FIRST READING!! FOR ATTORNEY ONLY, DO NOT SIGN!

# ORDINANCE NO. 2025-15

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NEWBERRY, FLORIDA, CREATING CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE III, DIVISION I ENTITLED MAYOR’S YOUTH COUNCIL OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NEWBERRY,; CREATING THE MAYOR’S YOUTH COUNCIL, OUTLINING PROCEDURES FOR SELECTION OF OFFICERS, FILING VACANCIES, REQUIREMENTS FOR MEETINGS AND MINUTES, SETTING DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS,** City government is the government closest to the people, most affecting their daily lives; and

**WHEREAS,** City government is commonly excluded from traditional education programs in the school leaving young adults in confusion or lost on how local government operates; and

**WHEREAS,** the need to focus on issues affecting our Nation's youth has increased over the past twenty years spreading from the large cities to the small communities, these issues include youth crime, racism, alcohol/drug abuse, teenage pregnancy, insufficient recreation, lack of job opportunities, and education; and

**WHEREAS,** the youth of our City is a valuable resource which should be captured, heard from, and included in government; and

**WHEREAS,** NEWBERRY Mayor, City Commission and City Manager are committed to work with the youth of our City to address their concerns and needs, and to further educate them on the operations of their local government; and

**WHEREAS,** it is the desire of the City Commission to establish a Mayor's Youth Council to serve as the forum to address these needs and involve the youth of our City in the creation of a better City, by the enrichment of our community.

# NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF NEWBERRY, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

**Section 1. CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE III, DIVISION I OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NEWBERRY IS HEREBY CREATED AS FOLLOWS:**

**Sec. 2-61. Creation.** Thereby created a Board to be known as the Mayor's Youth Council, which shall consist of five (5) 11th grade to 12th grade members and two (2) 9th grade to 10th grade alternates. The members will be required to reside within Newberry City limits and be enrolled in a public or private school or homeschooled in grades nine through twelve. The inaugural members shall be appointed by the City Commission and each member appointed shall serve a term of two years, except that of the five members first appointed, two shall serve for a term of one year, and three shall serve for a term of two years. The term of the members of the Mayor's Youth Council will expire and be appointed in May of each year. If there are not enough members to make a Board in May, the Board may be appointed at any time during the year that there are enough members to make a Board. The Mayor or his or her designee will attend meetings and along with City staff and coordinate activities.

**Sec. 2-62. Selection of Officers.** The Mayor's Youth Council shall elect a Chair to conduct meetings and a Vice Chair to conduct meetings in the absence of the Chair. Elections for the Chair shall be held at the first regular meeting after annual appointments are made by the Mayor’s Youth Council

**Sec. 2-63. Vacancies.** and regular vacancies shall be filled by appointment in May by the process to be established by resolution of the Youth Council of each year.

**Sec. 2-64. Meetings; Records.** The Mayor's Youth Council shall hold at least five regular meetings over the course of the school year. Public record of such meetings shall be kept by the Office of the City Clerk. All meetings shall be public under the State Government in the Sunshine regulations.

**Sec. 2-65. Absences From Meetings.** Absence from two consecutive regular meetings of the Mayor's Youth Council shall operate to vacate a seat of a member, unless such absence is excused by the Board by majority vote, with such excuse duly entered upon its minutes.

**Sec. 2-66. Duties and Responsibilities.** The Mayor's Youth Council shall have the duty and responsibility to:

1. Evaluate and review problems facing youth in the City.
2. Facilitate community meetings with local youth to discuss problems, needs, and suggested improvements for our Community.
3. Meet regularly with the Mayor to share ideas and discuss issues, concerns, and needed improvements.
4. Each Youth Commissioner must attend at least one (1) City Commission meeting each year of their term.
5. Present recommended improvements to the City Commission and City Manager of public projects and programs.
6. Evaluate and advise the City Commission and/or City Manager on issues forwarded to the Mayor's Youth Council for advice.

**Sec. 2-67. Voting.** Each youth commissioner has one vote per agenda item. Alternates have no voting power.

**Section 2. Severability.** If any provision or portion of this ordinance is declared by any court of competent jurisdiction to be void, unconstitutional or unenforceable, then all remaining provisions and portions of this ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

**Section 3. Conflict.** All ordinances or portions of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

**Section 4. Effective Date.** This ordinance shall become effective upon adoption.

DONE THE FIRST READING, by the City Commission of the City of Newberry, Florida, at a regular meeting, this 23rd day of June, 2025.

DONE, THE PUBLIC NOTICE, on the website of Alachua County at alachuacounty.us pursuant to Florida Statute 50.0311(3), by the City Clerk of the City of Newberry, Florida on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2025 through the \_\_\_\_\_\_ day of\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

DONE THE SECOND READING, AND ADOPTED ON FINAL PASSAGE, by an

affirmative vote of a majority of a quorum present of the City Commission of the City of Newberry, Florida, at a regular meeting, this day of , 2025.

BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEWBERRY, FLORIDA

Honorable Timothy R. Marden, Mayor

ATTEST, BY THE CLERK OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF NEWBERRY, FLORIDA:

Judy S. Rice, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

City Attorney’s Office