

NEWBERRY COUNTY ACCOMMODATIONS TAX ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
August 13, 2025

The Newberry County Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee met on Wednesday, August 13, 2025, at 5:00 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: Ernest Shealy, Chair
Sharon Graham, Committee Member
Tammy Kitchens, Committee Member
Joe McDonald, Committee Member
Debbie Cromer, Finance Director
Andrew Wigger, Clerk to Council/PIO

NOT PRESENT: Scott Bellows, Committee Member
Debra Blizzard, Committee Member
Cindy Long, Committee Member

Mr. Shealy called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

1. Election of Chairman for FY 25-26.

- Mr. McDonald made a motion to re-appoint Mr. Shealy as the chairman for 2025-26; Ms. Graham provided the second and the motion carried 4-0.

2. Approval of minutes – August 19, 2024.

- Ms. Kitchens made a motion to accept the minutes as presented; Mr. McDonald provided the second and the motion carried 4-0.

3. Consideration of tourism-related funding requests.

- The Committee heard presentations from the following organizations requesting funding from the tourism-related fund, for which \$72,519.97 is available: Ms. Becky White, Newberry Community Players; Stephen Corsini, Ritz Fest; Buddy Jennings, Palmetto Trail; Anne P. Smith, Newberry Opera House; Steven Knapp, Newberry Museum; Michael Stribble, Newberry Law Enforcement Association; Jessie Long, County of Newberry Parks and Recreation; Michelle Long, Visitors Center; Gina Mays Prosperity Business Association.
- Two requesters that applied but not present included the Town of Prosperity and the Whitmire Fall Crawl Yard Sale. Ms. Karen Livingston, Town of Prosperity, provided a letter to the Committee explaining her absence and requesting their consideration of her application.

4. Consideration of promotional-related funding requests.

- The Committee heard presentations from the following organizations requesting funding from the promotional-related fund, for which \$31,142.41 is available: Micah Decker, Capital City Lake Murray Country; Michelle Long, Newberry County Chamber of Commerce; and Gina Mays, Prosperity Business Association.

5. Recommendations by the Committee.

- Ms. Graham made a motion to distribute the promotional related funding, as a percentage, as the following: Capital City Lake Murray Country 35% (10,899.84), Newberry County Chamber of Commerce 45% (14,014.09), and Prosperity Business Association 20% (\$6,228.41); Ms. Kitchens provided the second and the motion carried 4-0.
- Ms. Kitchens made a motion to distribute the Tourism Funding to the following events/organizations as follows: Newberry Community

Players \$819, 4th of July Fireworks (Newberry Law Enforcement Association) \$2,500, Newberry Opera House \$19,500, County of Newberry Parks and Recreation \$7,000, Visitors Center \$14,000.97, Whitmire Fall Crawl \$200, Prosperity Hoppin' (Town of Prosperity) \$5,000, Shoppers' Walk (Prosperity Business Association) \$3,500, The Newberry Museum \$10,000, Palmetto Conservation Foundation \$5,000, Ritz Fest \$5,000.

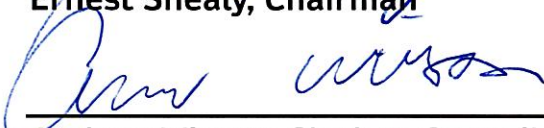
6. Adjournment.

- Mr. McDonald made a motion to adjourn; Ms. Kitchens provided the second and the motion carried 4-0 at 7:00 p.m.

**NEWBERRY COUNTY ACCOMMODATIONS TAX
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**



Ernest Shealy, Chairman



Andrew Wigger, Clerk to Council

Minutes Approved: 8/13/2026