

**REGULAR MEETING OF NEWBERRY CITY COUNCIL  
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, NEWBERRY, SC  
November 14, 2017 – 7:00 P.M.**

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

Also Present: City Manager Matt DeWitt, Municipal Clerk Jennie O'Shields, Utility Director Tim Baker, Division Director Tamra Tootle, Planning and Development Director Ward Braswell, Public Works Director Mac Bartley and Police Chief Roy McClurkin.

Others Present: Elyssa Haven, Frank Partridge, Henry and Celia Dodgen, Andy Macke, Ronald McGee, Michael O'Connell, Harold and Robbie Hunter, Ashlin O'Connell, Randy and Becky Telfer, Lisa Toland, Sam Hunter, Chris Carter, John Hicks, Rachael Lester, Students from Mr. Moseley's 12th grade class and others.

News representative: Andrew Wigger

**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 Force to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of Newberry City Council held on October 10, 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 October 31, 2017 and noted that the report would be attached to the minutes. City Manager DeWitt gave a brief summary of the financial report and also mentioned that the auditor would be here in December to give Council a detailed report.

**RECOGNITION OF EMPLOYEES**

Mayor Senn and City Manager DeWitt recognized Chris Carter for his five years of service with the Police Department. Chris began his employment on October 22, 2012 and holds the position of Lieutenant with the Police Department.

Newberry City Council Minutes  
November 14, 2017

Celia Dodgen was also recognized for her retirement from the Justice and Law Department. Celia began her employment on April 19, 1983 and held the position of Court Clerk.

Finally, Mayor Senn and City Manager DeWitt recognized Michael O'Connell for his retirement. Mike began his employment with the Police Department on August 31, 1991 and held the position of Lieutenant and Training Officer.

All employees were presented with a certificate and gift selection packet commensurate with their years of service.

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

**PEBA Partners**

Mayor Senn indicated that the City of Newberry was recently named the overall winner of the PEBA Partner's Award. PEBA Partners is an award program that honors employers that demonstrate a dedication to promoting a physically, emotionally and financially healthier workplace. PEBA strives to recognize employers who are setting the bar for workplace well-being programs across the state.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Wheelchair Accessible Swings**

Mayor Senn stated that on Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017, the Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department unveiled the newest addition to Marion Davis Park in the form of iSwings. The iSwings are the first wheel chair accessible swings of their kind in the entire United States. Last November, the PRT Department secured a grant in the amount of 30,000 to help make the new addition possible. The swings are a key component in the vision to have an all-inclusive play park.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Miss Newberry & Miss Outstanding Teen**

Mayor Senn said that the 2018 Miss Newberry and Miss Outstanding Teen were crowned on Sunday, November 5, 2017. Miss Destiny Lemons, Miss Newberry 2018 and Miss Katheryn Wilbanks, Miss Outstanding Teen 2018 will represent the City of Newberry in the Miss South Carolina and Miss South Carolina Teen competitions in June of 2018 at the Township Auditorium in Columbia.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**Zoning Map Change -66 & 72 Nance, 83  
Hartford Heights**

Mayor Senn convened a public hearing for the purpose of receiving comments concerning proposed changes to the City's Zoning Map to allow the rezoning of 66 Nance Street, 72 Nance Street and 83 Hartford Heights from General Commercial to R-8 Residential.

Newberry City Council Minutes  
November 14, 2017

Mayor Senn declared a public hearing for the purpose of receiving comments concerning the proposed Zoning Map change.

Mayor Senn called for any others to come forward speak in favor of or against the Zoning Map amendment.

Mayor Senn recognized Rachael Lester owner of a residence located at 72 Nance Street. Mrs. Lester spoke in favor of the zoning map change rating the properties from general commercial to R-8 Residential.

There were no speakers in opposition.

Mayor Senn declared the public hearing closed.

### **ORDINANCE**

#### **Second and Final Reading of Ordinance #2017-1015 to amend the FY2017-2018 Budget for the lease/purchase of a commercial garbage truck**

Mayor Senn stated that the Public Works Department requested the use of allocated funds to replace the 2010 commercial garbage truck currently in use due to the number of repairs that continue to mount based on usage. The current budget has an appropriation of \$275,000 for the purchase of a new commercial garbage truck to be financed through a lease/purchase agreement not to exceed a 3 to 4-year period.

The staff indicated that the City received three quotes through National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA) for purchase of the Commercial Garbage Truck. The Larsen Group submitted the lowest quote at \$258,601. The City requested bids from local banking institutions and Branch Banking and Trust provided the proposal most advantageous to the City at an interest rate of 1.75% for a term to not exceed three years.

Councilman Glasgow made a motion, seconded by Councilman Wicker to adopt the second and final of Ordinance # 2017-1015 to amend the FY2017-2018 budget for the lease/purchase of a commercial garbage truck. Mayor Senn carried declared the motion carried by a unanimous decision.

### **DISCUSSION**

Mayor Senn and members of Council welcomed Ronald McGee and Andy Macke with Comcast to the podium to give an update on the recent upgrades and enhancements that they are making in the Newberry Area.

Vice President of Government & Community Affairs Andy Macke came forward and thanked the community and members of Council for opportunity to come and speak and answer questions

about the future of Comcast. Mr. Macke started out by giving a brief history of the company and detailing the focus on community. Mr. Macke admitted that Newberry has been overlooked for a number of years and attributed this oversight to a lack of presence in surrounding markets. He stated that the major shift will be in fortifying the network to improve quality and conversion from analog to a digital platform. Their goal is to tie into the Augusta market to make the same services available to consumers in Newberry. Mr. Macke defined the steps taking place to improve the service beginning with billing conversion, change of analog to digital system and equipping consumers with converter boxes for each customer's tv. He stated that voice activated features and a significant increase in internet speeds should be evident by January 2018 but that all upgrades should be complete by June 2018.

Finally Mr. Macke touched on the fiber network by saying that Comcast was going to expand its fiber presence here in Newberry. He explained that while Comcast was closing the local store, they were focused on the customer experience through the use of a new app and free shipping through UPS.

#### **ORDINANCE**

First Reading of Ordinance #2017-1016 to amend the Zoning Map 66 & 72 Nance Street and 83 Hartford Heights

Mayor Senn submitted for first reading, Ordinance (#2017-1016) to amend the City's Zoning Map change the zoning of 66 and 72 Nance Street and 83 Hartford Heights.

The proposed Zoning Map Amendment is the result of three owners' petition submittals for 66 Nance Street, 72 Nance Street and 83 Hartford Heights. It is intended for rezoning to allow the continued residential uses on the above listed parcels in case of substantial damage to the homes that would allow them to be rebuilt.

The property has been proposed for rezoning to ***R-8 Residential from GC – General Commercial***. These lots have residential uses on three sides and timberland on a side. The R-8 zoning district allows for single family dwellings on a minimum lot size of 8000 square feet for single family dwellings. By rezoning these parcels, it will allow the owners to continue and improve the property as a residential use.

Councilman Glasgow made a motion, seconded by Councilman Wicker to approve the first reading of the Ordinance # 2017-1016 to amend the City's zoning map for 66 Nance Street, 72 Nance Street and 83 Hartford Heights. Mayor Senn declared the motion carried by a unanimous vote of City Council members.

**ORDINANCE**

**First Reading of Ordinance #2017-1017 to transfer land to Newberry County**

Mayor Senn stated that Newberry County Library Director, Sam Ziady recently contacted the City about parking signage for the Hal Kohn Memorial Library. After researching the property in detail, it was determined that the parking lot associated with the Hal Kohn Memorial Library is still owned by the City. It was decided that the best course of action would be to transfer the parcel to Newberry County.

Councilman Boyd made a motion, seconded by Councilman Wicker to approve the first reading of the Ordinance # 2017-1017 to transfer land to Newberry County. Mayor Senn declared the motion carried by a unanimous vote of City Council members.

**ORDINANCE**

**First Reading of Ordinance # 2017-1018 to establish an Economic Development Incentive Program**

Mayor Senn stated that due to time constraints, Ordinance # 2017-1018 to establish economic incentives may require a lengthy discussion as a result of the amount of information contained in the document. It was discussed by Council that the item be tabled until January 2018.

Councilman Goudelock made a motion, seconded by Councilman Wicker to table Ordinance #2017-1018 until the January 2018 Council meeting. Mayor Senn declared the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

**APPOINTMENT**

**Newberry Housing Authority, Pat Caldwell**

Mayor Senn advised that Mrs. Pat Caldwell's term on the Newberry Housing Authority's Board of Directors will expire on December 1, 2017. Jan Piersol, Executive Director, indicated that Mrs. Caldwell had been a dedicated board member and desired to be considered for reappointment for another 5-year term.

Councilman Boyd made a motion, seconded by Councilman Glasgow to re-appoint Mrs. Pat Caldwell to the Newberry Housing Authority Board of Directors for a 5-year term beginning December 1, 2017 and run through December 1, 2022. Mayor Senn declared the motion carried by a unanimous vote of City Councilmembers present and voting.

**CITY COUNCIL:**

**Budget Calendar**

Mayor Senn presented a recommended Budget Calendar for City Council approval. He noted that Council's involvement would begin on May 8<sup>th</sup> with a work session following the Council meeting and with proposed budget meeting dates of May 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:00 P.M. as needed to complete the process.

Newberry City Council Minutes  
November 14, 2017

Mayor Senn also stated that first reading of the FY2018-2019 Budget would be held on June 12<sup>th</sup> and second reading on June 19<sup>th</sup> at a special council meeting to be held at 6:00 pm. City Manager DeWitt asked the council if there were any conflicts.

Mayor Senn stated that he had a conflict with the June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting and asked if the meeting could be rescheduled to June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018.

Councilmember Goudelock made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Boyd to approve the Budget Calendar with the change of June 19<sup>th</sup> to June 21<sup>st</sup> special meeting date. Mayor Senn declared the motion carried following a unanimous vote of City Council members present.

**CITY COUNCIL:**

**2018 Meeting Date/Work Session Calendar**

Mayor Senn indicated that the staff had prepared a calendar containing meeting dates and work session for 2018. He noted that the regular council meeting was the second Tuesday of each month and that the staff had provided council with a comprehensive calendar of all meeting dates that required council participation. It was recommended by the staff that the September council meeting be moved to September 18<sup>th</sup> as not to interfere with the municipal election.

Councilmember Boyd made a motion, seconded by Councilmember DuBose to approve the 2018 Meeting Date/Work Session Calendar as presented. Mayor Senn declared the motion carried following a unanimous vote of City Council members present.

**COUNCIL:**

**Jury List for 2018**

Mayor Senn advised that State Law requires that City Council annually approve the jury list for the City's Municipal Court. He noted that the jury list is comprised of the registered voters within the City and that the Court Clerk had requested that the list be provided to the City in an electronic format for the purpose of jury selection in 2018.

Councilmember Goudelock made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Boyd to approve the jury list for 2018 from the registered voters list provided by the S. C. Election Commission. Mayor Senn declared the motion carried following a unanimous vote of City Council members.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Councilmember Goudelock made a motion to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a contractual matter pertaining to Comcast and a discussion regarding the development of security pertaining to devices as published in the agenda. Councilmember Boyd seconded the motion which was carried by a unanimous vote of the City Council members.

Councilmember Goudelock 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  
November 14, 2017

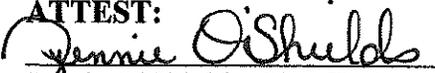
**OPEN SESSION**

Once in open session, Mayor Senn made a motion to add a November 27, 2017 work session to the 2017 meeting calendar. The proposed time given was 6:00 pm and the meeting would be published in the paper. Councilman Wicker seconded the motion and Mayor Senn declared the motion passed by a unanimous vote of City Council Members.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before City Council, Councilman DuBose made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 P.M. Councilmember Glasgow seconded the motion which was carried by a unanimous vote of City Council members.

  
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Foster Senn  
MAYOR

**ATTEST:**  
  
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Jennie O'Shields, City Clerk  
Newberry, South Carolina

(SEAL)