

**REGULAR MEETING
NEWBERN BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
December 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 City Recorder Jason Roberts, Utilities Office 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. The Board of Mayor and Aldermen reviewed the minutes from the November 20, 2007 Called Meeting and Regular Meeting. Mayor Dennison requested the Police grant figure be changed in the minutes from \$30,000.00 to \$18,000.00. Alderman Fesmire made a motion to accept the minutes with revision 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. There were none.

OLD BUSINESS

JEFF WILLIS WATER BILL

Jeff Willis approached the Board Concerning his recent water bills. Mr. Willis apologized to the members for missing the last meeting. Mr. Willis stated that family illness prevented his attendance. Mr. Willis stated that he had contacted City Hall on numerous occasions complaining of high bills. Mr. Willis stated that he has begun checking the meter himself on a regular basis. Richard Mills was contacted and attempted to ascertain the problem. Mr. Mills stated that the third meter has been installed on Mr. Willis' property. A check on the old meter indicated it to be in working order. Mr. Mills stated that he and Mayor Dennison had checked the meter and noticed that the dial would turn indicating a leak but one could not be found. The meter was also seen to turn backwards according to Mayor Dennison. Mr. Mills stated that it was his belief that the meter is working and that the customer had a leak, that so far could not be detected. Mr. Mills cited the number of horses on customer's property and an automatic horse watering system as possible explanations of water loss.

Alderman Parks requested City Recorder Jason Roberts to read the City of Newbern Water Policy. Upon the reading of the policy Alderman Parks made a motion to enforce the Policy. Mr. Willis would receive an adjustment on the bills in question. After much discussion on proper adjustment amount and amount of time to adjust Alderman Dycus seconded the motion. All voted aye with Alderman Parker abstaining from the vote due to a personal relationship with the customer and the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

PROPOSED DOG ORDINANCE

City Recorder Roberts presented the Board with a proposed Dog Ordinance. Mayor Dennison asked the Board if they had all reviewed said ordinance. Alderman Parker made a motion to suspend the first reading due to length and display the ordinance in City Hall and the Newbern Library. Alderman Fesmire seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried. Alderman Parks addressed the Board on the number of dogs loose in town and the lack of response from the Dyer County Humane Society. Alderman Parker made a motion to have a public hearing on the proposed dog ordinance with Alderman Parks second. All voted aye and the motion carried.

AUTO DEBIT CHARGE

Mayor Dennison addressed the board about a charge the City of Newbern imposes on customers who wish to have their utility bills automatically deducted from their bank account. Mayor Dennison stated that this issue was brought to his attention when he was approached by an elderly couple who wanted to utilize this service and questioned him about the charge. Utilities Office Manager Rosalind Green stated that the original purpose of the \$10.00 charge was to recoup initial expenses. Mrs. Green stated that this charge was unheard of in other areas and requested that the charge be removed. Alderman Hart made a motion to remove the charge with Alderman Parks second. All voted aye and the motion carried.

SALE OF NEWBERN INDUSTRIAL PARK LAND

City Recorder Roberts addressed the Board on the Sale of Newbern Industrial Park Land. Recorder Roberts stated that he was requested to keep the inquiry anonymous. Recorder Roberts stated that there were numerous steps that would have to be taken in order to reach a decision on selling the property. Alderman Parks stated that he would like to see an industrial type operation on the site if the sale would create a good number of jobs for the City. Alderman Parker made a motion for the City Recorder, Mayor and Industrial Board to proceed with the necessary steps with Alderman Dycus second. All voted aye and the motion carried.

NEW YEARS EVE HOLIDAY

City Recorder Roberts addressed the Board about the upcoming New Years Eve Holiday. Mr. Roberts requested that in the place of the normal Christmas bonus afforded to the employees, the Board would give Monday, December 31 as an extra Holiday. Bill Parks made a motion to not give the day and a Roll Call vote was requested. The vote was clarified as Yes vote to give the day off and No vote to not give the day. The vote went as follows: Alderman Clements - No, Alderman Dycus - Yes, Alderman Fesmire - Yes, Alderman Hart - Yes, Alderman Parker - Yes, Alderman Parks - No. The vote was 4-2 in favor of granting the day and the day off was granted.

DYERSBURG STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Mayor Dennison addressed the Board stating that he had received a request to have the Newbern Board of Mayor and Aldermen vote on the proposed name change to Dyersburg State Community College. Mayor Dennison stated that the

City of Dyersburg and the Dyer County Commission had already voted against the changing of the name. Alderman Hart made a motion to leave the name as is with Alderman Parks second. All voted aye and the motion carried.

S T ENVIRONMENT REPORT

Randy Gregory presented the Board with the months numbers.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

None

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

None

RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT

None

STREET DEPARTMENT REPORT

None

ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT

Rosalind Green addressed the Board and stated that the January adjustment would be going down. Alderman Parker made a motion to approve the decrease in rate with Alderman Fesmire second. All voted aye and the motion carried.

GAS DEPARTMENT REPORT

None

WATER & SEWER REPORT

None

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Dennison wished everyone a happy holiday and reminded everyone to remember that Christmas is the season to celebrate the birth of Christ.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:10 p.m., there being no further business to discuss Alderman Hart made a motion to adjourn with Alderman Fesmire second. All voted aye and the meeting was adjourned.

VISITORS PRESENT

Doug Tyler, Randy Gregory, James Peevyhouse, Dan Post, Jamie Peevyhouse, Sandy Hill, Richard Mills, Jeff Harris and Jeff Willis.

K W Dennison, Mayor

Jason Roberts, City Recorder