

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES
February 21, 2024**

Newberry County Council met on Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at 6:06 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: Todd Johnson, Chairman
Robert N. Shealy, Vice-Chairman
Leon Fulmer Jr., Council Member
Les Hipp, Council Member
Travis Reeder, Council Member
Johnny Mack Scurry, Council Member
Karl Sease, Council Member
Jeff Shacker, County Administrator
Joanie Winters, County Attorney
Karen Brehmer, Deputy County Administrator
Debbie Cromer, Finance Director
Major Robert Dennis, NCSO
Laura Kneece, Coroner
Liz McDonald, Assessor
Eric Nieto, I.T. Director
Michael Pisano, Director of Public Works, Retiring
Josh Rowe, Director of Public Works
Andrew Wigger, Clerk to Council/PIO

MEDIA: Orion Griffin, The Newberry Observer

Mr. Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

Mr. Shealy led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Adoption of Consent Agenda:

- a. Newberry County Council Work Session Minutes – February 7, 2024.
 - b. Newberry County Council Meeting Minutes – February 7, 2024.
 - c. Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes – February 12, 2024
- Mr. Sease made a motion to adopt the minutes; Mr. Reeder provided the second.
 - Mr. Fulmer made a motion to amend the minutes from February 7, 2024, on page 11, from “Mr. Shealy and Mr. Fulmer announced they would abstain from the vote due to a conflict of interest” and revise that to, “Mr. Shealy and Mr. Fulmer announced they would abstain from the vote to eliminate the appearance of a potential conflict of interest.” Mr. Sease provided the second and it was approved 7-0.
 - Council voted 7-0 to approve the minutes as amended.

2. Additions, Deletions & Adoption of the Agenda.

- Mr. Shealy made a motion to adopt the agenda as published; Mr. Sease provided the second and the motion was approved 7-0.

3. Ordinance No. 01-01-2024. An Ordinance to provide for the determination of salaries for county appointed officials other than those appointed by County Council or the County Administrator, and to provide for the regular evaluation of salaries for such officials.

a. Third Reading

- With there being no changes since the second reading, Mr. Shealy made a motion to accept third reading; Mr. Scurry provided the second and the motion was approved 7-0.

4. Ordinance No. 02-01-2024. An Ordinance to adopt the Newberry County 2023-2033 Comprehensive Plan as mandated by the South Carolina Local Government Comprehensive Planning Enabling Act of 1994, as amended; and to provide for the repeal of all prior Comprehensive Plans and Ordinances.

a. Public Hearing

- Mr. Johnson declared the public hearing open. With no one signing up or standing up to speak, Mr. Johnson declared the public hearing closed.

b. Second Reading

- Mr. Sease made a motion to approve second reading; Mr. Shealy provided the second and the motion was approved 7-0.

5. Consideration of a motion to accept a surety bond for Northshore Road located within Edgewater Shores Subdivision - Mike Pisano, Public Works Director.

- Mr. Johnson introduced Mr. Pisano and said they will surely miss him as Mr. Pisano is preparing for retirement.
- Mr. Pisano then introduced Mr. Rowe as his replacement and said he is certainly capable and comes with 18 years of experience from DOT and was Residence Maintenance Engineer in Greenville for the last eight.
- Mr. Pisano said they received a request from Edgewater Shores Development, the developer extended Northshore Road for a distance of 795 feet. The existing road is already paved in that development, as are the rest of the roads, this is just a continuation of the roadway to Edgewater Drive.

- The developer, Mr. Cooper, posted a surety bond in the amount of \$11,250 and is requesting the roadway be taken into the county system. Mr. Cooper also provided third party testing results that show the road was laid in accordance with Newberry County Ordinances from a depth of an inch and a half at the shallowest to two inches in depth. They are also dedicating a 50-foot-wide right-of-way which is sufficient for the drainage. This is a 20-foot-wide road, overall.
 - Mr. Reeder asked if anyone opposed it, Mr. Pisano said this is a new development and they are selling parcels off on that road.
 - Mr. Shealy made a motion to accept the surety bond for Northshore Road; Mr. Reeder provided the second and the motion was approved 7-0.
6. Ordinance No. 02-02-2024. An Ordinance authorizing the acceptance of Northshore Road located within Edgewater Shores Subdivision into the Newberry County Public Road System – Michael Pisano, Public Works Director.
- a. First Reading
- Mr. Pisano said the length of time for the surety bond is always 24 months from the date of completion and they have made sure that goes two years concurrent and not from the date of acceptance.
 - Mr. Hipp asked Mr. Pisano if they needed those two years incorporated in the wording of the Ordinance. Mr. Pisano said it is on the bond contract.
 - Mr. Hipp made a motion to approve first reading; Mr. Scurry provided the second and the motion as approved 7-0.
7. Consideration of a motion to approve the purchase of a 2024 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 Crew Cab WT 4x4 in the amount of \$50,883 for the Newberry County Coroner's Office – Laura Kneece, Newberry County Coroner.

- Ms. Kneece said this vehicle would replace 2017 2500 Chevrolet Silverado that was in a vehicle collision with a ditch and drainage cement line that occurred on December 31, 2023.
- Ms. Kneece said the county has been working with the insurance company and they have totaled out that vehicle and per the recommended payment of the value of the vehicle, the county will receive \$28,649.17. Per State Contract with Love Chevrolet, the purchase of the Crew Cab is set at \$50,883.
- This would be a difference of \$22,233.83, per Ms. Kneece's calculations.
- Ms. Kneece said they are operating with one vehicle, at this time, and there have been multiple times they have had to go to numerous scenes and families wait for them to get there or she has been driving her personal vehicle to get there in a timely manner.
- Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Shacker if this was going to come out of Contingency; Mr. Shacker answered in the affirmative.
- Mr. Shealy asked if they have something mounted in the back of that; Ms. Kneece said yes, and she did reach out to see if they had any Dodges available of similar make and model as well as Fords and she could not find any and this was the only one they could find.
- Mr. Johnson asked if most of the equipment would be transferred since it was more axle/frame damage. Ms. Kneece answered in the affirmative and said she has already spoken to Vector and Kibler's Body Shop, that did the initial evaluation of the truck, and all the equipment is still able to be used.
- Mr. Sease made a motion to accept the recommendation to purchase the truck with the difference coming from Contingency; Mr. Reeder provided the second and the motion was approved 7-0.

8. County Council may take action(s) following executive session on matters discussed during executive session.

- Mr. Sease made a motion to approve the county administrator moving forward on the land acquisition around Mawson's Way; Mr. Shealy provided the second and the motion was approved 7-0.

9. Appointments.

- There were no appointments.

10. Public Comments.

- There were no public comments.

11. Comments/Requests from County Administrator.

- Mr. Shacker said they have had some movement on projects, one being the real estate acquisition council discussed, which is economic development focused. The county has also received revised estimates for the CPST projects, an important next step in the process, so the county is now positioned to issue the bonds, the proceeds of which will fund the projects, those discussions are happening now with the bond attorney. The CBDG project in Whitmire, the sidewalk project along Gary Street and Suber Town Road, is moving forward as well.
- Mr. Shacker said they are in budget season, and they have the first Budget Work Sessions at the end of March.
- Mr. Hipp asked Mr. Shacker to provide council with the original estimates and the most recent estimates (CPST) by email so they don't have to wait for the next meeting. Mr. Johnson added that he thinks those will help give them a little bit more of a picture and then on bid day they will have the final answer to how close it was.

12. Comments/Requests from Council.

- Mr. Scurry said so good to be here and everything went well.
- Mr. Reeder asked if a decision was made on the time for the Executive Committee meeting on Monday; the meeting has been moved up to 5 p.m.
- Mr. Sease said keep up the good work to administration staff and council members working together.
- Mr. Hipp said welcome aboard to Mr. Rowe.
- Mr. Fulmer also welcomed Mr. Rowe and said he is looking forward to working together and said he appreciates everyone working together on council and it is a great pleasure to serve the citizens of Newberry County.
- Mr. Shealy said he knows Mr. Rowe will do a great job. He said keep the community in your prayers because there are some bad things happening.


13. Future meetings:

- a. Executive Committee – February 26 at 5 p.m.
- b. Newberry County Council Work Session – March 6 at 5 p.m.
- c. Newberry County Council – March 6 at 6 p.m.
- d. Finance Committee – March 11 at 6 p.m.
- e. Newberry County Council Work Session – March 20 at 5 p.m.
- f. Newberry County Council – March 20 at 6 p.m.
- g. Newberry County Council Budget Work Session – March 26 at 5 p.m.
- h. Newberry County Council Budget Work Session – March 27 at 5 p.m.
- i. Good Friday – Offices Closed – March 29.

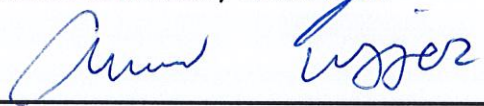
14. Adjournment.

- Mr. Shealy made a motion to adjourn; Mr. Fulmer provided the second and the motion was approved 7-0 at 6:25 p.m.

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL



Todd Johnson, Chairman



Andrew Wigger, Clerk to Council

Minutes Approved: 3-06-2024