

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 18, 2020**

Newberry County Council met on Wednesday, November 18, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Courthouse Annex, 1309 College Street, Newberry, S.C., for a regular scheduled meeting.

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

**PRESENT: Henry H. Livingston, III, Chairman**  
**Kirksey Koon, Vice-Chairman**  
**Scott Cain, Council Member**  
**Travis Reeder, Council Member**  
**Dr. Harriett Rucker, Council Member**  
**Johnny Mack Scurry, Council Member**  
**A.J. Tothacer, Jr., County Attorney**  
**Karen Brehmer, Deputy Administrator**  
**Katherine Cook, Human Resources Director**  
**Debbie S. Cromer, Finance Director**  
**Taylor Davenport, Assistant to County Administrator**

**MEDIA: Andrew Wigger, Newberry Observer**

**WATCHING LIVE STREAM: Wayne Adams, County Administrator**  
**Susan C. Fellers, Clerk to Council**

**ABSENT: Steve Stockman, Council Member**

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

Dr. Rucker had the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **1. Additions, Deletions & Adoption of Agenda**

There being no additions or deletions to the Agenda, Mr. Cain moved to adopt the agenda as presented; seconded by Mr. Scurry. Vote was unanimous.

### **2. Ordinance #10-22-20: An Ordinance to Declare Surplus and Approve the Transfer of a Portion of Certain Real Estate Property Owned by Newberry County.**

#### **a. Public Hearing**

This ordinance contemplates conveying to the Town of Prosperity at no cost or nominal cost a property that is approximately 0.05 of an acre (1,400 sq. ft.) in size, and which lies partially within the railroad right of way. The location is near the intersection of McNeary and Dewalt Streets in Prosperity and is marked by the presence of a very small building owned by Carolyn Bedenbaugh, who has a ground lease with Newberry County. Ms. Bedenbaugh wants to give the building to the Town of Prosperity. Deeding the underlying property to the Town of Prosperity would unify ownership of the land and the building situated on it. This property is of no practical use to Newberry County. We are waiting on the survey for third reading.

Mr. Livingston declared this to be the public hearing. There being no comments from the public, Mr. Livingston declared the public hearing closed.

### **3. Ordinance #11-23-20: An Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance of the County of Newberry adopted June 20, 2016, so as to amend the zoning map acting on a request to amend the official zoning map established, codified in Chapter 153 of the County of Newberry Code of Ordinances, so as to rezone one real estate parcel totaling two and five-tenths (2.5) acres designated as TMS Parcel No. 523-85 from Industrial (IND) to R2-Rural.**

#### **a. Second Reading**

This is a parcel located at 3839 Mt. Pilgrim Church Road (Prosperity). The owner wants to rezone it to R-2 for the purpose of placing a residence on it.

Motion by Mr. Koon to approve second reading; second by Dr. Rucker. There being no discussion, Mr. Livingston called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

**4. Consideration to approve the Holiday Schedule for Newberry County - Katherine Cook, Human Resources Director.**

The Personnel and Intergovernmental Committee met on Monday, November 9th and recommended the following holiday schedule for county employees:

Thanksgiving	November 26,27 (Thursday, Friday)
Christmas	December 23-25 (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday)
New Year's Day	January 1 (Friday).

Motion by Mr. Cain to approve the holiday schedule as set forth above; second by Dr. Rucker. There being no discussion, Mr. Livingston called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

**5. Consideration to approve Employee Christmas Gift Cards - Katherine Cook, Human Resources Director.**

The Personnel and Intergovernmental Committee has recommended a \$100 gift card from Food Lion for all county employees. (Total cost: \$19,475).

Motion by Mr. Cain to approve employee Christmas gift cards as set forth above; second by Dr. Rucker. There being no discussion, Mr. Livingston called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

**6. Consideration to approve proposed changes to the Newberry County Handbook - Katherine Cook, Human Resources Director.**

The Personnel and Intergovernmental Committee met on Monday, September 14th, and recommended the following firearms policy for inclusion in the Newberry County Employee Handbook:

“The possession of firearms or other weapons is strictly prohibited inside any County owned, operated or controlled facility or vehicle unless authorized in advance by the Sheriff. A weapon is any object or device designed or intended to be used in attack or defense to inflict serious injury upon persons or property. Certified Law Enforcement Officers are exempt from this directive if certified under state or federal law, including 18 U.S.C. Section 926C, and should ensure that weapons are secure and away from the general public. Having a concealed weapons permit does not release the employee from this directive.”

Motion by Dr. Rucker to approve proposed change as set forth above; second by Mr. Koon. Vote was unanimous.

#### **7. Consideration of a letter of support to the US International Trade Commission for Samsung.**

This letter emphasizes to the ITC that Samsung is now an established domestic (US) producer of washing machines - and very much a part of Newberry County. At the request of Whirlpool, a Michigan-based competitor, the ITC placed tariffs on Samsung washing machines in 2018. Whirlpool now wants those tariffs, which puts Samsung at a competitive disadvantage, extended. This letter would be used to help support Samsung's case at a hearing before the ITC in early December.

Mr. Tothacer read the proposed letter into the record, a copy of which is attached hereto, and incorporated herein.

Motion by Mr. Koon to approve letter of support; second by Dr Rucker. Vote was unanimous.

## **8. Appointments**

No appointments.

## **9. Committee Reports**

### **a. Personnel & Intergovernmental Relations - Katherine Cook, Human Resources Director**

Agenda Items 4, 5 and 6 represent the recent activities of this committee.

## **10. Executive Session**

No Executive Session needed.

## **11. Public Comments**

No comments from the public.

## **12. Comments/Requests from County Administrator**

Mr. Livingston advised that Mr. Adams was in quarantine.

## **13. Comments/Requests from Council Members**

Mr. Cain advised the CDC has ranked Newberry County 4th in the state for the largest number of covid cases. He requested that everyone do as much as possible to slow this virus.

Mr. Livingston said WIS-TV called him yesterday about the number of covid cases in Newberry County. He advised that the County Council did approve a resolution encouraging people to wear masks and practice social distancing. He requested that everyone take this seriously as it has taken lives.

**14.Future Meetings**

- a. Finance Committee - 12/7/2020, 6:00 pm**
- b. County Council - 12/2/2020, 7:00 pm**
- c. Economic Development - 12/7/2020, 7:00 pm**

**15.Adjournment**

There being no additional matters to come before Council, Dr. Rucker moved to adjourn.

Mr. Livingston declared the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL**

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**Henry H. Livingston, III, Chairman**

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**Susan C. Fellers, Clerk to Council**

**Approved: \_\_\_\_\_**