



**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 19, 2014**

Newberry County Council met on Wednesday, February 19, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Courthouse Annex, 1309 College Street, Newberry, SC, for a regular scheduled meeting.

PRESENT: Henry H. Livingston, III, Chairman
Kirksey Koon, Vice Chairman
John E. Caldwell, Councilman
Leslie (Les) Hipp, Councilman
Steven C. Stockman, Councilman
Scott Cain, Councilman
Wayne Adams, County Administrator
A.J. Tothacer, County Attorney
Laurie Renwick, Clerk to Council
Debbie Cromer, Finance Director

ABSENT: Bill Waldrop, Councilman

PRESS: Kevin Boozer, Newberry Observer

The meeting was duly advertised as required by law.

Chairman Livingston called the meeting to order and determined a quorum present.

Chairman Livingston led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Newberry County Service Awards

Chairman Livingston presented service awards to the following: Erin Stroy-Shealy, Sheriff's Office (absent) – 5 years; Michael Clanton, Sheriff's Office (absent) – 10 years; Sheriff Lee Foster – 25 years.

2. Personal Appearances

a. Mike Briggs, President and CEO – Central SC Alliance Report and Update

Mr. Briggs reported that their purpose tonight is to give an update and he introduced his team; David King, V-P of Marketing, Tracy McMillin, V-P of Operations, Steven Roddy, Project Manager, Carrie Powell, Art and Research Coordinator, Melissa Mimms, and Ted Creech with AT&T, Private Sector and Vice Chair of their Board.

Mr. Briggs stated that they are celebrating their 20th Anniversary this year and their sole mission is to recruit capital investment jobs into the region. Newberry was a founding member of this organization and we appreciate your support and look forward to the next 20 years. He said they are a 501C3 nonprofit cooperation and are the largest, oldest, and fullest service alliance in the state. They staff ten (10) people and work daily to recruit companies for our counties. They provide marketing and recruitment, attend marketing missions and trade shows, announcements and ground breakings, creation of collateral materials, project management, economic impact analysis, incentive negotiations, labor market analysis, business comparisons, responses to request for information, and economic development consulting,

He said in the last eighteen months they have been to Europe four times, the west coast two times and took a delegation to DC to meet with our Congressmen and Senators. He said Councilman Cain joined in that mission and we had a very profitable trip. The most recent show attended was the Los Vegas Shot Show, the biggest gun industry show in the world. All the manufacturers were there and we were talking to these companies.

Mr. Briggs reported that they spend \$400,000.00 per year on marketing, trips, collateral, and lead generation. They have a very ambitious marketing schedule for 2014 and will attend an Aerospace and Defense Supplier Conference in Seattle, a European recruiting mission in the fall and in July they will attend the Farnborough, England Air Show.

He said they are supported by ten (10) counties including Newberry, the City of Columbia and the University of S.C. In addition, they have 120 private sector investors. Since 1994, they have been involved with projects that have committed to invest some 10.2 billion dollars and create 60,500 jobs. In terms of Newberry County, they have been involved in projects that have committed to invest some 366 million dollars and create 3,500 jobs. Total submission on projects for Newberry since 1994 is 140 submissions and today there are 7 active projects considering Newberry County in different stages of the process. He mentioned that they are convinced things are loosening up and we are returning to the levels we saw prior to the

recession in terms of leads and projects in the pipeline. Today we have 59 projects in the region who looking at the possibility of locating investment jobs here in central South Carolina. We continue to talk to folks every day from all around the country, North America and in the Euro zones. Mr. Briggs stated that “Made in America” is in fashion today and will continue. We are seeing the re-shoring of jobs that were outside the US making products being brought in the U.S. Folks are now coming to the U.S. from foreign countries to build products to sell in the U.S. market. Folks have waited as long as they can and he thinks the next several years are going to be very robust. Our target industries are advanced manufacturing, distribution, energy, aerospace, food and beverage, agri business, automotive, hi-technology, office, finance, insurance and shared services. He said as a region we are much stronger going to the world than as individuals. We have 10 counties and represent an area in the center of the state with a million people in it. Mr. Briggs concluded by saying they appreciate Newberry’s continued investment but more so your continued friendship and look forward to some good things in the coming years.

Mr. Hipp commented that at the Economic Development Committee meeting, Mrs. Powers indicated that the Alliance has done a good job putting together an e-blast to market our new spec building. He said he went to the spec building this morning and it is nearing completion and should be ready to market in March. He also said the Alliance assisted Mrs. Powers with some FRI’s; we are a small county with an Economic Development Department of one and without the assistance of the Alliance, Mrs. Powers would be more strapped than she currently is.

Chairman Livingston thanked Mr. Briggs and his team for all they do for all of us. We appreciate your efforts and hope to put you to work more in the very near future.

b. Craig Newton, Coroner – Budget Amendment

Mr. Newton thanked Council for the opportunity to appear tonight. He said he is requesting a budget amendment to purchase a 2014 truck for the Coroner’s Office. Presently, we have a response vehicle that is shared among three (3) deputies plus himself that rotates around to whoever is on call. It presents a problem for him on occasions because he is on call 24/7 whether he is on the schedule or not. Sometimes when he is off and multiple deaths occur, it creates a logistic problem for one person to be at two places at once. He said he is the go to person in this case and will answer the secondary call with the use of his personal vehicle. He said there might be a liability issue there and if he is out on the interstate working a fatality his personal vehicle is not equipped with emergency lighting. He said there are also times when a call requires more than one person on the scene and he uses his personal vehicle for these calls. For these reason, it will be advantageous for his department to have this requested vehicle added to their fleet. He said he is not asking as a new purchase but proposing that this be a replacement vehicle and they will turn in a 2004 Ambulance that they rarely use. The advantage of turning this vehicle in and replacing it with a truck is that although it is used by the coroner’s office it is still classified as an ambulance and the insurance rates and certain cost issues are higher because of its classification. He said this new vehicle will be used on a daily basis and is direly needed by his office; it will not be a secondary vehicle and just sit. The truck will have a camper top, the tailgate removed, and the back will be like barn doors. They will swing open to give immediate access to the back without the tailgate getting in the way. Not only will this be a

response vehicle to get to the call but it will be equipped with a rail system and a Stryker stretcher so they can transport and not have to tie up any rescue squad vehicles. It will be a response vehicle, a transport vehicle, and be available to the Coroner when the other response vehicle is in use by other deputy coroners.

Mr. Newton reported that he is proud to announce and ask Council to consider and approve a grant that has been awarded for the purchase of a mobile morgue and two (2) Stryker stretchers in the amount of \$56,000.00. The stretchers we have now are very old and it takes 2-3 people to handle them. The stretchers approved by the grant are battery operated Stryker stretchers like those our EMS and Rescue Squads use. We deal with dead weight which can be very difficult to handle. The mobile morgue is designed for mass fatalities (three or more). We have glaring issues in Newberry County pertaining to morgue space; we have none. Newberry Hospital has a morgue and the capacity is four (4). Newberry Pathology operates out of Newberry Hospital and they perform most of the autopsies for the State of South Carolina; an average of six (6) per day. He said he is forced on a weekly basis to remove bodies which forces families to make decisions they are not ready to make. The mobile morgue will fill the need as an overflow to the hospital for bodies to be stored for a day or two until families are ready to make good decisions. We have a growing problem in Newberry and throughout the state with unidentified and unclaimed bodies and he is forced to send these bodies to Fairfield or Richland to hold until proper identification is made. There are no immediate plans by Newberry Hospital to enlarge their morgue and there are no options in site to relieve these issues. Another advantage of the mobile morgue will be to serve as rehab for local EMS and Rescue Squads whenever there is a bad fire. It can be brought on location to be used by exposed firemen until they are cooled down and ready to resume their duties. Mr. Newton said this will be a multi-purpose vehicle with a multi-purpose mobile morgue and will give us the tools and resources to handle a mass fatality when it occurs. He asked that Council consider accepting this grant and the vehicle that will have the capacity to pull the morgue. The state procurement for the Ford F250 is priced at \$35,125.00; the Dodge Ram is priced at \$32,739.00. The Dodge would be the low bid. He tried to bid a Chevrolet but they are not on state procurement. He said he went by Stokes-Trainor and they cannot compete with these low figures.

Chairman Livingston asked the base price and the up-fit cost of the vehicle.

Mr. Newton responded that the Dodge's base price is \$24,800.00 plus tax and add ons for a total base price of \$29,483.00. The additional up-fit (lights, radio, sirens) will cost around \$4,000.00.

Chairman Livingston asked that if we wanted to up-fit a truck that is currently in our fleet it would cost us \$4,000.00.

Mr. Newton said that will be fair to say.

Mr. Koon asked for some additional specifics on the truck.

Mr. Newton said it is a 4x4 crew cab with an 8 foot bed that is required for transportation purposes.

Mr. Koon asked what the call volume was so far this year.

Mr. Newton said as of the 19th of February we have already had 17 calls this month. We are averaging around 26 calls per month.

Mr. Caldwell asked about the warranty on the truck.

Mr. Newton said the powertrain has a 5 year warranty and the truck itself has a 3 year, 36,000 mile warranty. He said by purchasing a new vehicle and taking the older vehicle off the fleet will basically make us 3 years maintenance free.

Mr. Cain said this is outstanding for the county and asked if the mobile morgue is contingent on the truck. He felt they are not really contingent on each other.

Mr. Newton said you will have a mobile morgue but he will not have a vehicle in his fleet to tow it with plus you will not be responding to his needs to have a second vehicle when he is off duty and there is a need to respond.

Mr. Cain asked how many vehicles were in the Coroner's fleet.

Mr. Newton said they have three (3) vehicles; one (1) response vehicle and two (2) transport vehicles (a box type ambulance and a smaller CRV type ambulance). We will be replacing the box type ambulance and the new vehicle will serve as a response/transport vehicle.

Mr. Cain asked if we could purchase a vehicle locally.

Mr. Newton said under the state contract the Ford will be through Vic Bailey in Spartanburg. The local Chevrolet place could not come within \$10,000.00.

Mr. Koon said he would like to do some more research on everything and would like for council to take it as information tonight so we can find the best deal for the county.

Mr. Newton said this is a time sensitive matter in that the morgue will have to be built, delivered, paid for, and titled by June when the grant expires. It takes 12 weeks to build the morgue and we will be pushing June on the truck to get it equipped and delivered; any delay could possibly cost us this grant.

Mr. Hipp said he was in agreement with Mr. Cain about the grant for the morgue versus the transport vehicle as far as the urgency of our action. He said we should go forward with the grant for the mobile morgue; it is an excellent need that the county has. Since the transport vehicle is independent of the morgue, we do have some latitude of time to determine what our options are for moving the morgue. He asked the Chairman to entertain hearing comments from the public if anyone has signed up to address this issue before closing the discussion.

Chairman Livingston invited Mr. Doggett Whitaker to the podium.

Mr. Whitaker introduced himself and stated that he owns a funeral home in Newberry. He said because of the nature of his business, he works closely with the Coroner's Office and he would like to commend Mr. Newton and his staff for the work they do. They are trying to upgrade the Coroner's Office and he said he sees this as a proactive move on their part. There is already a need for the mobile morgue. We haven't had a disaster such as Sandy Hook yet but he has worked disasters and this unit would certainly help in such a disaster or a bus wreck. He said he was here in support of the mobile morgue.

Chairman Livingston asked Mr. Newton where we would store the mobile morgue.

Mr. Newton said it would be stored at the Sheriff's/Coroner's Office. We are going to maintain the fenced in area even when the move is made and the mobile morgue will be stored in this area.

Mr. Hipp asked if it will need to be stored/protected under cover.

Mr. Newton said that would be ideal but would not be a requirement.

Chairman Livingston asked how many miles the Coroner anticipates putting on the vehicle per year.

Mr. Newton responded less than 10,000 miles; probably like 7-8,000 miles per year. He said he would see the 3 years running out before it reached 36,000 miles.

Chairman Livingston agreed that Council needed to move forward with the mobile morgue but felt the vehicle needed more study. We are not going to maximize the use of the warranty putting only 7,000 miles a year on it whereas another department could utilize the vehicle and put the miles on it. We could up-fit a higher mileage vehicle in our fleet for pulling the morgue.

Mr. Koon motioned to move forward with the mobile morgue; seconded by Mr. Cain. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Koon motioned to bring the vehicle purchase back to the committee for study; seconded by Mr. Cain. The vote was unanimous.

3. Ordinance #01-01-04: An Ordinance to amend the Master Agreement governing the Greenwood-Newberry Industrial Park between Newberry County and Greenwood County so as to enlarge the park.

Mr. Caldwell motioned to approve second reading of Ordinance #01-01-04; seconded by Mr. Hipp. The vote was unanimous.

4. **Ordinance #01-02-14: An Ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a Fee In Lieu Of Tax Agreement and an Infrastructure Finance Agreement by and between Newberry County, South Carolina and West Fraser, Inc. With respect to certain economic development property in the county, whereby such property will be subject to certain payments in lieu of taxes, and West Fraser, Inc. will receive certain infrastructure credits in respect of investment in related infrastructure; and other matters related thereto.**

Mr. Cain motioned to approve second reading of Ordinance #01-02-14; seconded by Mr. Stockman. The vote was unanimous.

5. **Ordinance #01-03-14: An Ordinance to amend the budget ordinance for the Fiscal Year 2013-2014, Ordinance Number 04-07-13, to provide for revised revenue and expenditure appropriations related to the operations of Newberry County.**

Mr. Koon motioned to approve second reading of Ordinance #01-03-14; seconded by Mr. Cain.

Chairman Livingston asked if there was any discussion.

Mr. Hipp noted that in the amendment, Item B of the Building Maintenance Department, there is another new vehicle purchase and questioned if we needed to purchase a new vehicle or did another department have a vehicle that can be utilized for this purpose.

Mr. Adams stated that staff can analyze that more fully along with the Coroner's vehicle before third reading if that will be agreeable.

Mr. Hipp said since we are talking about vehicles it makes sense to look at both and see what is available and what our best option are.

Having received no further discussion, the vote was unanimous to approve second reading of Ordinance #01-03-14.

6. **Consideration of Central SC Alliance 4th Quarter (FY13-14) Invoice in the amount of \$18,000.00.**

Mr. Hipp motioned to approve Central SC Alliance 4th Quarter Invoice in the amount of \$18,000.00; seconded by Mr. Cain. The vote was unanimous.

7. **Appointments**

Mr. Koon nominated Mr. Adam Crouch for an appointment to the Board of Rescue Squads.

Mr. Cain motioned to approve the appointment of Mr. Crouch to the Board of Rescue Squads; seconded by Mr. Stockman. The vote was unanimous.

8. Committee Reports

a. Economic Development Committee 2/10/14 – Les Hipp, Committee Chairman

Mr. Hipp commented that Teresa Powers was in Greenville attending a marketing meeting with the automotive industry so he would be reporting on the meeting. He summarized the meeting as follows:

- The committee recommended paying Central SC Alliance 4th Qtr. Invoice.
- Update on the Mid-Carolina Commerce Park and discussion of possible locations for the power substation.
- Update on the Mega-Site certification process.
- Discussion of SC Industry Appreciation Week (March 31-April 4) with a tentative date of April 10th for our industry appreciation event.
- Update on recent economic development marketing activities which included a brochure on the Mid-Carolina Commerce Park that was included in the winter edition of SC BIZ Magazine. The SC Department of Commerce included an ad for the Mid-Carolina Commerce Park with our soon to be completed Spec Building in their SC Commerce Magazine.
- Teresa Powers, in conjunction with Central SC Alliance, sent out an e-blast featuring the Spec Building which went out to about 1,000 people to include site consultants and real estate professionals.
- The Economic Development Office is sponsoring a Work Force Event at Piedmont Technical College on March 5th.
- The committee met in Executive Session concerning industrial growth in the County and no action was taken in that session.

9. Public Comments

Chairman Livingston invited Mr. Larry Dehart to the podium to discuss storm damage and roads.

Mr. Larry Dehart introduced himself and stated that he lived at 969 Suber Road in Pomaria. He shared his concerns about the recent snow storm and the roads out his way that were not touched by anyone. He said there were some farms in the Maybinton area that were out of feed for 24 hours because trucks could not get there. He said he rode to town on Thursday and noticed three (3) motor graders on the county yard and one (1) sitting in Pomaria beside the road. His asked why these motor graders were sitting still when we had a snow storm like this in our area.

Mr. Hipp said he appreciated Mr. Dehart bringing this to Council's attention. Clearly, we have resources and need to work on the roads especially during back to back snow storms. He asked if the Sheriff's Office would be the best department to direct the resources because they already have people going out throughout the county during inclement weather. They

may be able to alert Mike Pisano's group about the condition of roads and areas that need attention. Mr. Hipp said we may not have an answer tonight but we need to put a plan together so that in the future this will be addressed.

Mr. Dehart commented that the only way they could get around was by 4-wheel drive vehicles until Saturday. He shared his concerns about feed trucks not running due to the conditions of the roads. He also mentioned that Suber Road could stand to be widened by at least four (4) feet due to trucks entering by way of Frances Road. These trucks are on the right of way trying to turn and could possibly turn over.

Mr. Hipp asked if we coordinated with the state to clear these roads.

Mr. Adams said he will investigate the motor graders sitting on the yard and beside the road. He said our standard procedure is to work with the state to keep the major roads open as a priority and we will break away if we have a specific county need. He said he knew that we went down and cleared a road that a hospice patient lived on. He said unless we get specific request, we should be working with the state to clear the major arteries.

Mr. Eargle commented that he has lived on Highway 202 for 66 years and this is the first time the state has not scrapped this road.

Chairman Livingston stated that maybe the road committee in conjunction with the Ag community and Public Works can study where the farms are located so we will know what to focus on. He said he was familiar with Suber and Frances Roads and that could be a pretty quick fix.

Mr. Adams asked Mr. Dehart if he contacted Mr. Willis about the situation with his business.

Mr. Dehart said he did not contact Mr. Willis during the storm because we were already paralyzed.

Mr. Adams told Mr. Dehart that he will be glad to give him his number to call in the future since we were closed here.

10. Executive Session

No Executive Session.

11. Comments from County Administrator

No comments.

12. Comments/Request from Council Members

Mr. Koon commented that this was a severe storm and we did have some problems and can do a better job; there is always room for improvement. He said he was not aware of anybody that

contacted the county that did not receive some kind of help. Mr. Koon thanked all public safety personnel (rescue and fire) and the Sheriff's Office who worked around the clock and transported people. Our greatest asset is our employees and volunteers and he thanked them all.

13. Future Meetings

- a. Personnel and Intergovernmental Relations Committee 2/24/14 @ 6:00 p.m.
- b. Public Works and Planning Committee 3/03/14 @ 6:00 p.m.
- c. County Council 3/5/14 @ 7:00 p.m.
- d. County Council 3/19/14 @ 7:00 p.m.

14. Adjournment

Chairman Livingston declared the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

Henry H. Livingston, III, Chairman

APPROVED:

Laurie N. Renwick, Clerk to Council