

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES
DECEMBER 16, 2020**

Newberry County Council met on Wednesday, December 16, 2020, at 7:00 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: Henry H. Livingston, III, Chairman
Kirksey Koon, Vice Chairman
Steve Stockman, Council Member
Scott Cain, Council Member
Dr. Harriett Rucker, Council Member
Johnny Mack Scurry, Council Member
Wayne Adams, County Administrator
A.J. Tothacer, Jr., County Attorney
Debbie S. Cromer, Finance Director
Karen Brehmer, Deputy Administrator

LIVE STREAM: Travis Reeder, Council Member (illness)
Susan C. Fellers, Clerk to Council
Taylor Davenport, Assistant to the County Administrator

MEDIA: Andrew Wigger, Newberry Observer

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

Mr. Stockman had the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Additions, Deletions and 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. Employee Service Awards

Mr. Livingston recognized the following employees for their service to Newberry County:

- a. Crystal Houseal, Sheriff's Office - 5 years**
- b. Shanna Proctor, Voter Registration and Elections - 10 years**
- c. Bob Beard, GIS - 15 years**
- d. Ron Halfacre, Magistrate - 15 years**
- e. Gordon Johnson, Magistrate - 15 years**

3. Personal Appearances

- a. David Enzastiga, CPA, Rish and Enzastiga - Financial Audit FY 19/20**

Mr. Enzastiga presented an unmodified (being the best opinion accountants can offer) audit as to Newberry County's June 30, 2020, financial statements.

A copy of the Financial Audit is on file in the County Administration Office,

- 4. Resolution #11-20: A resolution making application to the State Fiscal Accountability Authority of South Carolina for approval of the issuance by Newberry County, South Carolina, of a special source revenue bond series 2021, pursuant to the provisions of Title 4, Chapters 1 and 29 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended, in the principal amount of not exceeding \$5,500,000.**

This resolution pertains to a planned borrowing, the repayment of which involves pledging Fee in Lieu of Taxes revenues. The borrowed funding would be used to (1) refinance remaining debt on the Mid-Carolina Commerce Park (approximately \$2.5 million) and (2) purchase additional acreage in the vicinity of the Mid-Carolina Commerce Park for future industrial development (purchase price of \$3,307,000.)

Mr. Koon moved to adopt the resolution; seconded by Mr. Stockman. There being no further discussion, Mr. Livingston called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

- 5. Consideration to approve Emergency Transportation Associates for an ambulance remount for EMS in the amount of \$180,234.46. (This price includes alternate pricing for a Stryker Power Stretcher, Lucas 3 Device, and Computer Mount, with all alternate pricing totaling \$55,234.46.) - Crystal Waldrop, Purchasing Director.**

This was the only bid submitted. Staff determined this bid to be competitive and recommended approval.

Mr. Koon moved to approve the bid from Emergency Transportation Associates in the amount of \$180,234.46; seconded by Mr. Cain. There being no discussion, Mr. Livingston called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

6. Consideration of 2021 County Council Meeting Schedule

Pursuant to Code Section 30-4-80(A) of the South Carolina Code of Laws public bodies “must give written public notice of their regular meetings at the beginning of each calendar year.”

The meetings for 2021 sets a 6:00 p.m. starting time, rather than 7 p.m.

Mr. Koon moved to adopt the County Council Meeting Schedule as presented; seconded by Mr. Stockman. There being no discussion, Mr. Livingston called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

A copy of the 2021 County Council Meeting Schedule is on file in the County Administration Office.

7. Consideration of 2021 County Council Committee Meeting Schedule

See explanation in Agenda Item 6 above.

Mr. Stockman moved to adopt the County Council Committee Meeting Schedule; seconded by Mr. Cain. There being no discussion, Mr. Livingston called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

A copy of the 2021 County Council Committee Meeting Schedule is on file in the County Administration Office.

8. Consideration of FY 2021/2022 Budget Calendar - Debbie Cromer, Finance Director

A copy of the FY 2021/2022 Budget Calendar was presented to Council for consideration.

Mr. Koon moved to adopt the FY 2021/2022 Budget Calendar as presented; seconded by Mr. Stockman. There being no discussion, Mr. Livingston called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

A copy of the 2021/2022 Budget Calendar is on file in the County Administration Office.

9. Discussion of achievements of outgoing Council Members - Henry H. Livingston, III, Chairman, and Wayne Adams, County Administrator

Mr. Adams recognized the four Council Members who are leaving us after tonight: Steve Stockman (12 years), Scott Cain (8 years), Kirksey Koon (12 years) and Dr. Harriett Rucker (4 years). As a group, their results have been quite significant:

- Property Taxes -
 - These 4 leave us tonight with the lowest combined county council levy that Newberry County has seen in 15 years, This does not include school or municipal taxes, just the levies that county council controls. Currently these levies total 25 mills lower than it was in 2008. This is the result of many long meetings and votes in which council had to make hard choices.
- Industrial Development -
 - Each played a role in bringing Samsung's first North American appliance plant to Newberry County in 2017. This is Samsung's first non-semiconductor plant ever in North America. It is the largest economic development project in Newberry County's history and was the economic development project of the year for the entire state of South Carolina in 2017.
 - Earlier this year, KRA, the first of many Samsung suppliers that will be coming to Newberry County, opened its doors, This company began with 54 employees and now has 110. By the summer of 2021, its building in the Mid-Carolina Commerce Park will have tripled in size, and the number of employees will have risen to well over 200.
 - In 2017 the first BMW supplier plant opened in Newberry County. MM Technics, a German metal stamping company, resides in the Mid-Carolina Commerce Park and employs more than 50 workers. BMW X-Series vehicles around the world now contain parts made in Prosperity, S.C.
 - This Council has already taken action to ensure Newberry County's economic development future by obtaining firm purchase options on 218 additional acres across from Mid-Carolina Commerce Park on Highway

773. The property has passed due diligence testing and has been deemed suitable for industrial development.

- Penny Sales Tax History/Piedmont Tech Campus -
 - In 2010, Newberry County Council sponsored a penny sales tax project that made history - it was the first of its kind in South Carolina. Council took an abandoned shopping center and turned it into a spectacular technical college campus. This Council had to change state law to do this. The campus now allows for the completion of a degree in mechatronics, which is the gold standard for industrial workplace education. In 2013, the new Piedmont Tech Campus in Newberry won a statewide competition among county projects.
- Law Enforcement and Public Safety -
 - For the 2016 penny sales tax, you successfully sponsored the new 800 MHz emergency services radio system, which ended decades of patchwork emergency services communications and made citizens, law enforcement, and emergency first responders far safer.
 - Our Sheriff's Department was housed in prefab mobile units until 2014. Without raising the tax levy to do it - using \$3.5 million of cash - you restored the old armory building on Wilson Road to serve as the new law enforcement headquarters for Newberry County, and you added to it a state-of-the-art dispatch, communications, and emergency operations center.
 - One year ago, you took decisive action when the Sheriff's Department could not find enough deputies to staff law enforcement in Newberry County. Experienced personnel were going to work in other counties. Trained new hires were impossible to find at the wages Newberry County was paying. Council approved a 16% increase in law enforcement payroll - including a \$7,000 pay raise for new certified deputies - and helped the Sheriff cure this problem. For months now, the Newberry County Sheriff's Department has been fully staffed and morale within the department has greatly improved.
 - In 2019, you established the Newberry County Emergency Services Training Grounds at the old Newberry County Fairgrounds and provided \$100,000 for facility improvements there.
 - Since 2008, Council has consistently funded a rolling lease-purchase program for fire, rescue, and hazmat services. Since that time, emergency services have been provided with more than \$2.5 million in new trucks and other equipment.

- In FY 15-16, you began funding a stipend for firefighters and other first responders that pays these volunteers \$500 per year to help offset costs they incur and thank them for their dedication.

Mr. Livingston and Mr. Scurry thanked Mr. Koon, Mr. Stockman, Mr. Cain and Dr. Rucker for their service to Newberry County.

10.Appointments

No appointments.

11. Committee Reports

a. Economic Development Committee 12/7/2020 - Kara Cannon, Deputy Director of Economic Development

In the absence of Rick Farmer (due to illness), Ms. Cannon updated Council as to economic development matters including project development and project updates.

b. Finance Committee 12/15/2020 - Debbie Cromer, Finance Director

Ms. Cromer advised the items discussed at that meeting were covered by David Enzastiga in the audit presented to Council.

12.Executive Session (if needed)

Not needed.

13.Public Comments

No comments from the public.

14. Comments/Requests from County Administrator

No comments.

15. Comments/Requests from Council Members

Mr. Scurry - enjoyed working with the council members leaving tonight. They are dedicated people (inaudible).

Dr. Rucker - served on many boards, and this has been the best experience. The Council, Administrator and employees made her so proud. Council has worked for the most part well together. This Council has talked through differences and came to decisions, and that is the way government should work. The other elected officials have worked well with the Council. She was extremely proud of the Administrator, Wayne Adams. He means so much to this county. She considers this Council true friends and will miss them. They have taught her so much. Her prayers will always be for Newberry County and that the new Council will make the County even stronger.

Mr. Cain - His constituents have allowed him to represent them for 8 years. There is still a lot of work and improvement to be done. He recognized 3 professions during this pandemic: (1) underpaid teachers; (2) first responders, i.e., fire, rescue, EMS) and (3) Sheriff and his department. He congratulated Todd Johnson and wished him well. He also requested prayers for Travis Reeder as he recovers from Covid.

Mr. Reeder sent a message to Mr. Adams - he hates he is unable to be here tonight but has truly enjoyed working with each of these committed members of Council. He wished them success and will miss working with all of them.

Mr. Stockman - District 2 allowed him to be their voice for the past 12 years, and he will miss it. It has been an honor and privilege for which he will always be grateful. He has truly enjoyed working with his fellow Council members, Administrator and staff. Council members have worked hard to make sure Newberry County remains a great place to live, work and raise a family. He wished Mary Arrowood well.

Mr. Koon - was very proud to have served on Council and thanked the people for giving him 12 years. They have given him something he will carry with him the rest of his life. He prays the new Council will work as well as the 4 leaving Council members have. They are leaving the county in a greater shape. He thanked the Administrator, staff and employees for all their hard work. In closing he used adapted a saying from Red Skeleton - God bless Newberry County and the USA.

Mr. Livingston - It's hard to see people you have worked with leave and you will be missed. Some of the things we have done over the past years, you were all a part of that. Your legacy will continue. A lot of sacrifices are made for Newberry County. We are all family-oriented. None of you can leave tonight without feeling extremely proud of the accomplishments. Thank you each and every one.

16. Future Meetings

- a. County Council - 1/6/2021, 6:00 p.m.
- b. County Council - 1/20/2021, 6:00 p.m.
- c. Public Safety & Courts - 1/25/2021, 6:00 p.m.

17. Adjournment

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

Mr. Livingston declared the meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

Henry H. Livingston, III, Chairman

Susan C. Fellers, Clerk to Council

Approved:_____