

**REGULAR MEETING OF NEWBERRY CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, NEWBERRY, SC
JANUARY 12, 2016 – 7:00 P.M.**

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

Also Present: City Manager W. A. Harvey, Assistant City Manager Matt DeWitt, Municipal Clerk Jennie O'Shields, Utility Director Marc Regier, Chief Roy McClurkin, Public Works Director Mac Bartley, Chief Keith Minick , PRT Director Scott Sawyer, Others Present: Pat Caldwell, Mike and Allison Hawkins, R.J. Dowd, Benji Morris, Stuart Smith, Bob Shirey, Lisa Shaw, Ben Dukes, Michelle Long, Randy Malloy, Brandon Wicker, Michael Parker, Tim Swygert, Pi Beta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority including Lisa Toland, President, Toriah Caldwell, Vice-President, Vina Abrams, Bennie Mae Brown, Eddie Caldwell, Leila Caldwell, Patricia Caldwell, Shawnta Graham, Deidre Murphy, Myrtle Strother, Mary Suber, Genice Thompson, Harriett Wells-Kegler, and Glendora Pratt Williams and others. News representatives: Carson Lambert and Sami Truong

CALL TO ORDER

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

MINUTES

Councilman Goudelock made a motion, seconded by Councilman Glasgow to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of Newberry City Council held on December 8, 2015 and the minutes from a Work Session Held on December 14, 2015 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 December 31, 2015 and noted that the report would be attached to the minutes. City Manager Harvey gave a brief explanation of the financial statement.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Mayor Senn and City Manager Harvey recognized Mike Hawkins for his ten years of service with the City's Police Department and R.J. Dowd for his ten years of service with the City's Fire Department. Both received a certificate and gift selection packet commensurate with their years of service.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION:

Proclamation Honoring Alpha Kappa Alpha

Mayor Senn asked the members of the Newberry Pi Beta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority to come forward and be recognized for their 30th Anniversary. Mayor Senn further commended the group for their efforts and contributions to Newberry. Over the years, the AKA Sorority has held winter coat drives, contributed to local food pantries, organized voter registration drives, gifted books to the Newberry County Library and presented scholarships to high school students throughout Newberry County.

PRESENTATION:

Oakland Tennis Complex

Mayor Senn indicated that the design firm of Woolpert had created a design schematic for the Oakland Tennis Complex project and asked Carl Armanini to come forward to give council and outline of the proposed plans.

Mr. Armanini with Woolpert revealed the design schematic with the proposed site being the Oakland Ball field located between First Street and Digby Avenue. The original plan called for 9 courts, six of which are slated to be hard surface and the other three as clay tech. There are no other clay tech courts in South Carolina currently and the closest one would be in Roswell, GA giving Newberry an edge with the hope to draw in tennis tournaments from out of the area while providing the college and citizens a quality space to play. The plan also laid out a standalone building to house restrooms and changing areas. The total cost for this project would come to 1.2 million dollars. Funding for the proposed complex would be derived from Special Source Revenue from the Oakland Mill Project in which City Council previously agreed to reinvest the funds generated by the project back into the Oakland area.

PRT Director Scott Sawyer came forward and stated that it was the goal of the PRT Department to build a tennis program not just tennis courts and offered to answer any questions that Council might have.

Council asked for ways to cut some of the costs and PRT Director Sawyer agreed to look over the plans to see if there were any changes that could be made.

ORDINANCE:

First Reading of an Ordinance (#2016-1003) to exchange property with the Newberry Rotary Club

Mayor Senn specified that the Boy Scout cabin adjacent to the Margaret Hunter Park burned approximately 18 months ago and the site has now been cleared. The Newberry Rotary Club which owned the property expressed interest in the Girl Scout Cabin which is owned by the City in hopes of using it to replace the burned Boy Scout Cabin. The Rotary Club also stated that they would rehabilitate the cabin making it useful again.

Councilman Dubose made a motion, seconded by Councilman Goudelock to approve the first reading of ordinance #2016-1003 to exchange property with the Newberry Rotary Club. Mayor Senn declared the motion carried by a unanimous vote of City Councilmembers present and voting.

ORDINANCE:

First Reading of an Ordinance (#2016-1001) to Transfer Authority to conduct Municipal Elections to the Newberry County Voter Registration and Election Commission

Mayor Senn stated Newberry City Council Members recently discussed the need to hold a municipal election in September of 2016. During that discussion it was indicated that there was an interest in transferring that responsibility to the Newberry County Voter Registration and Election Commission which conducts elections for other municipalities in Newberry County. City staff made contact with county officials who showed a willingness on the part of the county to assume responsibility for the City's elections. The City Attorney prepared an ordinance to transfer authority to conduct City of Newberry elections beginning in 2016 with an estimated cost of \$3,610 for election duties.

City Manager Harvey indicated that County council would also have to adopt an ordinance before a working agreement could be signed by the City Manager and County Administrator.

Councilman Goudelock made a motion, seconded by Councilman Wicker to approve the first reading of ordinance #2016-1001 to Transfer Authority to conduct Municipal Elections to the Newberry County Voter Registration and Election Commission. Mayor Senn declared the motion carried by a unanimous vote of City Councilmembers present and voting.

CITY COUNCIL:

Accommodation Tax Recommendations

Mayor Senn stated that the City's Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee (ATAC) met to consider five applications received by the December 2, 2015, deadline. Total funds available for distribution are \$52,829.15. He indicated that the requests for funds totaled \$81,000 and that the ATAC recommend funding for each request as follows: the Newberry Opera House receiving \$19,679.15 (24% funded) for advertising, The Newberry Parks, Recreation and Tourism receiving \$12,400 (24% funded) for community promotions, Oktoberfest would receive \$9150 (28% funded) for advertising and events, The Newberry Arts Center receiving \$2600 (25% funded) for community projects and The Downtown Merchants Association would receive \$9000 (75% funded) for advertising.

Councilmember Glasgow made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Wicker to accept the recommendation of the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee for disbursements of the State Accommodations Tax funds. Mayor Senn declared the motion carried following a unanimous vote of City Council members present.

DISCUSSION:

Newberry Police Department Parking Lot

Mayor Senn stated at the December Council Meeting, Councilman Goudelock asked the staff to look into re-outlining parking spaces at the police department. Mayor Senn deferred to City Manager Harvey for an update.

City Manager Harvey stated that after researching the problems with the parking lot that it was determined that the lot should be resealed and two poles removed first before outlining the parking spaces in order to properly address the problem. The estimated cost would run around \$10,000 dollars and it would be better to have this process done in the spring and summer months.

Councilmember Goudeock made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Glasgow, to resurface the police department parking lot in the spring. Mayor Senn declared the motion carried following a unanimous vote of City Council's members present.

ORDINANCE:

**First Reading of an Ordinance (2016-1002)
Amending the FY 2015-2016 Budget for the
Federal Equitable Sharing Fund**

Mayor Senn offered information regarding the revenue that the City receives from the Federal Equitable Sharing Fund when the police department participates with other law enforcement agencies in drug enforcement activities. He further stated that while the current budget did not have an expenditure designated for use of these funds, the Police Department has requested \$3,500.00 to purchase equipment to be used by the department.

Councilmember Boyd made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Wicker to allow the use of funds from the Federal Equitable Sharing Fund. Mayor Senn declared the motion carried following a unanimous vote of City Council members present.

CITY COUNCIL:

**Approval of a Contract with Retail
Strategies, LLC**

Mayor Senn detailed that at the December 14, 2015 work session, City Council met with a representative from Retail Strategies to discuss entering into a contract whereby Retail Strategies would act as the City's retail business recruiter for an initial three year period. At the conclusion of the meeting and following a discussion of the contract, City Council voted unanimously to authorize the agreement. Although the meeting was properly advertised and an agenda was prepared for the meeting, the agenda did not specify that a vote would be considered at the conclusion of the meeting and it was determined that a formal vote at the council meeting should take place.

Councilmember Dubose made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Boyd to approve a contract with retail strategies. Mayor Senn declared the motion carried following a unanimous vote of City Council members present.

APPOINTMENTS:

Architectural Review Board

Mayor Senn advised that Mrs. Lisa Senn, Mr. Bob Montgomery and Mrs. Cile Hursey's terms on the Architectural Review Board will expire on February 1, 2016. The staff has determined that

all members have performed with dedication to their duties and desire to be considered for reappointment for an additional 2 year term.

Councilman Goudeock made a motion, seconded by Councilman Boyd to re-appoint Mrs. Lisa Senn, Mr. Bob Montgomery and Mrs. Cile Hursey to the Architectural Review Board for an additional 2 year term. Mayor Senn declared the motion carried by a unanimous vote of City Council members present and voting.

DISCUSSION:

Newberry City Council Field Trip

Mayor Senn stated that the members of City Council had expressed an interest in viewing construction sites currently in progress by various City departments. City Manager Harvey suggested that a field trip be planned to view the progress at the Water Treatment Plant, Waste Treatment Plant, Gallman Park and the Utility Complex on Louis Rich Road.

The members of City Council agreed on January 30th for the date of the field trip.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Councilman Glasgow made a motion to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing legal matters as outlined on the agenda. Councilman Boyd seconded the motion which was carried by a unanimous vote of City Council.

Following the Executive Session, a motion was made by Councilman DuBose and seconded by Councilman Boyd to go back into open session. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

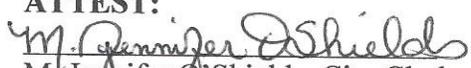
Mayor Senn explained to those present that in Executive Session City Council had discussed the terms of a contract to sell water to the Town of Saluda. The terms of the contract were acceptable and it would be necessary to approve the contract in Open Session. A motion to approve the contract was made by Councilman Glasgow and seconded by Councilman Boyd. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before City Council, Councilman Goudeock made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 P.M. Councilman Boyd seconded the motion which was carried by a unanimous vote of City Council.


Foster Senn
MAYOR

ATTEST:


M. Jennifer O'Shields, City Clerk
Newberry, South Carolina

(SEAL)