



**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES
APRIL 18, 2018
7:00 P.M.**

Newberry County Council met on Wednesday, April 18, 2018, 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
Bill Waldrop, Councilman
Steve Stockman, Councilman
Travis Reeder, Councilman
Dr. Harriett Rucker, Councilwoman
Wayne Adams, County Administrator
A.J. Tothacer, County Attorney
Laurie Renwick, Clerk to Council
Debbie Cromer, Finance Director

ABSENT: Scott Cain, Councilman

MEDIA: Andrew Wigger, Newberry Observer

The meeting was duly advertised as required by law.

Chairman Livingston called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Wayne Adams led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Additions, Deletions, and Adoption of Agenda

Dr. Rucker motioned to adopt the agenda as presented; seconded by Mr. Stockman. The vote was unanimous.

2. Newberry County Service Awards

Chairman Livingston recognized and presented service awards to the following employees: Freddie Edwards, Public Works – 5 years (absent); Trena Crisp, Magistrate’s Office – 15 years (absent); Georgia Attaway, Deputy Assessor – 20 years (absent); and Detrick Bishop, Sheriff’s Office – 20 years.

3. *Personal Appearances*

David Stumbo, 8th Circuit Solicitor, addressed Council on the state of affairs of the Solicitor's Office. He said this year, they have taken a comprehensive look at all four counties. The Solicitor's Office funding structure is very convoluted and complex for a government agency. He said they are not a state agency and not a county agency because they serve more than one county. Statutorily, the counties have funded the Solicitor's Office with some state funding and federal grant money in the mix. He said the reason he was requesting a funding increase of \$76,000.00 was if state and federal money were to dry up, the citizens of Newberry still deserve to have cases prosecuted, justice served, and their families kept safe. The increase will add a full-time victim's advocate position here in Newberry County. Presently, the Laurens County victim advocate travels to Newberry to fill that void. We are also asking for a full-time investigator's position with funding split between Newberry and Laurens County. Solicitor Stumbo went over information he provided Council to include caseloads, cost associated with each warrant, and a breakdown of the salary and benefits associated with the hiring of a victim advocate and investigator for Newberry. He said if the county could not fund the entire amount, he would recommend at least adding the victims advocate position which is critical; they do such good work for the people of this county. Solicitor Stumbo thanked Council for its support and the increase that was given to them several years ago and that his office maximizes every dollar and they will continue to work with Sheriff Foster to keep the citizens of Newberry County safe.

Chairman Livingston asked if he anticipated Laurens coming up with half of the investigator funding.

Solicitor Stumbo said that they have requested more than half of the investigator position from Laurens; however, if Newberry will fund half, they will find a way to hire another investigator position even if Laurens cannot; we will pull it from Greenwood. The investigator positions can be paid for under a grant so if there is a shortfall he can use grant funding.

Chairman Livingston asked how the victim's advocate person would work with the one at our Sheriff's Office.

Solicitor Stumbo responded that they already work very closely with Connie Johnson and she does a great job. This will just give us someone here full time and not have to be pulled out of the county.

Chairman Livingston said that he referenced Greenwood's grants and asked if Newberry qualified for grants.

Solicitor Stumbo apologized if he misspoke, but federal grant money is routed through the Attorney General's Office to be dispersed by each circuit to the counties they serve based on the caseloads. He said part of the Laurens Victim's Advocate position is funded by grant money.

Chairman Livingston stated that the funding the Solicitor's Office is requesting can only come from a millage increase and asked if there are fines or fees through his office that can be generated.

Solicitor Stumbo responded that the fines and fees are very minimal; around \$20-25,000.00.

4. ***Ordinance #04-04-18: An Ordinance acting on a request to amend the Official Zoning Map established pursuant to Zoning Ordinance No. 06-11-16, codified in Chapter 153 of the Newberry County Code of Ordinances, so as to rezone a thirteen and seventeen hundredths (13.17) acres portion of a real estate parcel totaling sixteen and thirty-three hundredths (16.33) acres designated as TMS Parcel No.577-16 from Industrial (IND) to General Commercial (GC).***

Vice Chairman Koon motioned to approve second reading of Ordinance #04-04-18; seconded by Mr. Reeder. The vote was unanimous.

5. ***Ordinance #04-05-18: An Ordinance acting on a request to amend the Official Zoning Map established pursuant to Zoning Ordinance No. 06-11-16, codified in Chapter 153 of the Newberry County Code of Ordinances, so as to rezone one real estate parcel totaling three and fifty-one hundredths (3.51) acres designated as TMS Parcel No. 342-36 from General Commercial (GC) to Rural (R2).***

Dr. Rucker motioned to approve second reading of Ordinance #04-05-18; seconded by Mr. Stockman. The vote was unanimous.

6. ***Ordinance #04-06-18: An Ordinance to provide for the issuance and sale of General Obligation Bonds of Newberry County, South Carolina not exceeding \$800,000 in aggregate principal amount, to prescribe the purposes for which the proceeds of said bonds shall be expended, to provide for the payment of said bonds, and other matters relating thereto.***

Mr. Waldrop motioned to approve first reading of Ordinance #04-06-18; seconded by Mr. Reeder.

Mr. Adams reported that this borrowing will fund the purchase of and renovations to the building at 833 Main St. being converted to Magistrate's Court.

Having received no further discussion, the vote was unanimous to approve first reading of Ordinance #04-06-18.

7. ***Committee Meetings***

Tommy Long, Emergency Services Director, reported that the Public Safety and Courts Committee met on April 16, 2018. The committee was given an update by Aubrey Horn, Chairman of the Board of Rural Fire Control and Corey Bishop, Chairman of the Board of Rescue Squads. Ervin West, Facilities Manager, concluded the meeting by giving an update on Public Safety and Courts related capital projects.

8. *Appointments*

No appointments.

9. *Public Comments (by those who signed up at the meeting)*

Samie Truong, on behalf of the Young Professionals Board, invited Council to attend the 1st Annual Legacy Gala that is open to all community leaders. They are hoping this will be a fun event for both young and seasoned professionals and a great opportunity to learn and network together. She said the tickets are \$50 and the event is being catered by The Palms.

10. *Executive Session (if needed)*

No executive session.

11. *Comments/Request from County Administrator*

No comments.

12. *Comments/Request from Council Members*

Mr. Koon shared condolences at the passing of one of the finest First Ladies our country has ever had; Mrs. Barbara Bush,

Chairman Livingston thanked the Sheriff's Office and all those who assisted during the funeral of the Saluda County Deputy that lost his life. He also recognized and gave encouragement to Coroner Laura Kneece who has experienced several extremely difficult days with three fatalities.

13. *Future Meetings*

- a. Public Works and Planning Committee 4/23/18 @ 7:00 p.m.
- b. County Council 5/2/18 @ 7:00 p.m.
- c. Budget Work Session 5/14/18 @ 7:00 p.m.
- d. County Council 5/16/18 @ 7:00 p.m.
- e. Personnel and Intergovernmental Relations Committee 5/21/18 @ 6:00 p.m.

14. *Adjournment*

Chairman Livingston adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

Henry H. Livingston, Chairman

APPROVED:

Laurie N. Renwick, Clerk to Council