



**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY COUNCIL AGENDA
March 1, 2023
6:00 P.M.**

Call to order: Todd Johnson, Chairman
Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance: Les Hipp, Vice-Chairman

1. Adoption of Consent Agenda
 - a. Newberry County Council Special Called Meeting – February 2, 2023
 - b. Newberry County Council meeting – February 15, 2023
 - c. Economic Development Committee meeting – February 21, 2023
2. Additions, Deletions & Adoption of the Agenda
3. Consideration of a request to purchase bunker gear – Crystal Waldrop, Procurement Director
4. Consideration of a request to reimburse Prosperity Fire Department for Self - Contained Breathing Apparatus – Robert Dennis, Chief Prosperity Fire Department and Brandon Wicker, Emergency Services Coordinator
5. Committee Report – Economic Development Committee, Rick Farmer, Director
6. Appointments
7. Public Comments

8. Executive Session

Code Section §30-4-70 (a) of the Code of Laws of SC, as amended, 1976.

(1) Discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee, a student, or a person regulated by a public body or the appointment of a person to a public body; however, if an adversary hearing involving the employee or client is held, the employee or client has the right to demand that the hearing be conducted publicly. Nothing contained in this item shall prevent the public body, in its discretion, from deleting the names of the other employees or clients whose records are submitted for use at the hearing.

(2) Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale or purchase of property, the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to a pending, threatened, or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege, settlement of legal claims, or the position of the public agency in other adversary situations involving the assertion against the agency of a claim.

(3) Discussion of matters relating to the proposed location, expansion, or the provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body.

9. Comments/Requests from Acting Administrator

10. Comments/Requests from Council

11. Future meetings

- a. County Council meeting – March 15, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.
- b. Finance Committee meeting – March 27, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.
- c. County Council meeting – April 5, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.
- d. Budget Work Session – April 12, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

12. Adjournment



**Newberry County
Administration**
1309 College Street
Newberry, SC 29108
803-321-2100

Agenda Briefing

Prepared By: Crystal Waldrop	Title: Purchasing Director
Department: Administration	Division: Purchasing
Date Prepared: February 22, 2023	Meeting Date: March 1, 2023
Legal Review: N/A	Date:
Budget Review: Finance	Date:
Approved for Consideration: Acting Co. Administrator	Date: February 22, 2023
Request Consideration by Committee / County Council	
Subject: Bid No.: 2023-3 Bunker Gear for Fire Departments	

STAFF'S RECOMMENDED ACTION: Staff recommends accepting the second lowest bid from SC Fire Equipment in the amount of \$2,492.00 for each set (includes sales tax)

FIDUCIARY: The funding is budgeted in the capital outlay line item for the fire department and falls within the budget limitations.


Are Funds allocated in the department's current fiscal year budget?	X	Yes		No
If no, is a budget amendment necessary?		Yes	X	No

ADDITIONAL FISCAL/BUDGETARY MATTERS TO CONSIDER: The total for fifteen (15) sets is \$37,380.00.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FEEDBACK/POSSIBLE AREA (S) OF LEGAL EXPOSURE:

SUMMARY DISCUSSION: Staff recommends the second lowest bid due to the noncompliance in the specifications regarding the low-rise pants. The purchase is for replacement of equipment at various locations. There is an 8-10 lead time once the order is placed.

ATTACHMENTS: Bid Tabulation and email from the emergency services department.

Invitation to Bid: 2023-3			Bid Opening
Community Hall Roof Repairs			Date: February 9, 2023 @ 3:00 p.m.
Newberry County Courthouse Annex Conference Room, 1309 College Street, Newberry			
Bidder	Amount of Base Bid (EACH SET)	Total	Bid Bond
SC Fire Equipment	\$ 2,492.00	\$ 37,380.00	cashier's check
Reads Uniform	\$ 2,357.60	\$ 35,364.00	cashier's check
Accepted by:			
			
Crystal Waldrop			
Purchasing Director			

**Newberry County
Administration**

1309 College Street
P.O. Box 156
Newberry, SC 29108
803-321-2100



Agenda Item Briefing

Subject: Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus/Reimbursement.

Prepared By: Robert Dennis

Title: Chief Prosperity Fire Dept.

Department/Division: Administration

Date Prepared: February 22, 2023

Legal Review:

Date:

Finance Review:

Date: Click or tap to enter a date.

Administrator Review:

Date: Click or tap to enter a date.

Requested meeting: Committee County Council

Meeting Date: Click or tap to enter a date.

FIDUCIARY:

Are funds allocated in the department's current fiscal year budget? Yes No

If NO, is a budget amendment necessary? Yes No

ADDITIONAL FISCAL/BUDGETARY MATTERS TO CONSIDER:

SUMMARY DISCUSSION: A purchase of 4 paks, 8 cylinders, and 8 mask were ordered by the Prosperity Fire Dept to bring one truck up to standard, but leaves us with two other trucks that would need to be brought up to standard. This purchased totaled \$37,963.60, which we are using fundraiser money and donation money. We are trying to be good stewards of the County by applying for grants to help meet the needs of the Fire Departments. We were able to meet the deadline of putting in for the FEMA Firefighter Assistance Grant on 02/10/2023 with the help of Debbie, Karen, and Crystal to whom I thank very much. We requested a total of 34 paks, 68 cylinders, and 40 mask. This grant was written regional to include Friendly, Fairview, and Prosperity Fire Department, and we will not have an answer on the awarding of the grant until around October.

Because we have not addressed a plan on replacement, we have continued to roll on with making do with what we have, this does affect all 11 fire departments within the County along with some Rescue Squads.

The paks that we have are 26 years old and 21 years old which are starting to show the wear and tear of use and then deterioration of rings and rubber hoses. The paks must be flow tested annually, which has not been done across the board with any consistency.

The paks do good of staying within standard, however this is an evolving issue as it comes under review so often for the betterment of the protection for first responders. The cylinders are good within 10 years as long as they meet the hydro every 5 years which we are over the 10 years. The mask are now out of standard because they are not the heat treated material.

**Newberry County
Administration**

1309 College Street
P.O. Box 156
Newberry, SC 29108
803-321-2100



Agenda Item Briefing

Subject: Economic Development Committee Report, 2-21-23 ED Committee Meeting

Prepared By: Rick Farmer

Title: Director

Department/Division: Economic Development

Date Prepared: 2/22/2023

Legal Review: _____

Date: Click or tap to enter a date.

Finance Review: _____

Date: Click or tap to enter a date.

Administrator Review: _____

Date: Click or tap to enter a date.

Requested meeting: Committee County Council

Meeting Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023

FIDUCIARY:

Are funds allocated in the department's current fiscal year budget?

Yes

No

If NO, is a budget amendment necessary?

Yes

No

STAFF'S RECOMMENDED ACTION: Mr. Hipp, Chair of the ED Committee, has asked me to present a condensed committee meeting report at the next Council meeting.

ADDITIONAL FISCAL/BUDGETARY MATTERS TO CONSIDER: There are no costs to this report.

SUMMARY DISCUSSION:

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FOR CONSIDERATION:

ATTACHMENTS: None

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 2, 2023**

The Newberry County Council met on Thursday, February 2, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Courthouse Annex, 1309 College Street, Newberry, SC, for a special called meeting.

Notice of the meeting was duly advertised, as required by law.

PRESENT: Todd Johnson, Chair
Les Hipp, Vice-Chair
Mary Arrowood, Council Member
Karl Sease, Council Member
Robert N. Shealy, Council Member
Johnny Mack Scurry, Council Member
Travis Reeder, Council Member
Karen Brehmer, Acting County Administrator
Debbie S. Cromer, Finance Director (left during Executive Session)

1. Call to Order – Todd Johnson, Chairman

Mr. Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and determined a quorum to be present.

2. Additions, Deletions and Adoption of Agenda

There being on additions or deletions to the Agenda, Mr. Hipp moved to adopt the Agenda, as presented; seconded by Mr. Shealy. There being no discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

3. Executive Session:

Code Section 30-4-70(a)(2) of the Code of Laws of SC, as amended, 1976:

- (1) Discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee, a student, or a person regulated by a public body or the appointment of a person to a public body; however, if an adversary hearing involving the employee or client is held, the employee or client has the right to demand the hearing be conducted publicly. Nothing contained in this item shall prevent the public body, in its discretion, from deleting names of the other employees or clients whose records are submitted for use at the hearing.**

Mr. Shealy moved to go into Executive Session for the above-stated reasons; seconded by Mrs. Arrowood. There being no discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

EXECUTIVE SESSION 4:02 P.M. – 6:26 P.M.

Mr. Shealy moved to return to open session; seconded by Mr. Hipp. There being no discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Johnson reported Council met in Executive Session to discuss matters as set forth above, and no action was taken in Executive Session.

4. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Shealy moved to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Sease. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

Todd Johnson, Chairman

Susan C. Fellers, Clerk to Council

Minutes Approved: _____

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 15, 2023**

The Newberry County Council met on Wednesday, February 15, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Courthouse Annex, 1309 College Street, Newberry, SC, for a regular scheduled meeting.

Notice of the meeting was duly advertised, as required by law.

PRESENT: Todd Johnson, Chair (District 1)
Les Hipp, Vice-Chair (District 5)
Mary Arrowood, Council Member (District 2)
Karl Sease, Council Member (District 3)
Robert N. Shealy, Council Member (District 4)
Johnny Mack Scurry, Council Member (District 6)
Travis Reeder, Council Member (District 7)
Karen Brehmer, Acting County Administrator
Joanie Winters, Interim County Attorney
Debbie S. Cromer, Finance Director
Susan C. Fellers, Clerk to Council

MEDIA: Andrew Wigger, Newberry Observer

Mr. Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and determined a quorum to be present.

Mrs. Arrowood had the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

1. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA

a. Newberry County Council Regular Meeting – February 1, 2023

b. Public Safety Committee Meeting – February 6, 2023

Without objection, Mr. Shealy moved to adopt both items (a) and (b), as presented; seconded by Mr. Reeder. There being no discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

2. ADDITIONS, DELETIONS AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

There being no additions or deletions to the Agenda, Mr. Sease moved to adopt the Agenda, as presented; seconded by Mrs. Arrowood. There being no discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

3. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF MATCHING FUNDS FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS – BRANDON WICKER, EMERGENCY SERVICES COORDINATOR

a. Friendly	\$4,122
b. Consolidated	\$5,000
c. Little Mountain	\$1,251
d. Bush River	\$2,116
e. St. Phillips	\$9,697
f. Prosperity	\$4,798
Total Requested:	\$26,984

This is a 50/50 match between the Forestry Commission and Newberry County. The \$26,984 is the County's cost.

Available Funding Source: One-Time Capital has a balance of \$84,011.77

Mr. Wicker requested approval of the County's match in the amount of \$26,984.

Mrs. Arrowood moved to approve the matching funds of \$26,984, said funds to be taken out of the One-Time Capital; seconded by Mr. Shealy. There being no discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

4. CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST TO UTILIZE FUNDING FOR A HURST TOOL TO BE USED TO PURCHASE SEVEN (7) ULTRASOUND MACHINES – CHRIS JOHNSON, NEWBERRY RESCUE SQUAD

The amount budgeted for the Hurst tool is \$50,000.00.

Chris Johnson felt the Rescue Squads would be better served by using the funds allocated for the Hurst Tool to purchase the ultrasound machines instead. These machines would assist with cardiac and trauma patients and transmit information to the hospitals before arrival of the patient. He requested that the capital funds budgeted to purchase Hurst Tools in the amount of \$50,000 be used to purchase seven (7) ultrasound machines. This would allow each of the seven Rescue Squads to have an ultrasound machine.

Mr. Shealy moved to approve the request to utilize the capital funds budgeted for Hurst Tools in the amount of \$50,000 to instead be used to purchase seven (7) ultrasound machines; seconded by Mr. Sease. There being no discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

5. APPOINTMENTS

Mrs. Arrowood nominated Colonel (Retired) Carl Horn to serve on the Newberry County Water and Sewer Authority Board; seconded by Mr. Shealy. There being no discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

Mrs. Arrowood nominated Daniel Boland for reappointment to the Joint Planning Commission; seconded by Mr. Reeder. There being no discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Robert Dennis had signed up but passed as he was there concerning Agenda Item 3 and that matter had been taken care of.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Code Section 30-4-70(a) of the Code of Laws of SC, as amended, 1976:

(1) Discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee, a student, or a person regulated by a public body or the appointment of a person to a public body; however, if an adversary hearing involving the employee or client is held, the employee or client has the right to demand that the hearing be conducted publicly. Nothing contained in this item shall prevent the public body, in its discretion, from deleting the names of the other employees or clients whose records are submitted for use at the hearing.

(2) Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale or purchase of property, the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to a pending, threatened, or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege, settlement of legal claims, or the position of the public agency in other adversary situations involving the assertion against the agency of a claim.

Mr. Shealy moved to go into Executive Session for the reasons set forth above; seconded by Mrs. Arrowood. There being no discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION
6:18 P.M. - 7:20 P.M.**

Mr. Hipp moved to return to open session; seconded by Mr. Shealy. There being no discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

1. Mr. Sease moved to appoint Jeff Shacker as the Newberry County Administrator with a beginning employment date of March 13, 2023; seconded by Mr. Hipp.

Mr. Hipp felt this was a win/win situation to have Jeff Shacker as the County Administrator and welcomed Mr. Shacker.

Mrs. Arrowood felt the County could not have found anyone with as much experience as him and welcomed Mr. Shacker.

Council Members Reeder, Scurry, Shealy and Johnson all welcomed Mr. Shacker.

There being no further discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Shacker thanked Council for the opportunity. He enjoyed getting to know Council during the interview process and looks forward to working with everyone to achieve the goals for Newberry County. He also looks forward to developing relationships with both Council and all County employees. We have great people who work and live in Newberry County. Mr. Shacker has worked with the Municipal Association for the past ten years and looks forward to a continued working relationship with them in a new capacity.

2. Mr. Sease moved to authorize the County Attorney to extend the terms of the Addendum to the Option and Contract to Purchase and Sale of the property known as Jacobs Carport, such extension allowing Jacobs an additional 77 days to vacate and turn possession of the property over to the County. The term of the extension would expire on August 31, 2023. Mr. Hipp seconded the motion. There being no discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

8. COMMENTS/REQUESTS FROM ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Mrs. Brehmer stated it was nice to have Mr. Shacker coming on board with the County.

9. COMMENTS/REQUESTS FROM COUNCIL

Mr. Reeder appreciated everyone coming out tonight.

Mr. Sease thanked Mrs. Brehmer and the staff for picking up the workload the past few months.

Mr. Shealy welcomed Mr. Shacker aboard. He also thanked the staff for keeping the boat afloat.

Mr. Johnson felt hiring Mr. Shacker along with some other hires will get the County back to where we need to be as a county.

10.FUTURE MEETINGS:

- a. **A Tribute to Walton J. McLeod – February 19, 2023 at the Old Hotel, 1110 Caldwell Street – 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
RSVP – FriendsofWaltMcLeod@gmail.com or call 803-960-2596**
- b. **Economic Development Committee – February 21, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. (Conference Room)**
- c. **Executive Committee – February 27, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.**

11.ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Shealy moved to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Reeder. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

Todd Johnson, Chair

Susan C. Fellers, Clerk to Council

Minutes Approved: _____

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Feb. 21, 2023
6:00 P.M.**

The Newberry County Council Economic Development Committee met on Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2023 in the Courthouse Annex Conference Room, 1309 College St., Newberry, SC, for a rescheduled meeting. The first quarter meeting was originally scheduled for Monday, March 6, 2023, but that meeting date was changed due to one of the members planning to be out of town on March 6.

Notice of the meeting was duly advertised, as required by law.

PRESENT: Travis Reeder, Council Member, Committee Member
Nick Shealy, Council Member, Committee Member
Les Hipp, Council Vice-Chair, Committee Member
Karl Sease, Council Member
Debbie Cromer, County Finance Director
Rick Farmer, Economic Development Director

ABSENT: None

1. Call to Order

In the absence of a chair, Mr. Farmer called the meeting to order, and noted that the meeting was posted well in advance, in accordance with state law. He determined a quorum was present.

2. Election of Committee Chair for 2023

Mr. Farmer said the first order of business on the agenda was to elect a committee chair for 2023. He opened the floor to nominations. Mr. Reeder nominated Mr. Hipp, and the second was supplied by Mr. Shealy. Mr. Farmer asked if there were further nominations. Hearing none, he declared nominations closed, and called for the question on the floor. The vote was unanimous, and Mr. Hipp was elected chair for 2023. *(Note: Mr. Sease was attending the meeting out of an interest and economic development, and did not vote during this meeting.)* Mr. Farmer then turned the meeting over to the new chair.

3. Additions, Deletions & Adoption of the Agenda

Chairman Hipp asked the committee if there were any additions or deletions of the agenda. He heard none. He asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Mr. Shealy made the motion and Mr. Reeder supplied the second. The vote was unanimous.

4. Public Comments

Mr. Hipp asked Mr. Farmer if anyone signed up to speak publicly at the meeting. Mr. Farmer said no one had.

5. Staff Report

a. **Project Activity:** Mr. Farmer reported that project activity is “solid,” and said there were six site submissions since the committee last met. He said there are several expansions at local industries pending.

b. Product Development

i. Mr. Farmer said the new road in Mind-Carolina Commerce Park was complete. He said final steps include the disbursement of grant funds.

ii. Mr. Farmer said the Daeyoung Construction in Mid-Carolina Commerce Park II is now complete, and the new public road to enter the park is now complete. He said final steps would be having the county’s public works director inspect and approve the road for adoption into the county system, disburse grants to Daeyoung as per agreements, and the installation of a new sign for MCCP II. He said he requested funds for the new sign in his FY23-24 budget request, and hoped to receive some grant funding from the state to help pay for the sign.

iii. Mr. Farmer said the Mawsons Way Extension project is back on track, and the engineers first hired in 2019 to design and permit the road were back on the job. He said he has resubmitted a grant request letter to the SC Dept. of Commerce, which had originally awarded \$600,000 to the project back then. He said he is optimistic we can get these grants reallocated, but it is not a sure thing.

c. Prospect Development

i. Mr. Farmer reported that the 2022 State Korea Mission was completed last October. He said this was his fourth Korean Mission, and this one was likely the best, as Sec. of Commerce Harry Lightsey participated in the mission and stayed with the mission group the entire week, calling on prospects and attending existing industry meetings.

ii. Mr. Farmer said he included \$15,000 in his FY23-24 budget proposal in the hopes he can overhaul the economic development web site in the coming fiscal year. He said the last overhaul was in 2016.

d. Other

i. Mr. Farmer showed slides including charts that track per capita income growth for the past decade. He said there was slow and steady growth for most of the decade, but that incomes began spiking in 2020. He said PCI in Newberry County grew at a rate of about 24% just in the last three years. He showed a similar slide tracking the community’s average wage, which is a SC Dept. of Revenue calculation that divides per capita income by 2000 hours worked in a year. He said the average wage reported by DOR in December of 2022 was \$23.46 per hour, up from \$19.00 per hour in 2019.

Mr. Farmer reported that the community’s average wage can be an important factor in calculating incentives offered to new investments by the state. He said Newberry is a Tier I county, and is considered “most developed,” along with some of the largest and wealthiest counties in the state like Richland, Lexington, Greenville and Charleston. He noted that Newberry is the smallest county in Tier I, and while our

countywide population is about 38,000, the average size of Tier I counties is far larger, with an average population of 248,765. He noted that if Newberry County were competing with Laurens and Greenwood County for a good project creating 200 jobs above the average wage, the state would offer the company about \$300,000 per year in the state's lucrative Job Development Credits. But that same project would be offered about \$4 million per year in Greenwood and Laurens counties, as those are Tier III counties.

iii. Mr. Farmer said he routinely visits and speaks with industries around the county, and presented a list of the companies with which he has had recent contact.

6. Comments by and discussion items from Committee Members

Mr. Hipp asked if there were any comments or further discussion from the committee members. Hearing none, he moved to the next item on the agenda.

7. Executive Session: §30-4-70 (a)(2) and (a)(5): Discussion of matters incident to proposed contractual arrangements, and related to the proposed location, expansion, or the provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other business in the area served by the public body, including Projects Viking, Motion, Red Stag, N and other unnamed projects.

Mr. Hipp said that the committee needed to enter executive session to discuss matters of economic development, contractual matters, and issues surrounding the proposed location, expansion, or the provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries. Mr. Shealy made a motion that the committee enter executive session, and Mr. Reeder supplied the second. The vote was unanimous.

EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:28 p.m. – 7:31 p.m.

Upon returning to open session, Mr. Hipp stated that the committee discussed the items as previously described, and that no actions were taken during executive session.

8. Adjourn

Mr. Shealy offered a motion to adjourn, and Mr. Reeder gave the second. The vote was unanimous, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Newberry County Council

Les Hipp, Chairman

Approved: _____