

**REGULAR MEETING
NEWBERN BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
JUNE 19, 2007
7:00 PM**

The Newbern Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in regular session in the Board Meeting Room at the Newbern Municipal Building. Mayor K W Dennison presiding. Aldermen present were Mary Dycus, Bill Parks, Robert Hart, Olen Parker, Kathy Clements and Larry Fesmire. Also present were City Recorder Jason Roberts, Utilities Manager Rosalind Green and Police Chief Harold Dunivant.

CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Dennison called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and opened with a prayer. The Board of Mayor and Aldermen reviewed the minutes from the May 15th regular meeting. Alderman Parker made a motion to accept the minutes with Alderman Clements second. All voted aye and the motion passed.

VISITORS AND VISITORS BUSINESS

Mayor Dennison welcomed the visitors and asked if any had business with the Board. There were none.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Humane Society

Dr. Carol Feather and Mrs. Tamara Dunn came before the board to request a new contract between the city of Newbern and the Dyer County Humane Society. Dr. Feather and Mrs. Dunn passed out information listing operating expenses and current wages paid to employees. The new contract would increase the amount paid by the City of Newbern to \$10,675.00. This increase would be used to increase wages paid to the Humane Societies employees. Alderman Bill Parks made a motion to study the feasibility of the new contract with Robert Hart second. All voted aye and the motion carried.

911 Consolidation

There were no representatives present from the committee for 911 dispatch consolidation. Police Chief Dunivant and Captain Richards gave their views on the consolidation. Captain Richards stated that he could not see consolidation being a savings or benefit to the City. The city currently furnishes dispatchers who facilitate two functions within the city. The dispatchers not only serve as 911 contacts but also dispatch utilities. Consolidation would require the city to keep dispatchers employed to fulfill the utility dispatch work. Police Chief Dunivant also stated that the county Sheriff has stated he is against the consolidation proposal. A motion was made by Alderman Parks to keep the current 911 system in place with Alderman Parker second. All voted yea and the motion carried.

Bad Debt Write Off

Rosalind Green presented the Board with the Bad Debt figures for the year. The city has \$16,124.98 in uncollected debt. Rosalind explained that the act of writing off the debt did not relieve the customer of their obligation, or the city in their collection efforts. The money has to be moved off the books for budget purposes. Alderman Hart made a motion to write off the bad debt with Alderman Dycus second. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Health Insurance

Jason Ladd and Sheila Guiren from White and Associates along with Amy Fawcett from BCBS presented the Board with their proposal to renew the City of Newbern's health insurance. In order for the city to keep the current plan, costs would escalate 55%. Jason Ladd gave other possible options to minimize the costs that included coverage changes and a new S plan through BCBS. Jason Ladd also covered the possibility of the city moving to the State of TN health care plan. After much discussion Alderman Parker made a motion to form a committee to further investigate the desires of the city's employees with Alderman Clements second. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Budget Discussion

Utilities Manager Rosalind Green presented the Board with the proposed Rural Water Budget without raises and with the 2006 insurance rates. The proposal showed a deficit for the year in the amount of \$22,605.90. The deficit will be funded with a transfer from reserve funds.

Water and Sewer budget was presented without raises and with 2006 health insurance rates with no discussion from the board.

Gas budget presented without raises and 2006 health insurance rates with no discussion from the board. Rosalind informed the board of a proposed reduction in the gas rates of ten percent.

Electric budget presented without raises and 2006 health insurance rates with no discussion from the board.

City Recorder Jason Roberts presented the board with the General Fund budget that did not include raises and 2006 health insurance rates with no discussion from the board.

Alderman Parker made a motion to approve the budgets with raises and insurance outstanding with Alderman Hart second. All voted aye and the motion passed.

CMOM Ordinance

Alderman Parks made a motion to have the CMOM reading with Alderman Hart second. All voted aye and City Recorder Jason Roberts read the ordinance that outlined the funding of the CMOM project. The ordinance called for residential customers to pay an additional \$15 per month on their sewer bill, Commercial customers would pay an additional \$30 per month and Industrial customers would pay an additional \$100. Jimmy Dean Foods sewer rate shall be \$54,931.70 which includes CMOM funding. Alderman Parker voted to approve the first reading of the CMOM Ordinance with Alderman Hart second. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Public Works Director

Alderman Parks addressed the board stating his desire for the city to consider hiring a public works director to fill the void in that position. Alderman Parks made a motion to start the search to fill this position. There was no second from the board. The motion did not carry.

S T ENVIRONMENT REPORT

Randy Gregory introduced himself and addressed the Board. Mr. Gregory stated that he looked forward to the opportunity of working here. He then covered the month's activities at the sewer plant.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

None

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Police Chief Dunivant requested permission to seek out and hire a new officer to replace the officer who left the department. Alderman Clements made a motion to allow the hire with Alderman Parks second. All voted aye and the motion carried.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT

None

STREET DEPARTMENT REPORT

Steve Dodds stated that his department had installed the culvert on Scenic Hills and requested permission to hire an employee to replace one that he lost. Alderman Clements made a motion to approve the hire with Alderman Hart Second. All voted aye and the motion carried.

ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT

None

GAS DEPARTMENT REPORT

None

WATER & SEWER REPORT

None

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Dennison thanked the citizens for the efforts in keeping their property clean. Mayor Dennison stated that there was a noticeable difference in the appearance of the city. Mayor Dennison addressed the upcoming Depot Days and the possibility of tying the celebration in with the City of Newbern's 150 year centennial. Mayor Dennison also thanked City Recorder Roberts for his continued work on the insurance situation.

ADJOURNMENT

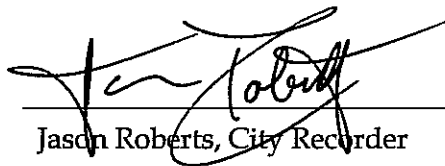
With no other business to discuss Alderman Hart made a motion to adjourn with Alderman Parker second. All voted yea and the meeting was dismissed at 10:30.

VISITORS PRESENT

Doug Tyler, Phillip Cottrell, Trevor Cottrell, Richard Mills, Jim Wilson, Tamara Dunn, Carol Ann Feather, Sandy Hill, James Wilkerson, Marilyn White, Erma Jean Webb, Dan Post, Daniel Watson, Jeff Harrison, Janice Peevyhouse, Amy Fawcett, Sheila Gurien, Jason Ladd, Jim Richards and Randy Gregory.



K W Dennison, Mayor



Jason Roberts, City Recorder