

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES
July 15, 2026

Newberry County Council met on Wednesday, July 15, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Newberry County Council Chambers at 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, Council Member
Todd Johnson, Council Member
Travis Reeder, Council Member
Johnny Mack Scurry, Council Member
Stuart Smith, Council Member
Ted Luckadoo, County Administrator
Joanie Winters, County Attorney
Karen Brehemer, Deputy County Administrator
Major Ben Chapman, NCSO
Debbie Cromer, Finance Director
Rick Farmer, Economic Development Director
Jessie Long, Economic Development Coordinator
Eric Nieto, IT Director
Hon. Kelly Nobles, Probate Judge
Andrew Wigger, Clerk to Council/PIO

1. Call to order: Robert Shealy, Chairman.
 - Mr. Shealy called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.
2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance: Karl Sease, Vice-Chair.
 - Mr. Sease led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Adoption of Minutes:

- a. Newberry County Economic Development Committee Minutes – June 15, 2026.
- b. Newberry County Council Work Session Minutes – June 17, 2026.
- c. Newberry County Council Minutes – June 17, 2026.

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

4. Approval of Agenda.

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

5. Proclamations/Resolutions:

- a. Proclamation recognizing July as Parks and Recreation Month in Newberry County.
- Mr. Sease made a motion to accept the Proclamation; Mr. Smith provided the second and the motion carried 7-0.
 - Employees of the Newberry County Recreation Department and volunteers accepted a copy of the Proclamation.

6. Administrator's Report:

- a. Employee Recognition: Kelly Nobles (35 years Probate Court).
- Mr. Luckadoo recognized Ms. Nobles for her service to Newberry County, highlighting her accomplishments and pivotal moments while working for Newberry County.
- b. Project Updates.
- Mr. Luckadoo announced that the county received a S.C. Department of Environmental Services Hazardous Waste Management Grant, which will be utilized to purchase a full-size excavator for Public Works. The grant award is \$250,000 and the county will match \$30,000.
 - There will be a Statewide Special Primary Election, following the death of Senator Graham, the primary will be Tuesday, August 11.

- The bid for the roadway extension and pad within the Mid-Carolina Commerce Park should be out by July 23 and should be brought to Newberry County Council in September. Bids were opened for the Newberry Amphitheater project, and that should be brought back to council on August 5. Staff should be bringing the Old Gallman School interior project back to council in August, as well.
- Four Public Engagement Sessions were held for the Safe Streets for All Safety Action Plan. The consultants were happy with the turnout at each one of the sessions. The consultants will compile a report based on the data and a second round of engagement meetings will be held later this year.
- Mr. Luckadoo thanked Sheriff Lee Foster, the leadership team at the NCSO, and all of the 911 dispatchers for their recent hard work and action. On July 6, Newberry County took a beating with lighting strikes, with the Newberry County 911 building taking a direct lighting strike, causing significant damage to the equipment. He also thanked Motorola for responding quickly.

7. Chairman's Comments.

- Mr. Shealy echoed Mr. Luckadoo's statements about Newberry County's dispatch and said the public wouldn't have noticed because despite what was going on, as they didn't miss a call.

8. Public Hearings:

- Ordinance 06-01-2026 to provide for a limited and temporary moratorium on Data Centers in Newberry County and invoking application of the Pending Ordinance Doctrine.
- The following residents spoke in favor of the moratorium, and against data centers, Vicki Bilka and Amanda Moss.

9. Public Comments Regarding Items on the Agenda (three minutes).

- There were no public comments.

10. Old Business:

- a. Third Reading – Ordinance 06-01-2026 to provide for a limited and temporary moratorium on Data Centers in Newberry County and invoking application of the Pending Ordinance Doctrine.
- Mr. Sease made a motion to accept third reading; Mr. Reeder provided the second.
- Regarding the language in the Ordinance where it states, “no longer than 12 months following the adoption of the Ordinance.” Mr. Fulmer asked for clarification if they can extend this, if they want to.
 - Ms. Winters said they would just amend the Ordinance, if they so choose.
- The motion carried 7-0.

11. New Business:

- a. Ordinance 07-01-2026 to provide for the issuance and sale of a general obligation bond, not exceeding \$650,000 principal amount, to provide for the payment of 2014 Installment Purchase Revenue bond and 2026 Lease Purchase – Title Only.
- Mr. Johnson made a motion to accept first reading; Mr. Smith provided the second and the motion carried 7-0.

12. Appointments:

- a. Newberry County Memorial Hospital Board – District 5.
- Mr. Smith announced that his nomination has declined and he will continue to search.
- Mr. Johnson said Mr. George Oxner, one of his Newberry Hospital Board appointments, has submitted his resignation and he made a motion to accept the resignation; Mr. Sease provided the second and the motion carried 7-0.
- Mr. Johnson made a motion to appoint Mr. David Andrews Sr.; Mr. Smith provided the second and the motion carried 7-0.
- Mr. Johnson made a motion to appoint Mr. David Andrews Jr. to the Board of Rescue Squads, to replace Mr. Andrews Sr.; Mr. Scurry provided the second and the motion carried 7-0.

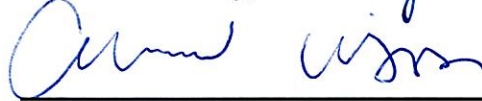
13. Adjournment.

- Mr. Johnson made a motion to adjourn; Mr. Smith provided the second and the motion carried 7-0.
- Newberry County Council adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL



Robert Shealy, Chairman



Andrew Wigger, Clerk to Council

Minutes Approved: 8-5-2020