

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES
September 2, 2026**

Newberry County Council met on Wednesday, September 2, 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: 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 Brehmer, Deputy County Administrator
Major Ben Chapman, NCSO
Debbie Cromer, Finance Director
Sheriff Lee Foster, NCSO
Donna Lominack, Auditor
Melinda Long, Deputy Auditor
Melissa Mote, Assessor
Eric Nieto, IT Director
Karen Lindler Smith, Treasurer
Katie Werts, Director of Planning and Zoning
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 6:00 p.m.
- Mr. Sease announced that Mr. Shealy was out of town for a family trip.

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance: Leon Fulmer, Councilman.

- Mr. Fulmer led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Adoption of Minutes:

- a. Newberry County Council Work Session Minutes – August 19, 2026.
- b. Newberry County Council Minutes – August 19, 2026.
- c. Newberry County Economic Development Committee – August 24, 2026.
- Mr. Reeder made a motion to accept the minutes as presented; Mr. Scurry provided the second and the motion carried 6-0.

4. Approval of Agenda.

- Mr. Luckadoo said there was a scrivener's error in regard to the agenda regarding item 8D, as that public hearing was advertised to take place on September 16.
- Mr. Reeder made a motion to amend the agenda and remove item 8D; Mr. Scurry provided the second and the motion carried 6-0.

5. Administrator's Report:

- a. Project Updates.
- Mr. Luckadoo reminded everyone that Monday, September 7, 2026, is Labor Day and Newberry County offices would be closed.
- Mr. Luckadoo reported that Senator Ronnie Cromer put in a number of earmarks for Newberry County (in the State Budget). This included a \$787,000 earmark for the engineering and design for the future joint city and county public safety facility that is being proposed on 219 near the interstate. The second earmark was for \$500,000 for the Newberry County Sheriff's Office toward the new record management system. The final earmark was a local Rosenwald School receiving \$20,000.
- Mr. Luckadoo thanked Senator Cromer for entering those earmarks into the State Budget. Sheriff Foster also recognized Sally Foster, with the S.C. Sheriff's Association, and Cindy Konduras, with the Internal Order of the Police of South Carolina, worked hard to make sure the public safety side received the funds.

6. Chairman's Comments.

- No comments.

7. Public Appearances: Newberry County Auditor Donna Lominack – Setting of Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Tax Levy.

- Ms. Lominack recommended the levy as follows: County Council levy 122.6 mills for County Ordinary Purposes; County General Obligation Bonds of 2020 A – 0.5 mill; County General Obligation Bonds of 2020 B – 0.2 mill; County General Obligation Bonds of 2018 C – 0.3 mill; Lease Purchase- 1.2 mills; the County Council levy 6.2 mills for Community Services: for a total 2026 levy for County Purposes of 131.0 mills.
- For School Purposes - the Newberry County Board of Education has levied 180.0 mills for School Ordinary Purposes for the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year. For School General Obligation Bonds of 2026, 53.0 mills for a total 2026 levy for School Purposes of 233.0 mills.
- The total levy for County Purposes is 131.0 mills and for School Purposes is 233.0 mills. The total 2026 Tax Levy for both County and School Purposes is 364.0 mills.
- The anticipated value of one mill for the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year for County Purposes is \$201,710 for School Purposes (Bonds) is \$209,064 and for School Purposes (School Operating) is \$132,587.
- Mr. Reeder said he applauds her and the county for all they do every year. He said she comes up with these millages, and they don't raise things much. Ms. Lominack said she applauds Newberry County Council for holding the tax rate like it is by doing the budget.
- Mr. Johnson said this council made a decision last year, with reassessment going on, to hold the line on taxes even though things were increasing. He said they made the decision, but the auditor and staff made it happen.

8. Public Hearings:

- a. Ordinance 08-01-2026. Authorizing the Execution of an Equipment Lease-Purchase Agreement in an Amount Not Exceeding \$2,475,000 for the Purchase of 1 Fire Truck, 2 Ambulances, 1 Dump Truck, One Trailer, and One Patching Machine.

- No comments.

b. Ordinance 08-03-2026. Rezoning property at US Highway 76, Little Mountain consisting of 6.33 acres from RS-Single Family Residential to R2-Rural. (TMS No. 640-87).

- No comments.

c. Ordinance 08-04-2026. Rezoning property at 79 Rader Road, Prosperity consisting of 3.025 acres from GC-General Commercial to R2-Rural. (TMS No. 651-43).

- No comments.

d. ~~Ordinance 08-05-2026. An ordinance authorizing a multi-county industrial/business park agreement between Newberry County and Greenwood County for property owned by Project Pearl Dust or its affiliates or assigns, and other matters related thereto.~~

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

- Mr. Jim Heilman spoke on item 11, Resolution 06-2026, a vision Zero Policy for Newberry County committing to the elimination of traffic fatalities and serious injuries on the County's Roadway System.
- Mr. Heilman made note of some of the items within the policy: "Building and sustaining leadership, collaboration, and accountability – especially among a diverse group of stakeholders to include transportation professionals, policy makers, public health officials, police and community members; Prioritizing equity and community engagement." Mr. Heilman asked does the county not have leadership now, like Newberry County Council.
- He asked about the portion addressing "managing safe speed limits" and asked if that is not done so already.
- The part of the Resolution regarding achieving "zero traffic deaths and serious injury," he asked if that is even probable.
- Regarding the portion of the Resolution of "prioritizing equity and community engagement," he asked if they actually had to have people from various races to actually be part of this to make it work.

- He said what the Vision Zero Policy really is, a long-complicated document from Sweden back in 1997, and yes, they have lower traffic fatalities than they did in 1998. However, he said he does not know how you can make that work in this county.

10. Old Business:

- a. Third Reading – Ordinance 08-01-2026. Authorizing the Execution of an Equipment Lease-Purchase Agreement in an Amount Not Exceeding \$2,475,000 for the Purchase of 1 Fire Truck, 2 Ambulances, 1 Dump Truck, One Trailer, and One Patching Machine.
- Mr. Johnson made a motion to accept third reading; Mr. Smith provided the second and the motion carried 6-0.
- b. Third Reading – Ordinance 08-02-2026 Amending the Text of Newberry County Code of Ordinances Relating to Single Site Burials.
- Mr. Reeder made a motion to accept third reading; Mr. Smith provided the second and the motion carried 6-0.
- c. Second Reading - Ordinance 08-03-2026. Rezoning property at US Highway 76, Little Mountain consisting of 6.33 acres from RS-Single Family Residential to R2-Rural. (TMS No. 640-87).
- Mr. Fulmer made a motion to accept second reading; Mr. Scurry provided the second and the motion carried 6-0.
- d. Second Reading - Ordinance 08-04-2026. Rezoning property at 79 Rader Road, Prosperity consisting of 3.025 acres from GC-General Commercial to R2-Rural. (TMS No. 651-43).
- Mr. Reeder made a motion to accept second reading; Mr. Scurry provided the second and the motion carried 6-0.
- e. Second Reading – Ordinance 08-05-2026. An ordinance authorizing a multi-county industrial/business park agreement between Newberry County and

Greenwood County for property owned by Project Pearl Dust or its affiliates or assigns, and other matters related thereto.

- Mr. Scurry made a motion to accept second reading; Mr. Johnson provided the second and the motion carried 6-0.

11. New Business:

a. Resolution 06-2026. A Resolution establishing a Vision Zero Policy for Newberry County and committing to the elimination of traffic fatalities and serious injuries on the County's Roadway System.

- Mr. Luckadoo said to be eligible for implementation funding for the Safe Streets for All, an adoption of this Resolution is a requirement.
- Mr. Johnson made a motion to accept the Resolution; Mr. Smith provided the second and the motion carried 6-0.

12. County Council may take action on matters discussed during executive session during the 5 p.m. meeting.

- No action was taken.

13. Appointments:

a. Library Board – District 5.

- Mr. Smith nominated Ms. Karen Johnson; Mr. Johnson provided the second and the motion carried 6-0.

b. GLEAMNS Human Resources Commission:

- Mr. Reeder recused himself from both votes as he is the recommendation to be appointed to the "Private Sector" seat.

a. Low-Income Sector.

- Mr. Johnson made motion to accept the recommendation of Carlton Kinard; Mr. Scurry provided the second and the motion carried 5-0. (Mr. Reeder recused himself).

b. Private Sector.

- Mr. Johnson made a motion to accept the recommendation of Councilman Travis Reeder; Mr. Scurry provided the second and the motion carried 5-0. (Mr. Reeder recused himself).

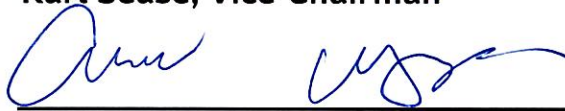
14. Adjournment.

- Mr. Johnson made a motion to adjourn; Mr. Scurry provided the second and the motion carried 6-0.
- Newberry County Council adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL



Karl Sease, Vice-Chairman



Andrew Wigger, Clerk to Council

Minutes Approved: 9-16-2020