

Newberry City Council met last night, and during first reading ,voted to send the ordinance amending the text of the City Zoning Ordinance creating the Campus Transition Overlay District or CTO back to the Planning Commission. Following a public hearing and a vote to re-name the C-1 Zoning District and establishing the Campus Main Zoning District which would provide for other permitted uses, Councilman David Dubose said he had some concerns about applying the Overlay College Zoning District to properties not owned by the college. He said he was also opposed to being able to tear down or demolish some houses. Councilman Foster Senn seconded the motion and the vote to send it back passed unanimously. Councilman Summer was absent but excused.

As a result ,first reading of the ordinance to amend the zoning map establishing the Initial Campus Transition Overlay or CTO Zoning District boundaries was returned to the Planning Commission. Prior to Council's actions, several people spoke during the public hearing. Newberry College President Mick Zais said the new expanded zones would help the college better maintain students. He also asked that any problems with noise or parking be reported to the college so that they could work with police. Several other citizens expressed worries over the future construction of parking lots , water run-off , noise and other concerns.

Attorney Sam Price appeared before council along with his client, Newberry resident , Phillip Astwood. Astwood has received a violation notice for non registered vehicles parked under a shed on his property behind the old City Filling Station. There are 6 vehicles but 3 of them are not registered. Astwood contends that since they are older cars being worked on and are not in a residential area, the ordinance may not apply . Several options were discussed but City Manager Eric Budds said that since the ordinance is universally applied and that it was in the Historic District, the city would have to move forward with enforcement. Councilman Foster Senn expressed concern that not enforcing the ordinance in this case could create a double standard.

City Council went into executive session to discuss a personnel matter. This was reported as an opportunity for new City Attorney Robert Lake to get to know members of council.

Council also discussed the Oakland Mill project and the Newberry Opera House. After also discussing a recent engineering study of Scotts Creek by BP Barber and Associates, council voted in open session to ask the firm to make a public presentation of their findings.

Greg Taylor was recognized for 5 years of service to the City of Newberry Fire Department.