

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES
February 18, 2026**

Newberry County Council met on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 6:00 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: Robert Shealy, Chairman
Karl Sease, Vice-Chairman
Leon Fulmer Jr., Council Member
Todd Johnson, Council Member
Travis Reeder, Council Member
Johnny Mack Scurry, Council Member
Stuart Smith, Council Member
Ted Luckadoo, County Administrator
Jeff Shacker, County Administrator
Joanie Winters, County Attorney
Sheriff Lee Foster, NCSO
Eric Nieto, IT Director
Captain Michael Stribble, NCSO
Andrew Wigger, Clerk to Council/PIO

Mr. Sease called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Reeder led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance in place of Mr. Johnson.

1. Adoption of Consent Agenda:

- a. Newberry County Council Meeting Minutes – January 18, 2026, February 4, 2026.
- b. Newberry County Public Safety and Courts Committee – February 9, 2026.
 - Mr. Scurry made a motion to accept the minutes as presented; Mr. Smith provided the second and the motion carried 7-0.

2. Additions, Deletions & Adoption of the Agenda.

- Mr. Sease made a motion to accept the agenda as presented; Mr. Reeder provided the second and the motion carried 7-0.

3. Special Recognition:

a. Employee Recognition:

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------|------|
| • Chase Goodwin | 5 years | NCSO |
| • Haley Gantt | 10 years | NCSO |

- Mr. Luckadoo recognized the above employees for their service to Newberry County, highlighting their accomplishments and pivotal moments while working for Newberry County.

4. FEMA Reimbursement from Hurricane Helene Update from Chris Wood of Berquist Consulting.

- Mr. Wood provided an update on repairs from damage caused by Hurricane Helene including Community Hall, Newberry County Airport, Lynch's Woods Park, roads and bridges, etc.
- Mr. John Berquist reviewed and went over the financials of the reimbursements. He said a lot of these disasters of this magnitude take years before counties are closed out with paperwork and done with FEMA. He said the county has not had a lot of eligibility concerns, as far as getting reimbursed.
- Mr. Shealy said he knows it is a challenge when dealing with entities like this and it is not a quick process.
- Mr. Fulmer said at this point he understands that everything is intended to be reimbursed at 100% of cost but is there any chance that it would change in the future. Mr. Berquist said he has been doing this a long time, and he has never seen the cost share get cut back or changed.
- Mr. Fulmer asked if the county is still looking at 10 years out, based on the size projects here for completion; Mr. Berquist said he does not

think so and the complex projects in Newberry County are bridges, and they cannot start work until they agree with FEMA on scopes of work and cost and go through environmental reviews, he believes bridges will be the longest projects. Mr. Berquist clarified that the 10 years is more so the closeout for paperwork.

- Mr. Luckadoo said one challenge they may face with the bridges is the limited number of contractors that do bridge repair and contractors are not in need for work right now due to how many bridges were damaged and need repair not just in South Carolina, but North Carolina as well.

5. Ordinance No. 02-01-2026. Amending and Restating an Ordinance Entitled “An Ordinance to Provide for the Issuance and Sale of a General Obligation Bond of Newberry County, South Carolina not Exceeding \$405,000 in Principal Amount, to Prescribe the Purposes for Which the Proceeds of Said Bond Shall be Expended, to Provide for the Payment of Said Bond, and Other Matters Relating Thereto.”

a. Second Reading.

- Mr. Shacker said there were no changes, but reminded council that in the previous bond ordinance there was a post-sale seven-day notice requirement that had to be advertised seven days prior before you could close on the bonds. This ordinance allows the county to do a pre-sale notice, to close quickly after the sale.
- Mr. Reeder made a motion to accept second reading; Mr. Smith provided the second and the motion carried 7-0.

6. Executive Session:

a. Economic Development Matter(s):

i. Discussion of matters related to *Project Nova 2025* pursuant to SC Code of Laws Section 30-4-70(a)(5).

- Mr. Sease made a motion to go into Executive Session; Mr. Reeder provided the second.

- Mr. Johnson said this is the first time they had an Executive Session during the meeting in a long time and reminded everyone that they would make every effort to get back as quickly as possible.
- The motion carried 7-0. Newberry County Council went into Executive Session at 6:38 p.m.
- Mr. Sease made a motion to come out of Executive Session; Mr. Reeder provided the second and the motion carried 7-0.
- Newberry County Council came out of Executive Session at 6:48 p.m.

7. Ordinance No. 02-02-2026. An Ordinance Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Fee-In-Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxes Agreement by and Between Newberry County, South Carolina and *Project Nova 2025* to Provide for Payment of a Fee-In-Lieu of Taxes; Authorizing Certain Infrastructure Credits; and Other Related Matters.

a. First Reading.

- Mr. Sease made a motion to approve first reading; Mr. Smith provided the second and the motion carried 7-0.

8. Appointments.

- There were no appointments.

9. Public Comments (Three Minutes).

- There were no public comments.

10. Comments/Requests from County Administrator.

- Mr. Luckadoo said FEMA has been evaluating the county's floodplain management program since 2022, after four years and a community assistance visit by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, the county was notified that the program is in compliance and the county is appropriately and effectively regulating development in special flood hazard areas. He thanked Ms. Katie Werts and her staff for everything they did to get this done, but

also, DNR and FEMA for their assistance during this process.

- Mr. Luckadoo said over the past couple of weeks, Mr. Shacker and other staff members have been bringing him up to speed, including on a multitude of projects. Additionally, he has been meeting with department heads, his goal has been to go into their departments and meet their staff members and understand more about the departments and what their needs are. He has also been meeting with various consultants to understand the services they are providing to Newberry County. He has also been trying to filter in lunch meetings with other leaders from around the county. He has also learned a lot about the Economic Development side and the impact those agreements have on the county.
- Mr. Luckadoo said his time knowing Mr. Shacker has not just been in Newberry County, but with when Mr. Shacker was in the municipal association, as he was in municipal government, and Mr. Shacker was instrumental early in his career. He congratulated him on his retirement and wished him the best.
 - Mr. Shealy added that Mr. Shacker will be dearly missed as an administrator and a friend.

11. Comments/Requests from Council.

- Mr. Reeder said it sounds like there will be a smooth transition and that is what they were looking for. He also congratulated the two individuals recognized during the meeting.
- Mr. Shealy asked everyone to keep the community in their prayers as a lot of sickness is going on. He also said they are keeping Mr. Fulmer and his family in their prayers after the passing of his father.

12. Future meetings:

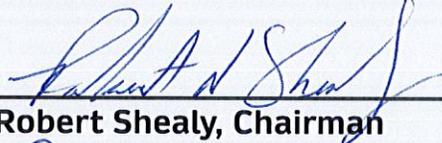
- a. Newberry County Council Work Session – March 4 at 5 p.m.
- b. Newberry County Council – March 4 at 6 p.m.
- c. Newberry County Council Work Session – March 18 at 5 p.m.
- d. Newberry County Council – March 18 at 6 p.m.
- e. Newberry County Economic Development Committee – March 23 at 5 p.m.

- f. Newberry County Council Budget Work Session – March 24 at 5 p.m.
- g. Newberry County Council Budget Work Session – March 25 at 5 p.m.

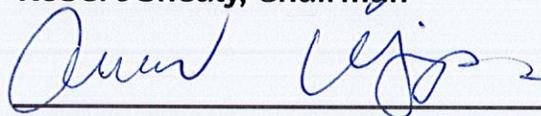
13. Adjournment.

- Mr. Smith made a motion to adjourn; Mr. Johnson provided the second and the motion carried 7-0.
- Newberry County Council adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL



Robert Shealy, Chairman



Andrew Wigger, Clerk to Council

Minutes Approved: 3-4-2026