

City of Newberry

City Commission Agenda Item

Meeting Date:	November 15, 2018
Title:	2019 Legislative Agenda
Agenda Section:	IX. D.
Department:	City Manager
Presented By:	Mike New
Recommended Action:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Provide feedback regarding items that are to be included on the City's legislative request .2) Authorize a representative to present Newberry's 2019 Legislative Agenda to the Alachua County Legislative Delegation Meeting.

Summary:

Many cities formally adopt a State Legislative Agenda each year. The legislative agenda is a compilation of the City's priority needs for the upcoming legislative session; it provides delegation members with comprehensive information that allows them to focus their efforts on specific legislative priorities and initiatives related to the City. Initiatives typically included in the agenda relate to General Legislative Policy, General Government, Community and Economic Development, Job Training and Education, and Capital Projects and Appropriations Requests.

The City of Newberry adopted a State Legislative Agenda the previous three (3) years. Last year the list was much more specific than the year prior, which staff views as overly broad in an attempt to cover too many issues. Staff recommends that we continue the tact of identifying a handful of specific items or projects that will "stick" better with legislators. A copy of Newberry's 2018 Legislative Agenda is attached.

Staff compiled a list of suggested initiatives for consideration by the City Commission which include the following:

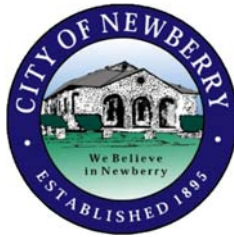
1. Support for Newberry's Florida Jobs Growth Grant Fund application submitted in September, 2018 requesting \$8.9 million in funding for Phase 1 infrastructure in the Newberry Ag-tech Innovation Park.
2. Funding for wastewater utility extension east on State Road 26 to facilitate economic development. Newberry appropriate request totals \$1.5 million.

3. Funding for Newberry's Historic Preservation Special Category Grant request for structural repairs at Little Red School House. Newberry's submittal seeks \$115,000 in funding. Newberry's FY 2018-2019 budget includes match funding for the project which will address roofing, louvers, brick deterioration, and foundation concerns. Newberry's project ranks 37 on the list of projects. In order to receive funding, the State must appropriate \$9.9 million for historic preservation projects.
4. Funding to support an analysis to determine the feasibility of development a regional wastewater treatment system in the Lower Santa Fe River and Suwannee River Basins to reduce the quantity of nutrients being introduced into the region by septic tanks and basic level wastewater treatment facilities. Funding need is \$75,000 for this project.
5. Funding for the design, right of way acquisition, and construction phases of Florida Department of Transportation's State Road 26 Modifications Project – Newberry, which is currently in the Project Development and Environmental Study (PD&E) phase.
6. Funding for Newberry projects (sidewalks and street lighting on State Road 26 and State Road 45) identified in the Florida Department of Transportation's Transportation Alternatives Program.
7. Supports Newberry's request to maintain its status as a REDI (Rural Economic Development Initiative) community.
8. Legislation that amends the criteria for establishing enterprise zones in Florida to reduce the requirement for 20% poverty levels to 10%.
9. Joint funding with the City of Archer for funding to extend wastewater utilities from Newberry to Archer and to upgrade the City's wastewater treatment facility to provide advanced treatment to reduce discharge of nutrients into the environment.
10. Legislation to pre-empt charter counties (or Alachua County) from enacting legislation applicable to municipalities within the County for items that are regulated at the State level (ie environmental permitting issues such as stormwater regulation, etc.)
11. Hold harmless language for municipalities when the State lowers its tax revenues.
12. Funding for municipally owned fiber optic infrastructure
13. Funding for the rails to trails project including High Springs to Newberry, Newberry to Trenton, and a trailhead project
14. Funding to restore the City's historic electric generating station for historic / education value.
15. Funding to develop a Farmers Market in downtown Newberry.
16. Support the School Board of Alachua County's request for funding for school construction in western Alachua County.
17. Oppose legislation that negatively impacts cities' ability to self-govern.
18. Technical assistance funding to update the City's land development regulations.

Each year the local delegation of State legislators conducts a meeting where representatives from local government can speak and advocate for important initiatives. We have not received an invitation to this year's meeting. We will advise all when we receive the invitation.

Attachments:

1. Newberry's 2018 Legislative Agenda



2018 Legislative Agenda

1. State Road 26 Water and Wastewater Utility Extension Project

Project Summary:

- 8,000 lf of 12" water main extension on State Road 26 (a divided, 4 lane highway).
- 7,800 lf of 8" wastewater gravity main.
- 15,000 lf of 10" wastewater force main.
- Master lift station.
- All facilities along State Road 26, a divided, 4 lane highway east of downtown Newberry.
- Project planning is complete. Project design is 50% complete. Water portion of project is under construction and will be complete in Spring 2018.
- Second time request for project. No additional requests anticipated.



Project Cost:

- Total cost: \$2,682,467
- Local share: \$1,279,608 (48%) Utility reserves & local developers
- Requested state share: \$1,402,859 (52%)

Project Benefits:

- Provides municipal water and wastewater service to area that is largely undeveloped, but is located in direct path of development. The land adjacent to the highway is characterized as large tract that are almost exclusively used and zoned for agriculture.
- Recently, the City amended its Comprehensive Plan to facilitate the planned development of the State Road 26 growth corridor to ensure a higher quality of development.
- This region has been identified by the City and the Gainesville Center for Economic Outreach as highly desirable for commercial / manufacturing / industrial development.
- Estimated job creation of 2,000 for the 3,500 acre region supported by infrastructure.
- Enable higher density development of land than well and septic.
- Ensures higher level of public safety than well and septic.
- Affords fire protection to region.
- Eliminates nitrate loading on groundwater and area springs through elimination of septic tanks.