glasgow made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:08 P.M. Councilmember Boyd seconded the motion which was carried by a unanimous vote of City Council members present.

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**Foster Senn
MAYOR**

ATTEST:

**Tina P. Wicker, City Clerk
Newberry, South Carolina**

(SEAL)