



CITY OF NEWBERRY

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MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING
HELD WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2009
AT 5:30 P.M. IN THE CITY HALL MEETING ROOM
LOCATED AT
25440 WEST NEWBERRY ROAD, NEWBERRY, FLORIDA.

THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING IS TO DISCUSS THE
UTILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Mayor John Glanzer opened the meeting to at 5:32 p.m. He then led the Lord's Prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

QUORUM CHECK

PRESENT:

Mayor	John Glanzer
Commissioners:	Bill Conrad Alena Lawson Joe Hoffman Monty Farnsworth

ABSENT:

Commissioners:	Lois Forte
City Attorney:	Scott Walker
Staff:	
City Manager	Keith Ashby
City Clerk	Gayle Pons
Utilities Director	Blaine Suggs

Mayor Glanzer turned the meeting over to City Manager Keith Ashby who presented the Commission with Ordinance and Charter language in reference to disconnection service delinquent charges. The Commission addressed the issue of the return of the deposit after 24 months of good payment of the customer. Utility Director Blaine Suggs provided copies of the current ordinance.

Staff made the following recommendations:

1. Drop the \$10.00 delinquent fee for a time to be determined. City Attorney Scott Walker advised there is some flexibility in the provisions as to the late fee. He suggested the following language change: Upon resolution and for a specified time, the City of Newberry may suspend the service charge of \$10.00 in the event the City of Newberry deems appropriate.
2. In reference to partial payment staff recommends 50% of the entire bill must be paid by the 15th of each month. The balance would be due by the 3rd of the following month to avoid disconnection. The commission would also have to decide if this would be a one time process or on going. The City Attorney suggested the following language change: Upon resolution and for a specified period of time, in the event the City of Newberry deems appropriate the City of

Newberry may accept partial payment of 50% of the utility bill (electric, water, and sewer) be paid by the 15th of the month and the balance shall be due on the 3rd of the following month by no later than 4:30p.m. (E.S.T.) If not paid by then, the utilities shall be subject to disconnection by the following business day. The customer must make an application before the 15th of the month to request this procedure and if the customer has not requested the payment schedule so specified in this subsection (ii) and if no payment on a utility invoice has been paid by the 20th of the month the invoice is due, then the service shall be subject to disconnection.

3. The last item was a review of reserves.

Final Discussion ensued concerning the following items:

Monday night's meeting would be the first reading of this ordinance. The City Manager then discussed the timing issue of working with the Central Florida Community Action Agency (CFCAA). It was suggested speaking with the CFCAA to see if they could assist with the City's Utility Assistance Program.

Ms. Susan Parker spoke about concerns of citizens having to go to Gainesville to fill out applications for the CFCAA. She suggested contacting the citizens to find out their opinion on the CFCAA.

City Manager Keith Ashby then reviewed possible Energy Efficiency programs through different entities.

Commissioner Lawson reiterated contacting CFCAA about serving on the Utility Assistance Program and if they are interested in administrating this program, if so would there be a fee.

Mr. Ashby showed the Commission five suggested color schemes for the Easton/Newberry Sports Complex. The consensus was option number two. He also notified the Commission he had received a phone call from the Alachua County Community Service working to set up a meal site for lunch for children this summer. It is a six to eleven week program. They are looking for volunteers to pass out the meals as well as 30 children to participate. The consensus of the Commission was for the City Manager to pursue this program.

MOTION

Commissioner Lawson made a motion to have hardship applications turned in by 4:30 pm Friday. Hardship applicants who are subject to disconnect will be held in abeyance until the committee has met.

Commissioner Conrad seconded the motion.

MOTION PASSED 4-0

Commissioner Lawson moved to adjourn

MEETING ADJOURNED 7:35 P.M.

Signed as approved this 13th day of April, 2009


Mayor John Glanzer

S:\Commission Minutes 2009\03-18-09 Special Min.DOC


Gayle B. Pons, City