

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
PUBLIC SAFETY AND COURTS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
JANUARY 25, 2021**

The Newberry County Council Public Safety and Courts Committee met on Monday, January 25, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. for a regular scheduled meeting in Council Chambers at the Courthouse Annex, 1309 College Street, Newberry, S.C.

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

PRESENT: **Todd Johnson, Committee Chair**
Mary Arrowood, Council Member
Johnny Mack Scurry, Council Member
Wayne Adams, County Administrator
Taylor Davenport, Assistant to County Administrator
Susan C. Fellers, Clerk to Council
Tommy Long, Emergency Services Coordinator
A.J. Tothacer, Jr., County Attorney

1. CALL TO ORDER

Todd Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON FOR 2021

Mr. Johnson turned the meeting over to Mr. Adams for the election of a Chairperson for 2021.

Mr. Adams opened the floor for nominations. Mrs. Arrowood nominated Todd Johnson; second by Mr. Scurry. There being no further nominations, Mr. Adams declared nominations closed and called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

Meeting was turned over to Mr. Johnson.

3. ADDITIONS, DELETIONS AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Mr. Scurry to adopt the agenda as presented; second by Mrs. Arrowood. Vote was unanimous.

4. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 5, 2020 MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Scurry to approve the October 5, 2020 minutes as presented; second by Mrs. Arrowood. Vote was unanimous.

5. DEPARTMENT UPDATES - TOMMY LONG, EMERGENCY SERVICES COORDINATOR

Mr. Long asked each department to present accomplishments in 2020 and goals in 2021. Copies of the power points presented by each department are on file in the County Administration Office.

A. DHEC COVID-19 UPDATE - KELLEY BANNISTER AND CINDY LINDLER

- Vaccines administered as of this date - 166,437
- In person control inspection of all nursing homes
- Newberry County as of last Friday at 11:29 p.m., averaged 762.2 per 100,000 residents; 3,629 positive (17.5%); 71 confirmed deaths and 125 hospitalizations.
- Number of persons in phase 1(a) - 987,039; phase 1(b) - 573,501; phase 1(c) - 2,897,527; and phase 2 - 690,648
- After receiving both doses of the vaccine, persons should still practice social distancing and wear masks and keep doing what we are doing now.
- DHEC is working on a system to make it easier to schedule appointments for the vaccine.

B. CORONER'S OFFICE - LAURA KNEECE, CORONER

- The Coroner's Office investigates, IDs, determines cause and manner of death, notifies family, issues cremation permits, certifies death after examination.
- In 2020 the Coroner received 476 calls.
- Determines death status by natural causes and unnatural causes.
- Spike in opioid deaths in 2020.
- Motor Vehicle accidents - 15 deaths
- Huge spike in October from covid deaths in nursing homes.
- Spike in natural deaths.
- Coroner's Office received an automated pill counter, digital x-ray machine, training and reporting system
- Goals for 2021-2022 are to complete certification testing as well as expansion and advancements in the Coroner's Office.

C. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - SHERIFF LEE FOSTER, CHIEF DEPUTY WESLEY BOLAND AND MAJOR ROBERT DENNIS

Major Dennis assured everyone that they have maintained communication with the Sheriff during his hospitalization.

- Sheriff's Office covers 647 square miles in Newberry County
- Office is fully staffed at present. Since the pay raises, we have only lost 5 employees, who retired.
- In 2020 the Sheriff's Office responded to 9,008 calls.
- Newberry County has the lowest crime rate in SC; the highest clearance rate and more innovative programs.
- The Sheriff is a good steward of the County's money.

They thanked Mr. Adams and the previous Council for the salary increases for officers.

D. EMS - COREY BISHOP AND BRIDGETTE PARSONS

- In 2020 EMS responded to 6,029 calls.
- The following items have been purchased: LP15 12 lead EKG; 2 EMS Dodge trucks with loaded structure.
- EMS has had more structured field training and has implemented revised progressive standing order and protocols.

E. RESCUE - COREY BISHOP AND NAT BIROCHAK

- In 2020 they responded to 4,695 medical calls and 648 fire calls over the County.
- Cardiac Monitors and a medical duty rescue truck were purchased.
- Four Rescue departments have consolidated under a single license with NCESA.
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F. EMERGENCY SERVICE TRAINING GROUNDS - TOMMY LONG, KEITH MINICK, AND GENE SHEALY

- Discussion of the diagram of the Newberry County Training Ground - planted some trees, grounds and building clean-up, construction of props and training room in first building.
- Current use of this property includes search and rescue, fire attack, mayday training, auto extrication, driver training and skills development stations.

G. RECRUITMENT AND FIREFIGHTER RETENTION - GENE SHEALY

- Recruitment and retention is a problem.
- Social media, radio advertisements and banners have all been helpful in recruiting.
- The 2021-2022 budget has been presented to the city and the county.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments from the public.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF NEEDED)

No Executive Session needed.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mrs. Arrowood to adjourn; second by Mr. Scurry. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
PUBLIC SAFETY AND COURTS COMMITTEE**

Todd Johnson, Chairman

Susan C. Fellers, Clerk to Council

Approved: _____