

**REGULAR MEETING
NEWBERN BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
August 21, 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 July 17 Regular Meeting. Alderman Fesmire made a motion to accept the minutes with Alderman Hart 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.

NELSON AND THORNTON

Bob Thornton with Nelson and Thornton approached the Board requesting the City utilize his company in the solicitation of grant monies used for substandard home improvements. Nelson and Thornton will write applications for THDA grants and use their knowledge of the process to facilitate the receipt of monies and implementation of the improvements to the homes. Application for this form of grant will not interfere with any existing grants in process and the fee for Nelson and Thornton's services will be deducted from the grant monies. Alderman Parker made a motion to utilize Nelson and Thornton's services with Alderman Parks second. All voted aye and the motion carried.

JUANITA RASPBERRY

Mayor Dennison informed the Board that Mrs. Raspberry notified his office of the unauthorized use of her outside water faucet. This use significantly increased her bill. Mayor Dennison explained to the customer that our current policy was designed to aide customers with water leaks and not for high water bills. Mrs. Raspberry stated she saw the actions taken by the board during the July meeting and wanted the same treatment. Jeff Harrison addressed the board and stated that the policy needs to be amended from water leak to unintended water use. Mr. Harrison recommended taking the matter back to committee to study. Mr. Harrison stated that the policy was never intended for pools and yard watering. Bill Parks made a motion to table this matter, reinstate the committee and revisit the policy for study for the next board meeting with Alderman Hart second. All voted aye and the motion carried. Mrs. Raspberry was not in attendance.

DAVID WEINREICH

Rosalind informed the board on the David Weinreich matter. Rosalind stated that the customer has requested a water meter set prior to the underground

sprinkler system being installed. Mrs. Green stated that the current policy of the city is to not set a meter until the system is in place. Alderman Clements made a motion to leave the current policy in place with Alderman Parks second. All voted aye and the motion carried. Mr. Weinreich did not attend the meeting.

CLEANING OF PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING

City Recorder Jason Roberts presented the Board with a proposal of duties and cost figures on using the City of Newbern's crossing guards to clean the public works building. The guards will clean the building 2 hours a day, three days a week at a cost of \$4,800 per year. Alderman Parks made a motion to bid out all city buildings for cleaning in an attempt to receive a discounted rate with no second and the motion failed. Alderman Parker made a motion to utilize the crossing guards to clean the public works building with Alderman Fesmire second. All voted aye and the motion carried.

OVERTIME HOURS

Robert Hart addressed the board on over-time hours paid to city employees and the use of time clocks. City Recorder Jason Roberts presented the Board with the overtime figures for fiscal year 2007. The amount of overtime paid to employees including stand by time totaled \$109,087.00. The employees of the city were heard from stating their disgust in this topic. Richard Mills, James Wilkerson and Sandy Hill stated that they took this discussion personally. They felt that the board had made an accusation of thievery toward them. Alderman Hart made a motion to table the matter until a later date with Alderman Fesmire second. All voted aye and the motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

VISION AND LIFE INSURANCE

City Recorder Jason Roberts presented the Board with figures on the Vision and Life Insurance. Recorder Roberts stated the vision insurance would cost the city \$6.81 per employee. The life insurance would cost approximately \$8.18 per employee. Recorder Roberts requested the boards approval to allow the employees to include their families on the vision insurance at the employees expense. Alderman Parker made a motion to accept the figures presented and allow the employees to cover their families on the vision insurance with Alderman Clements second. All voted aye and the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

S T ENVIRONMENT REPORT

Randy Gregory addressed the board and stated that the new addition was taking shape and looking good.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Philip Cottrell addressed the board and stated that the Fire Truck would be delivered January of 2008.

S T ENVIRONMENT REPORT

Larry Brewer has been hired by S T Environment as a new operator.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Doug Tyler reminded the board of the Fire Department's Annual Street Dance which will be held on July 28th from 3:00 to 11:00.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Dunivant requested permission to hire a dispatcher. Alderman Fesmire made a motion to grant approval for the hire with Alderman Parks second. All voted aye and the motion carried.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT

None

STREET DEPARTMENT REPORT

None

ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT

Sandy Hill addressed the board on the bid opening held for tree trimming and electric line upgrades. Eaves Tree Service was the low bidder on the tree trimming at \$80.48 an hour including equipment. Standard Electric was the low bidder on the line upgrades with a bid of \$400,686.10. Sandy stated that the low bidders were capable of adequately completing the job as he had worked with them before. Alderman Hart made a motion to accept the bid from Eaves Tree Service with Alderman Parks Second. All voted aye and the motion carried. Alderman Fesmire made a motion to accept the bid from Standard Electric Co. for line upgrades with Alderman Hart second. All voted aye and the motion carried.

GAS DEPARTMENT REPORT

None

WATER & SEWER REPORT

Richard Mills addressed the board on the status of the water department and requested that the citizens of Newbern check their sewer clean-outs for obstructions. Mr. Mills also requested that if there were any open or damaged clean-outs that the owner please repair.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Rosalind addressed the board and stated that the grants from rural development require Newbern City Hall and the Board Room to be handicap accessible. Rosalind has solicited bids through a newspaper advertisement and has not received any bid replies. Rural Development is requesting that the board come up with possible suggestions to receive bids. The Board will attempt to solicit bids from contractors in the area.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

Alderman Parks made a motion to hire a Public Works Director for the City of Newbern. There was no second and the motion failed.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Dennison expressed his desire for the citizens of Newbern to return their garbage cans to their houses after the garbage is picked up. Mayor Dennison also requests that curbside rubbish only be placed on the road during appropriate times. Curbside is picked up on the week of the first Monday of each month.

ADJOURNMENT

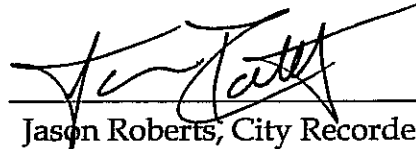
With no other business to discuss Alderman Parker made a motion to adjourn with Alderman Fesmire second. All voted yea and the meeting was dismissed at 7:55.

VISITORS PRESENT

Jennifer Swims, Doug Tyler, Dan Post, Randy Gregory, Sandy Hill, James Wilkerson, Richard Mills, Jeff Harrison, Steve Dodds, Dawn Pewitt, Daniel Watson, Janice Peevyhouse and Gerald Tidwell.



K W Dennison, Mayor



Jason Roberts, City Recorder