

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL WORK SESSION**  
**MINUTES**  
**April 15, 2026**

Newberry County Council met on Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Courthouse Annex, 1309 College Street, Newberry, SC, for a Work Session.

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

PRESENT: Karl Sease, Vice-Chairman  
Leon Fulmer, Council Member  
Todd Johnson, Council Member (virtual)  
Travis Reeder, Council Member  
Johnny Mack Scurry, Council Member  
Stuart Smith, Council Member  
Ted Luckadoo, County Administrator  
Joanie Winters, County Attorney  
Karen Brehmer, Deputy County Administrator  
Debbie Cromer, Finance Director  
Rick Farmer, Economic Development Director  
Jessie Long, Economic Development Coordinator  
Tommy Long, Emergency Services Director  
Eric Nieto, IT Director  
Andrew Wigger, Clerk to Council/PIO

ABSENT: Robert Shealy, Chairman

1. Call to order: Karl Sease, Vice-Chairman.
  - Mr. Sease called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
  
2. Discussion of the purchase of 800 MHz radios with remaining 2025-26 Lease Purchase Funds.

- Mr. Luckadoo said Newberry County had lease purchase, for \$2.1 million, that bought the fire truck and two ambulances, there was \$60,000 remaining after said purchases. After speaking to the bond attorney, the county decided to utilize that money toward other needs, in order to do that, the county has to pass a Resolution because they are adding new equipment that was not in the original ordinance.
- Staff went back through the budget, specifically emergency services, to see what was cut out of the budget. Mr. Long requested new 800 MHz radios that were not funded, the county received a quote for 12 new radios at just a little over \$59,000 and it is staff's recommendation to pass the Resolution to purchase those radios.

### 3. Discussion of the proposed 2026-27 Newberry County Budget.

- Mr. Luckadoo said following the Budget Work Sessions, some questions were raised regarding increases in fees for physicals. At that time, it was a total of \$125,000 -- for clarification it was a total increase of \$160,000 in the upcoming budget when you combine fire and rescue.
- Staff discussed the increase, right now OSHA does not mandate that physicals have to be done, but it is anticipated down the road physicals will be mandated. Mr. Long went to Newberry Health to work with them to see if there is another tier of physicals that can be done that is not as extensive.
- With that, staff still wanted to increase that budgeted amount, so they are prepared when the mandate comes, but they took out \$100,000 and put it toward other budgetary uses.
- Those funds were reallocated as follows: \$30,000 will go to give a raise to the recycling attendants from the Council on Aging, \$27,670 will go to make a part-time position full time, \$42,933 would go capital for fire control for more air packs.

4. Executive Session:

- i. Receipt of Legal Advice and Discussion related to Mediation for Economic Development Projects in M CCP. Rick Farmer, Economic Development Director.
  - ii. Discussion of matter related to *Project Altair* pursuant to S.C. Code of Laws Section 30-4-70(a)(5). Rick Farmer, Economic Development Director.
- Mr. Reeder made a motion to go into Executive Session; Mr. Scurry provided the second and the motion carried 6-0.
  - Newberry County Council went into Executive Session at 5:07 p.m.
  - Mr. Johnson left the meeting during Executive Session.
  - Mr. Reeder made a motion to come out of Executive Session; Mr. Fulmer provided the second and the motion carried 5-0.
  - Newberry County Council came out of Executive Session at 5:42 p.m.

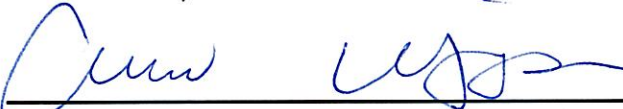
5. Adjournment.

- Mr. Reeder made a motion to adjourn; Mr. Smith provided the second and the motion carried 5-0.
- The Newberry County Council Work Session adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL**



**Karl Sease, Vice-Chairman**



**Andrew Wigger, Clerk to Council**

Minutes Approved: 5-6-26