

**REGULAR MEETING
NEWBERN BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
JULY 15, 2008
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, Olen Parker, Larry Fesmire, Kathy Clements and Robert Hart. 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 and asked Alderman Parks to open with a prayer. Mayor Dennison asked if the Board of Mayor and Aldermen had reviewed the minutes from the June 17 Regular Meeting and Beer Board and addressed the omission of Rosalind Green from the present section. Alderman Hart made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected with Alderman Parks second. All voted aye and the minutes were approved.

WELCOME VISITORS AND VISITOR BUSINESS

Mayor Dennison welcomed all visitors and asked if any had business to bring before the board. There were none.

OLD BUSINESS

General Fund Budget

Mayor Dennison addressed the Board and opened the floor for Budget Discussion. City Recorder Roberts addressed the board concerning the General Fund. The Board was presented a raise proposal for the police department by that would increase their pay .50 cents and include a cost of living raise. City Recorder Roberts stated that this raise was to make the pay scale in the police department more competitive with other departments. Discussion led to the Electric department and it was suggested that this department was in a similar situation. The increase in the insurance premium was discussed and if absorbed by the city the cost would equate to approximately .25 cents per employee. As raise discussion continued dispatchers were addressed. Purchasing agent Wendi Clements addressed the board and stated that she did not feel that dispatchers should receive more of a raise than other city employees. Mrs. Mills stated that these employees were paid out of different departments and should be treated similarly. Chief Dunivant stated that the dispatchers were paid less than surrounding units and he felt that the potential to lose employees was great. Alderman Parker made a motion to absorb the insurance premium increase and give a .25 cent raise to all city departments with the exception of the Police and Electric. Alderman Fesmire seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried. Alderman Fesmire made a motion to approve the .50 cent raise for police officers with insurance absorbed and dispatchers to receive .25 with Alderman Hart second. All voted aye and the motion carried. City Recorder Roberts presented the board with the proposed Fireman Raise. This raise would increase per call pay from \$21.00 to \$25.00. Recorder Roberts stated that the increase in gas prices necessitated this increase. Fire Officers were to be increase an additional \$25.00 per month. Alderman Parker made a motion to approve the increase with Alderman Hart second. All voted aye and the motion carried.

With raises and insurance in place Recorder Roberts presented the Board with proposed Budget Ordinance 09-01. Mr. Roberts stated that this ordinance would need to be approved with 2 readings and a public hearing to officially approve the 08/09 budget. Alderman Parker made a motion to suspend with the first reading of the proposed ordinance with Alderman Fesmire second. All voted aye and the reading was suspended. Alderman Parker made a motion to approve Ordinance 09-01 with Alderman Hart second. All voted aye and the motion was approved.

Electric Budget

Rosalind Green addressed the Board concerning the Electric department budget. Electric Supervisor Sandy Hill addressed the board and stated that he was in a similar situation to the police department. Mr. Hill stated that the level of training necessary to perform the duties on the Electric department made it difficult to hire qualified candidates. Alderman Parks made a motion to increase the pay of the Electric department \$1.00 and absorb the insurance with Alderman Parker second. All voted aye and the motion carried. Rosalind Green stated that the Monroe upgrade discussed in the prior meeting would need to be removed to fund the proposed budget. Alderman Parks made a motion to approve the Electric budget with Alderman Parker second. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Gas Budget

Rosalind Green addressed the board and stated that gas has not been purchased and the City was operating on reserve gas. Mrs. Green stated that the market was being closely watched and the purchase was going to be made at a forecasted dip in price. Mrs. Green stated that the Muni Gas agreement would help with future gas purchases. Alderman Fesmire made a motion to approve the Gas budget with Alderman Parks second. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Rural Water

Rosalind Green addressed the board and stated an increase in revenue was needed in order to fund the department. Possible options of revenue are rate increases or excess funds. Alderman Parks made a motion to approve the budget by pulling funds from excess revenues instead of raising rates with Alderman Clements second. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Water and Sewer

Rosalind Green addressed the board and stated that Keith Wilkins was hired to give his opinion on the Water and Sewer budget. It was Mr. Wilkins opinion that rates needed to be increased and CMOM monies left alone to fund the budget. The project to repair the Main Street sewer problem was discussed and grant monies will be used to fund the repairs. Water Supervisor Richard Mills addressed the board and stated that Main St. constituted a very small percent of needed repairs the Newbern sewer system. Mrs. Green stated that the water department was currently in the hole and could not make payroll. Monies could be borrowed from the Rural System or from the CMOM fund. Both would have to be repaid with interest to satisfy regulations on inter fund monies. Alderman Parks made a motion to borrow from the CMOM fund to cover current shortfall with Alderman Clements second. All voted aye and the motion carried. Alderman Clements made a motion to increase rates to fund 08/09 budget with

Alderman Parker second. Roll Call vote went as follows: Mary Dycus - Yes, Olen Parker - Yes, Robert Hart - Yes, Larry Fesmire - Yes, Bill Parks - No and Kathy Clements - Yes. Motion carried 5 - 1.

Rosalind Green presented the Board with proposed Resolution to increase the water and sewer rates. Alderman Parker made a motion to suspend the reading with Alderman Fesmire second. All voted aye and the motion carried. Alderman Parker made a motion to approve the resolution with Alderman Hart second. All voted aye and the motion carried.

NEW BUSNIESS

PROPERTY PURCHASE

City Recorder Roberts addressed the board and asked permission to entertain a request from Jamey Beard to purchase ground adjacent to the railroad track currently owned by the City. Mr. Roberts stated that the ground was landlocked and of little use to the City. Alderman Parks made a motion to start negotiations with Mr. Beard with Alderman Parker second. All voted aye and the motion carried.

ZONING ORDINANCE

City Recorder presented the board with a proposed ordinance that changed Section 11-601 C-M (COMMERCIAL-INDUSTRIAL) DISTRICTS, A. Uses Permitted of the Town of Newbern Municipal Zoning Ordinance is hereby amended deleting the current 3. Services- limited to (c) and replacing that text with the following: Business Services, including warehousing, storage services, and personal mini-storage provided that stockyards are excluded. Alderman Parker made a motion to approve the first reading with Alderman Parks second. All voted aye and the motion carried.

S T ENVIRONMENT REPORT

Randy Gregory addressed the Board and stated that the past two months were very good.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Reminder of the Annual Street Dance to benefit the Newbern Fire Department

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

None

RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT

None

STREET DEPARTMENT REPORT

None

ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT

None

GAS DEPARTMENT REPORT

Gas Supervisor James Wilkerson addressed the board and stated that repairs on the gas line located near the Sonic Drive In were completed.

WATER & SEWER REPORT

Water Supervisor Richard Mills stated that the process had started on the West Main St. Project.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Dennison stated that he had received calls concerning the use of city vehicles. Mayor Dennison requested that with the high cost of gasoline departments make a concerted effort to minimize usage and conserve fuel.

Mayor Dennison stated that there would be a public hearing Monday at 6:30 for budget discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:45 p.m., there being no further business to discuss Alderman Fesmire made a motion to adjourn with Alderman Parks second. All voted aye and the meeting was adjourned.

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING BEER AND LIQUOR BOARD JULY 15, 2008

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Dennison called the Beer and Liquor Board meeting to order to discuss the application made by Terry Arnold to obtain a liquor license to operate Ray's Liquor. Chief Dunivant addressed the board and stated that Mr. Arnold qualified for the permit. Alderman Parker made a motion to approve the liquor license with Alderman Hart second. The motion to approve the liquor license carried 5 to 1 with Alderman Dycus opposed.

ADJOURNMENT


There being no further business to discuss, Alderman Fesmire made a motion to adjourn with Alderman Parker second. All voted aye and the meeting adjourned.

VISITORS PRESENT

Dan Post, Sandy Hill, Doug Tyler, Philip Cottrell, David Epperson, Tristan Sipes, Charles Shell, Terry Arnold, Joe Peevyhouse, Casey King, Randy Gregory, Steve Dodds, Richard Mills, Wendi Mills and Janice Peevyhouse.



K.W. Dennison, Mayor



Jason Roberts, City Recorder