

**VIRTUAL MEETING
NEWBERN BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
JULY 23, 2020**

The Newbern Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in virtual session via Zoom, Mayor Pam Mabry presiding. Aldermen present were Daniel Watson, Tim Ware, Keith Hardin Mark Lamb, Nicky Thomas and Randy Wolf.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Mabry called the meeting to order and asked Alderman Thomas to open the meeting with prayer.

MINUTES

Mayor Mabry asked if the board had reviewed the minutes from the prior meetings. A motion to amend the minutes removing a paragraph that was copied from a previous month and accept was made by Alderman Lamb. The motion was seconded by Alderman Thomas. All voted aye and the motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

TAX RATE

Mayor Mabry stated that the equalized rate was calculated at \$1.3145. This was a decrease from the current rate of \$1.48. Mayor Mabry expressed her excitement in being able to keep the tax rate at the same level and not increase the rates our citizens pay.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Department reports were submitted to the board.

ATTORNEY BILL

The attorney bills were presented for approval. A motion was made by Alderman Ware to approve the bills and was seconded by alderman Wolf. All voted aye and the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

TREE TRIMMING

Recorder Roberts stated that a bid opening was conducted in his office for the annual tree trimming project. With only one bid submitted a proposal was made to not accept the bid and absorb the tree trimming into the city. Roberts proposed hiring two new city employees who were experienced tree trimmers and have them on staff. The new employees would conduct the normal trimming function and also clear right of ways. This proposal would require the purchase of a chipper truck. Supervisor Hill requested moving the monies budgeted for the purchase of a electric truck towards the chipper truck purchase. This proposal was close to budget neutral and would garner much more coverage for tree trimming. After much discussion a motion was made by Alderman Thomas and was seconded by Alderman Ware to approve the new hires. With Alderman Lamb voting nay the motion carried 5-1.

LIBRARY BOARD

Mayor Mabry requested approval for the appointments of Betty Jackson and Clint Ross to the Library Board. A motion was made by Alderman Ware to approve the appointments and was seconded by Alderman Lamb. All voted aye and the motion carried.

CLOSING REMARKS

Alderman Thomas thanked the employees for their response to the train incident.

Alderman Hardin echoed Alderman Thomas's remarks on the train incident.

Alderman Watson stated his appreciation for all city employees.

Alderman Ware thanked everyone for their efforts on the train incident. Alderman Ware spoke about the repairs on the depot and asked everyone to pray for the schools, teachers, parents and the kids who would be starting back.

Alderman Lamb stated his desire for the old normal to return in the midst of the pandemic.

Mayor Mabry spoke about the excellent work conducted on the evening of the train incident. Mayor Mabry stated that she had applied for a tourism grant for the depot on the morning of the train wreck.

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

Pam Mabry, Mayor

Jason Roberts, City Recorder