

**REGULAR MEETING
NEWBERN BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
SEPTEMBER 15, 2015**

The Newbern Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in regular session in the Board Meeting Room at the Newbern Municipal Building. Mayor Olen K. Parker presiding. Aldermen present were Vice Mayor John Flatt, Robert Hart, Justin Wright, Daniel Watson, Kirby Ogden and Bradley Rogers. Also present were City Recorder Jason Roberts Office Manager Cindy Reed and Assistant Police Chief Richard Barnes.

CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Parker called the meeting to order and asked Alderman Barnes to lead the board in prayer. Mayor Parker asked if the Board of Mayor and Aldermen had reviewed the minutes from last month's meeting. Alderman Flatt made a motion to approve the minutes and was seconded by Alderman Watson. All voted aye and the minutes were approved.

VISITORS AND VISITOR BUSINESS

NONE

OLD BUSINESS

MOWING FEES

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

NEWBERN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Olen Parker invited everyone to the Depot Days festival this Saturday.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Assistant Police Chief Red Barnes addressed the board and stated that the Neighborhood Watch meeting would be held on September 29 in the Board room. Alderman Watson commended interim Chief Barnes on his community involvement. Alderman Watson stated that he was hearing from the residents on the visibility of the Chief and his officers.

LIBRARY

Mayor Parker requested approval for the appointment of Dawson Whitkoph to the Newbern Library Board. A motion was made by Alderman Rogers to approve the appointment and was seconded by Alderman Wright. All voted aye and the appointment was approved.

PUBLIC WORKS

Monthly status reports were presented to the Alderman prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Alderman Flatt to approve the reports and was seconded by Alderman Ogden.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Doug Tyler addressed the board and stated that it was a busy month with 18 calls.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Recorder Roberts stated that the Planning commission met and approved a site plan for the Dollar General Store. Recorder Roberts also stated that the BZA approved a variance on the parking for the same site.

VMS

Lance Smith addressed the board and stated that all is well.

ATTORNEY BILL

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

DYERSBURG/ DYER COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE- VISION XXI

Allen Hester the chairman of the Dyer County Chamber addressed the board about Vision XXI. Mr. Hester covered the creation of the program and how Dyer County has progressed in the past years. Mr. Hester stated that meetings would be held across Dyer County to look at future plans and how to progress our community.

LONE OAKS FARMS - BETH BELL

Beth Bell from the UT Extension Office addressed the board and invited the Board members to the newly created 4-H camp and Lone Oak Farms. Ms. Bell stated this facility was an asset to our area and hoped everyone would come and take the tour.

LEVELIZED BILLING

Recorder Roberts addressed the board and requested permission to implement levelized billing. Levelized Billing was a new program that would allow customers the option of receiving a 12 month average bill every month instead of the actual readings, alleviating the high and low bills. Recorder Roberts stated that the City had been beta testing the program for over a year and felt confident in the program. A motion was made by Alderman Rogers to approve the implementation and was seconded by Alderman Wright. All voted aye and the motion carried.

BID OPENINGS

A. TREE TRIMMING

Recorder Roberts stated that two bid opening were conducted for the annual tree trimming project. The first opening only garnered one bid. The submission is as follows:

DEMENT TREE SERVICE			\$200.00
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The second opening is as follows:

Townsend			\$89.02
Eaves			\$93.90
Asplundh			\$97.93
Davis Brothers			\$150.00

A motion was made by Alderman Rogers to approve the low bid from Townsend and was seconded by Alderman Watson. All voted aye and the motion carried.

B. DEMOLITION

Recorder Roberts stated that a bid opening was conducted for the demolition of the buildings on the proposed Safe Room #2 site. The bids were as follows:

BENNETTS EXCAVATION		\$5,800.00
DIRTWORKS		\$3,800.00
HICKS EXCAVATING		\$9,750.00

A motion was made by Alderman Wright to approve the low bid from Dirtworks and was seconded by Alderman Ogden. With Alderman Flatt abstaining all Aldermen voted aye and the motion carried.

C. LIBRARY FINANCING

Recorder Roberts stated that a bid opening was conducted for the financing of the Library building acquisition. The bids were as follows:

Secutiry Bank	\$	110,000.00	10 yr	2.95%
			15 yr	3.35%
First Citizens	\$	110,000.00	10 yr	3.02%
			15 yr	3.44%
First South	\$	110,000.00	10 yr	2.95%
			15 yr	3.25%

Recorder Roberts stated that it was his desire to not finance the acquisition but amend the budget and pay cash for the item. No action was taken on the item.

WATER TAP FEES

Recorder Roberts addressed the board and stated that an audit from the Wastewater Finance Board was conducted on the Newbern Water and Sewer Department. The Board opined that the City was not recovering its costs associated with water taps. The WWF Board provided a worksheet that would help the City figure the appropriate cost. The worksheet revealed that the City should be charging in excess of \$700. After much discussion a motion was made by Alderman Flatt to increase the ¾ tap fees to \$550 and increase the remaining

fees proportionately and was seconded by Alderman Ogden. All voted aye and the motion carried.

MOBILE APP

Mayor Parker informed the Board and audience that the City of Newbern now has a mobile app that would allow users to pay their Utility Bills, Court Fines and Property Taxes. Mayor Parker thanked those involved with its creation and encouraged everyone to give it a try.

HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Recorder Roberts requested permission to implement a HSA for the City's employees. The HSA would allow employees to save monies tax free for health expenses. A motion was made by Alderman Rogers to approve the HSA and was seconded by Alderman Wright. All voted aye and the motion carried.

ALDERMAN COMMENTS

Alderman Rogers invited everyone to Depot Days.
Alderman Wright congratulated his grandfather Ab Davis on his 80th birthday.
Alderman Ogden gave appreciation for the roadwork on Biffle Road.

MAYOR'S REPORT

A copy of Mayor Parker's report is attached as exhibit A.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Parker led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance and adjourned the meeting by acclamation.

Olen K. Parker, Mayor

Jason Roberts, City Recorder