

**REGULAR MEETING OF NEWBERRY CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, NEWBERRY, SC
June 13, 2017 – 7:00 P.M.**

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

Also Present: City Manager Matt DeWitt, Municipal Clerk Jennie O'Shields, Police Chief Roy McClurkin, HR and Risk Management Director Tamra Tootle, PRT Director Scott Sawyer and Newberry Opera House Director Molly Fortune.

Others Present: Robbie and Mary Alex Kopp, Charles Weathers and others. News representative: Elyssa Haven

CALL TO ORDER:

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

MINUTES:

Councilman Boyd made a motion, seconded by Councilman Wicker to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of Newberry City Council held on May 9, 2017 and a work session that occurred on May 23, 2017 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 May 31, 2017 and noted that the report would be attached to the minutes. City Manager DeWitt gave a summary of the financial report. City Manager DeWitt highlighted the increase of sewer units, while electric and water units remain flat along with the Public Works cost sharing grant to buy traffic control devices, uniforms and safety equipment. Finally, the business license check from the municipal association will be this month.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Budget

City Manager DeWitt provided a summation of the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Budget reading from the Budget Message and offered to answer any questions from Council. Among some of the highlights, City Manager DeWitt noted that the Public Works Building Maintenance Department would be renamed the Public Work Facilities and Grounds, there would be a large increase in the

Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department to budget for a grant to build sidewalks to the middle school, no proposed tax increases in the general fund or increases in power costs and finally the minor increase in trash collection still making Newberry one of the most economical in collection services across the state.

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.

Mayor Senn stated that council met three times to discuss budget, and the public hearing was advertised in the Wednesday, May 24th, Newberry Observer.

ORDINANCE:

Ordinance #2017-1010- Adopt the Budget and Levy Taxes for FY2017-2018 – First Reading

Mayor Senn presented for first reading an Ordinance (#2017-1010) to adopt the budget and levy taxes for Fiscal Year 2017-2018, stating that in the budget there would be to tax or fee increases.

Councilman Boyd made a motion, seconded by Councilman 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.

APPOINTMENTS:

Mayor Senn indicated that it was necessary to appoint four members to serve a two-year term to the Newberry Opera House Foundation. Current members Cole Lawrimore, Denise Reid, Joe MacDonald and Bob Shirey have each expressed a desire to continue to serve and have been successful in their duties.

Councilman Glasgow made a motion, seconded by Councilman Force to approve re-appoint Cole Lawrimore, Denise Reid, Joe MacDonald and Bob Shirey to the Newberry Opera House Foundation Board for a two-year term. Mayor Senn declared the motion carried by a unanimous vote of City Councilmembers present and voting.

DISCUSSION:

Mayor Senn stated that the staff recently received a letter from the Trustees of the First Baptist Church in Newberry indicating that the church has acquired land on three different blocks around the church. Due to the recent land acquisitions, the church requested that the City of Newberry close McKibben Street between Boundary and Johnstone Streets to enhance the safety of their property without hindering vehicular or foot traffic. First Baptist Church requested the transfer of title to the right-of-way of McKibben Street that borders their property.

Since the City of Newberry and Clinton-Newberry Natural Gas Authority both have utilities (water, sewer and gas lines) that run beneath McKibben Street in this area there would be a need to maintain a permanent easement.

Council agreed that further research of the property would be needed before a decision could be made.

Councilman Boyd made a motion, seconded by Councilman Wicker to postpone any action until further research could be gathered. Mayor Senn declared the motion carried by a unanimous vote by all City Council Members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Senn said that on June 6, 2017, he signed a proclamation declaring the Month of June as Alzheimer's Awareness Month. A representative from the Alzheimer Awareness Foundation was on hand to receive the proclamation.

The City hosted the Hejaz Shrine Initiation Weekend on June 2nd and 3rd and Mr. Phibbs thanked everyone for their efforts in making the weekend a success.

President and CEO of Riverbanks Zoo Satch Krantz sent a thank you note to the City of Newberry for honoring him with a key to the City.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilmember Goudelock made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss a contractual matter related the Newberry Opera House as published 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.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before City Council, Councilman Goudelock made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 P.M. Councilmember Boyd seconded the motion which was carried by a unanimous vote of City Council members.



Foster Senn
MAYOR

ATTEST:



Jennie O'Shields, City Clerk
Newberry, South Carolina

(SEAL)