

**REGULAR MEETING  
NEWBERN BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN  
September 18, 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 Assistant City Recorder Jennifer Webb 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 August 21, 2007 Regular Meeting. Alderman Fesmire made a motion to accept the minutes with Alderman Parker 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.

**ROBERT WHARTON - WATER BILL**

Mr. Wharton previously spoke with Office Manager Rosalind Green about the high consumption on his water bill. He told the Board Members he did not have a leak but could not explain how he used so much water. He said that he had the water department supervisor come check for a leak and none was found. He said his bill was over \$200.00. Mayor Dennison said the board has a policy that addresses leaks and high bills but that the committee has met and it is going to be revised at this meeting. Alderman Dycus indicated that this leak is under the old policy. Because it is under the old policy and other bills have been adjusted, Alderman Hart motioned to adjust Mr. Wharton's water bill. Alderman Parker seconded the motion. All voted yea to approve.

**DAVID WEINREICH - WATER METER**

Mr. Weinreich came before the Board asking for a second water meter to be installed to regulate water being used to water his lawn. He said he knows that this is normally done by the City for those who have a sprinkler system and his intent is to install a sprinkler system next year but he would like to get the second meter now because of the sewer charge and the water is not going through the sewer. Mayor Dennison explained that because of a State Law this could not be done without a back flow system being installed. He said there is a risk of contaminating the main water system with chemicals. Alderman Clements told Mr. Weinreich the City has a policy because he is not the first person that has made this request and asked Mr. Weinreich if he understood why the Board could not do this for him. He said he understood and thanked the Board Members for listening.

**WATER DEPARTMENT COMMITTEE - HIGH WATER BILLS**

Alderman Hart asked since water is being discussed, should the policy be voted on now. Mayor Dennison oked it. Mayor Dennison asked the board members if they had a chance to look at the policy with the revisions made by the committee at the meeting yesterday. The mayor pointed out that only the first line was revised to stipulate "water leaks only". Alderman Dycus said that she would like a revision made to the policy to read average bills and not regular bills when referring to three times the monthly bill. Alderman Parker motioned to approve the Water Bill Policy clarification with the revision to refer to three times the average bill. Alderman Hart seconded. All voted yea to approve.

The Policy is as follows:

To adjust water bills with high consumption due to water leaks only. The water bill must be three times higher than the average bill to qualify for the adjustment. The customer will pay their average amount plus 1/3 of the excess amount and the city will absorb the rest. The sewer adjustments will be the same as always. The adjustment will be done only once every twelve months per customer. If the overage runs into two bills, they will be combined and the adjustment made. The customer must sign an agreement saying that the leak was repaired.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **RURAL DEVELOPMENT -- HANDICAP ACCESSIBILITY**

Mayor Dennison stated that this is in reference to City Hall and the Court Room being made handicap accessible. The mayor said the board members had a copy of the bids and the lowest one is \$7,275. Alderman Fesmire motioned to accept the lowest bid made by Residential Specialist. No second was made. Alderman Hart said the lowest bid does not include the court Room entrance. Alderman Fesmire withdrew his motion. Alderman Parker said he is abstaining from voting because he knows the lowest bidder. Alderman Clements said the next lowest bidder from Halls includes everything but the bid is \$4000.00 higher than the lowest. Alderman Parks motioned to accept the lowest bid with the understanding that all the work would be done including the Court Room doors. The motion died for lack of a second. Mayor Dennison said he didn't see how we could consider any bid that did not meet the specs since all bidders had the same information on what to bid on. After more discussion, Alderman Dycus motioned to throw out all the bids and re-bid. Alderman Clements second. Mayor Dennison asked for a roll call vote that went as follows: Dycus-yea, Parks-pass, Hart-yea, Fesmire-yea, Parker-abstained, Clemets-yea. Motion passed to re-bid the Handicap accessibility for the City Hall and Court Room Entrance.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **S T ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

Randy Gregory said he has a good report and is striving in the right direction to make things as they should be.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

None

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Chief Dunivant reported that he had some of the old Police Cars painted and they look good and that he had checked on the new cars and they should come in within the week.

#### RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT

None

#### STREET DEPARTMENT REPORT

Steve Dodds said he only received one bid for Street Paving and it was from Ford Construction. He said the bid is only \$5.00 per ton higher than last year and asked the board to approve it. Alderman Parks motioned to approve the bid. Alderman Hart second. All voted yea to approve.

#### ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT

Sandy Hill said he had received four bids for transformers at the Industrial Park and they all met the specifications. Sandy said he recommended accepting the lowest bid from Stuart Irby for 444,000.00. Alderman Hart motioned that the board accept Sandy recommendation. Alderman Parks second. All voted yea to approve.

#### GAS DEPARTMENT REPORT

None

#### WATER & SEWER REPORT

None

#### MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Dennison stated he had received a recommendation from the State to appoint another person to the Planning Commission that lives outside the City Limits. The Mayor said he had appointed Joe Prichard to the Planning Commission. The Mayor also made mention that the City is in process of getting a resolution in place concerning the problems we are having with vicious dogs in the community.

#### ADJOURNMENT

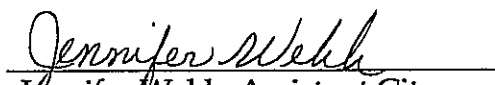
At 8:00 p.m., being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

#### VISITORS PRESENT

Dan Post, Steve Dodds, Sandy Hill, Doug Tyler, Daniel Watson, Janice Peevhouse, David Weinreich, Jeff Harrison and Randy Gregory.



K W Dennison, Mayor

  
Jennifer Webb, Assistant City  
Recorder