NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES
January 17, 2024

Newberry County Council met on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at 6:05 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: Todd Johnson, Chairman
            Robert N. Shealy, Vice-Chairman
            Leon Fulmer Jr., Council Member
            Les Hipp, Council Member
            Travis Reeder, Council Member
            Johnny Mack Scurry, Council Member
            Karl Sease, Council Member
            Jeff Shacker, County Administrator
            Joanie Winters, County Attorney
            Karen Brehmer, Deputy County Administrator
            Captain Ben Chapman, NCSO
            Debbie Cromer, Finance Director
            Major Robert Dennis, NCSO
            Beth Folk, Clerk to Court
            Laura Kneece, Coroner
            Donna Lominack, Auditor
            Tommy Long, Emergency Services Director
            Liz McDonald, Assessor
            Eric Nieto, I.T. Director
            Karen Lindler Smith, Treasurer
            Katie Werts, Director of Planning and Development Services
            Brandon Wicker, Emergency Services Coordinator
            Andrew Wigger, Clerk to Council/PIO

MEDIA: Orion Griffin, The Newberry Observer

Mr. Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Mr. Scurry led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Adoption of Consent Agenda:

    a. Newberry County Council Work Session Minutes – January 3, 2024.
    b. Newberry County Council Meeting Minutes – January 3, 2024.
    c. Newberry County Public Safety Committee Minutes – January 8, 2024.

        • Mr. Shealy made a motion to adopt the minutes as presented; Mr. Reeder provided the second and the motion was approved 7-0.

2. Additions, Deletions & Adoption of the Agenda.

        • Mr. Sease made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented; Mr. Shealy provided the second and the motion was approved 7-0.

3. Recognitions:

    a. Employee Service

        i. Sheriff Lee Foster 35 years -- Sheriff

        • Mr. Shacker recognized Sheriff Foster for his 35 years of continuous service to Newberry County, highlighting his accomplishments and pivotal moments while working for Newberry County.
        • Mr. Shealy said to Sheriff Foster, spectacular job.

- Mr. Reeder said that Sheriff Foster always is there when you need him and always on time.
- Mr. Johnson said he didn't have words, and that Sheriff Foster took a chance on hiring him and that working for the sheriff was one the greatest blessings of his life. He said they raised their kids together, they've been there in good times and bad times, maternity wards, and cemeteries, but they've loved each other through every minute of it. He said there is not a finer man than Sheriff Foster and he loves him as a brother, Brother in Christ and as sheriff of Newberry County.

4. Ordinance No. 12-01-2023. An Ordinance acting on a request to amend the official zoning map established pursuant to Zoning Ordinance No. 12-24-01 as revised and amended by Zoning Ordinance No. 6-11-16 and codified in Chapter 153 of the Newberry County Code of Ordinances, establishes zoning classification and districts so as to rezone one (1) real estate parcel totaling one and twelve hundredths (1.12) acres designated as TMS No. 399-56 from R2-Rural to GC-General Commercial.

    a. Third Reading

        - Mr. Johnson said there were no changes to the ordinance, as notified by staff, and no calls or contacts about the ordinance.
        - Mr. Sease made a motion to approve the third reading; Mr. Shealy provided the second and the motion was approved 7-0.

5. Ordinance No. 12-02-2023. An Ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a Fee-In-Lieu of *Ad Valorem* Taxes and incentive agreement by and between Newberry County, South Carolina, and *Project Palmetto* to provide for payment of a Fee-In-Lieu of Taxes; authorizing certain infrastructure credits; and other related matters.

a. Third Reading

- Mr. Hipp made a motion to approve the third reading; Mr. Sease provided the second and the motion was approved 7-0.

6. Ordinance No. 01-01-2024. An Ordinance to provide for the determination of salaries for county appointed officials other than those appointed by County Council or the County Administrator, and to provide for the regular evaluation of salaries for such officials.

a. First Reading

- Mr. Shacker said the proposed ordinance would adjust the system of compensation for appointed officials, not appointed by Newberry County Council or the county administrator. There are three job classes that fall in that category and five employees in those classes: the three magistrates, the director of veteran's affairs, and the director of voter registration and elections.
- This ordinance will alter the salary progression for those positions. The current schedule has officials in those three classes of employment beginning their tenure at 80% of the maximum salary. At the end of every third year, their salary increases by 5% until they reach the maximum salary. Also, the maximum salary receives an inflationary adjustment.
- This ordinance proposes to reduce the length of time between steps from the current three years to two years and makes the schedule for appointed officials consistent with the salary progression for the county's six elected officials.
- Mr. Hipp made a motion to approve the first reading; Mr. Fulmer provided the second.

- Mr. Shealy said he did not have a problem with the proposed ordinance because it aligns the appointed officials with the elected officials. However, he stressed that the county needs to revisit the compensation study that was started for other Newberry County employees.
- The motion was approved 7-0.

7. Consideration and approval of proposals for Financial Software System for General Ledger (RFP# 2023-17).

   a. Crystal Waldrop, Director of Purchasing.

   - Ms. Waldrop said that they had five firms submit responses to the solicitation for the financial software system for the general ledger, each firm provided a demonstration of their software to the evaluation team which consisted of Karen Brehmer (Deputy County Administrator), Debbie Cromer (Finance Director), Eric Nieto (IT Director), Jeff Shacker (County Administrator), Karen Lindler Smith (Treasurer) and herself.
   - At the conclusion of the demonstrations, the evaluation team members independently scored the vendors based on the evaluation criteria contained in the solicitation. Scores were compiled by Ms. Waldrop and the ranking was based on their composite scores and the ranking was as follows: 1. Tyler, 2. Oracle, 3. Edmunds, 4. Springbrook, 5. Aclarian.
   - Following the evaluation process, Tyler demonstrated their software a second time.
   - Ms. Waldrop said several staff members and committee members reached out to other entities that use Tyler's Munis system for their general ledger, which further affirmed the committee's selection of Tyler as the top ranked firm.
   - Ms. Waldrop said several factors led the committee to recommend Tyler to council such as:
     - Tyler has 36+ years solely focusing on public sector financial software, as well as other software applications

for the public sector, such as payroll/HR, licensing and permitting, work orders and others.

- o Tyler's Munis software appears to have the most user friendly and clean layout.
- o Tyler's solution is web-browser based and displays consistently on browsers for Android and Apple devices.
- o Tyler's solution converts requisitions to purchase orders, as well as allowing the departments to upload documentation to support requests and invoice processing. It has the ability to track warranties on equipment as well.
- o Departments will have the ability to monitor their budgets within the software and the software will allow finance staff to grant permissions to department heads and other members of staff for different stages of the workflow.
- o Vendors can obtain access to register and upload invoices.
- o Tyler's has a large support division with a 24/7 help desk and a support staff of over 1,200 employees. Tyler offers single-day conferences in Columbia for users of their software at no additional cost.
- o Tyler's integration with the county's current property tax software, payroll software, network, and devices, such as printers and scanners, is expected to be seamless.

- Ms. Waldrop then indicated that the Evaluation Committee's recommendation to council is that they approve the selection of Tyler's Munis software and that council authorize staff to begin contract negotiations with Tyler.

b. Karen Lindler Smith, Newberry County Treasurer.

- Ms. Smith provided a packet to each member of Newberry County Council.

- Ms. Smith said as Newberry County's elected treasurer, she is requesting PublicQ Springbrook be the software company for the Treasurer's Office.
- She said PublicQ, now Springbrook, has been the county's software provider for the Treasurer's Office for almost 40 years and their office is in Spartanburg. She said they are proactive in attending SCATT, South Carolina Auditors, Treasurers and Tax Collectors, workshops. The workshops are not free and are provided by the Department of Revenue throughout the year. They also attend workshops by the Department of Moter Vehicles and the Department of Natural Resources through out the year. By keeping up with the agencies, PublicQ knows about the law changes before the county knows, she said. For all these years, PublicQ has updated all the necessary changes to the system to accommodate all law changes affecting the county. Ms. Smith said this gives her great confidence in PublicQ and she trusts PublicQ.
- Ms. Smith said there are other advantages and asked council to refer to the first handout in the packet she provided. She further said these are her personal opinions of the advantages of Springbrook.
  - Attends all agencies workshop meetings, DOR, DMV, DNR to stay in compliance with the S.C. Laws. Taking many hours a year.
  - Works well with DMV and DNR, treasurer issued DMV decals.
  - The integration between Tax Software and Springbrook Cirrus Software will automatically create the General Ledger entries and bank reconciliation.
  - Works well for banking entries, positive pay.
  - Working with one vendor for both modules.
  - Allows files to be attached directly to application records.
  - Bank recon provides tools to track and maintain the relationship between an organization accounting and bank records.

- o Clears checks or deposits that have cleared the county's bank accounts.
- o Cloud based solution will enable Newberry County to improve services to citizens, protect county and citizen data from ransomware attacks.
- o Has its own backup and recovery system monitoring Newberry County's cloud environment. They often know of an issue before the county could identify a problem.
- o Provides critical reports with powerful reporting.
- o Can completely run Newberry County from one fully integrated platform.
- o 33 counties in South Carolina use PublicQ Springbrook.
- o Been in business in South Carolina for 30 years and has a local office in Spartanburg.
- o Software ease of use.
- o Feasibility of cost which is considerably less than other bidders.
- o Ms. Smith said she feels safe with Springbrook.
- Ms. Smith further said that many counties trust Springbrook. She said there are 46 counties in South Carolina and 33 of them use PublicQ tax software, with 14 counties having PublicQ General Ledger. She said there are five counties currently updating to Springbrook Cirrus and only two counties have Tyler Technologies for their treasurer's office general ledger. She added that there are 14 counties where the treasurer and finance have different vendors: Marion, Lexington, Spartanburg, Laurens, Richland, Pickens, Dorchester, Bamburg, Oconee, Aiken, Saluda, Calhoun, Marlboro, and Anderson.
- Ms. Smith said she wanted to clear up a misunderstanding that Springbrook is not abandoning the county and referred council to handout two. She said the reason is that Microsoft no longer supports the SQL of the old S-Series. She said Newberry County was warned that they are at risk of losing their data without guaranteed recovery. She said this was a year ago and

Newberry County took no action and records and data are in danger.

- Referring to handout three given to council, Ms. Smith said Newberry County is being notified due to Microsoft not supporting the S-Series of SQL server. PublicQ Springbrook is having to sunset the S-Series application July 1, 2024. She told council that this is Newberry County's fault as they never updated the software version. She said this is not PublicQ Springbrook's fault and they did not abandon Newberry County. She said she was told last year to not request this in the Treasurer's budget because they were going to be doing something soon. She said it has been going on before the letter dated almost a year ago. She said they have talked about updating over the last few years, but never acted on it. She said Newberry County poses serious trouble if they don't act now.

- Referring to handout four given to council, she said this is a law, Section E and F of S.C. Code of Law 56-2-2740 governing the DMV decal fees the Treasurer's Office collects. She said per the law, the treasurer has control over the decal fees collected. She said she always turns over the funds not used to issue the decals to the General Fund. She said the prior county administrator took those fees from her and now it all goes to the General Fund. She said she turned over $35,000 last year and this money should have been left per the statue for the treasurer to use to print the decals and anything else associated with issuing decals. She said if the software needs updating, she can use that money for this purpose. She said she can use the one-dollar fees collected and pay for the upgrade to PublicQ Springbrook Cirrus.

- Ms. Smith requested council approve Springbrook software application, the administrator sign the contract and proceed. She said she can pay for this and PublicQ can start immediately and have the software converted and running by July 1, 2024.

- Referring to handout five, she said this is the cost of the conversion of Springbrook Cirrus. She said Springbrook Finance Software has the capability to export a file to the General Ledger entries on a daily or monthly basis which can be imported into a third-party finance system. The file created can be exported to several different formats and allows for 18 segments with the length of six characters. She said what she wanted to do was change over to Springbrook update and she is willing once a day to export her file to the administrator, whomever they choose, and there is not a fee for that.
- Ms. Smith said she found out today, that if taxes are going to stay on QS1 and if she goes to Tyler, which she is opposed to, there is a fee for QS1 to export the taxes to Tyler for her then they'd go on to the administration office and she believes that was $5,000 to $6,000.
- Handout Seven involved Ms. Smith's concerns with lawsuits. She said there are a massive amount of lawsuits against Tyler Technologies. The case she presented to Newberry County Council was from Lexington County and she said after eight years of trying to get Tyler Technologies to work for the Treasurer's software, they failed.
- Ms. Smith said she wanted to go on record to council and the public that her request to update the tax software with PublicQ Springbrook as Newberry County tax software. She said she has funds available, and she will do her job. She said she does not want nor trust Tyler Technologies and that they are more finance, accounts payable, purchase orders. She said she sat through two demonstrations and hardly ever mentioned treasurer, if any.
- She asked council to consider all the data she has submitted to them and allow the administrator to sign the contract with PublicQ Springbrook for upgrading the Treasurer's tax software. She said Newberry County taxpayers need them to be prudent with spending their tax dollars.

- Mr. Johnson asked Ms. Smith if it was a manual interface, adding that you are exporting it out to a file, so the other vendor has to pick that up and is not something seamless that happens. Ms. Smith said it is not immediate, Mr. Johnson further asked does someone have to touch it on both sides. Ms. Smith said, as far as she knows, they download it, and it goes to the Administrator Office. She said they must use the same account numbers and she is willing to work with that.
- Mr. Johnson asked if the county selects a different vendor for financial software, will Springbrook charge the county for its data. Ms. Smith said the taxes are going to stay with QS1 and if they go with Tyler, QS1 will charge to get the data from QS1 Taxes to Tyler. Mr. Johnson said he has a problem with software charging people for their data in general. Ms. Smith said if she stays with Springbrook, the QS1 data will roll over to her, no charge.
- Mr. Johnson said in full disclosure that was something he asked Mr. Shacker to find out from the vendors. He doesn't think it is right for the people of this county to pay to get their own data back.
- Ms. Smith said she found out recently that the general ledger will be export/import whether you go with Springbrook or Tyler. Mr. Johnson asked if that was automated or manual. Ms. Smith said that is automated. Mr. Johnson then asked if it would function "lights out" and if Ms. Smith was certain of this. She responded "yes," and said that she will take full responsibility if it doesn't, and that she has talked to Springbrook, and they agree.
- Ms. Shealy asked Ms. Waldrop if she had time to review the packet Ms. Smith provided to council. Ms. Waldrop said that a copy of the packet that Ms. Smith distributed to council during the meeting has not been shared with her.
- Mr. Sease asked if Tyler has most of the same capabilities as Springbrook. Ms. Smith said she does not know. She also

responded that Tyler does not do taxes at all and that the lawsuit in Lexington related to that fact.

- Ms. Marlene Spurgen said she had an opportunity to look at the evaluation published with the agenda that morning. She said she reviewed it and researched the five companies through their websites and reviews. She said she is not recommending anything just bringing to light things she saw in the evaluations and things she saw on their websites. Regarding Mr. Shacker's evaluation page, which had the pricing of the proposal, she said Tyler has the highest price, 28% more than the next lowest price, there are three in the middle of the pack and then Springbrook is the lowest, which she says is much lower than the three in the middle of the pack. Ms. Spurgen said she worked for a number of years in the commercial construction industry, with open bidding being general practice. She said normally the bid would go to the low bidder, with the exception if it was too low compared to the other bids. The three bids in the middle were very close together and two of those companies are very well-known companies, one doing business for over 50 years with governments like Newberry County, that being Edmunds. Oracle has been in business a whole lot longer than that and has produced many types of software for different types of businesses. She said in any bidding process, one of the first rules they learned in construction was throw out the low bid because they probably left something out, the high bid is the one trying to make you pay for his past mistakes. She said when she looked more closely at the evaluation, because there is a rift between what the Treasurer's Office wants and what Administration wants, she discovered there is one software out there that all six members of the committee put in their ranking that brought that close to Tyler, in terms of the total scoring from each member of the committee and what she would like the council to consider is tabling their vote tonight until they can sit down with Karen Smith and the others on the committee to try to

resolve the differences of opinion and determine which of the software programs will work for all. She said looking at all of them, except Aclarian, they all can interface with other programs seamlessly, they all have cloud-based capability to reduce the amount of hardware necessary to maintain. She would like to see county government work efficiently and effectively together, compromising to select the right company at the right price that all members will feel comfortable with. She said taxpayers do not want to see their dollars wasted, saying council members have their work cut out for them on this proposal.

- Mr. Johnson previously asked Mr. Shacker to check on a couple of things, including the ownership of the data, and asked him what he find out. Mr. Shacker responded that Tyler confirmed that the county would own its data.

- Mr. Johnson then asked Mr. Shacker about the customer service issues that were reported and if he was able to speak to customers of Tyler. Mr. Shacker said that staff requested a complete list of municipal and county customers in South Carolina and that staff then contacted those cities and counties. Mr. Shacker said that it was a mixed bag. Some acknowledged they ran into customer service issues, primarily during the pandemic, and that Tyler themselves were upfront about the customer support service issues that they experienced during that period of time. They were dealing with the Great Resignation (losing employees), and they went to remote-work, which sometimes results in issues. On the other side, Tyler's clients lost employees during the pandemic, which led to more customer service calls and that higher volume of requests further impacted the quality of Tyler's customer support services. Tyler's clients indicated that those issues have now improved. Mr. Shacker said that the customers he spoke with are now largely satisfied with Tyler's customer service and that they mentioned features that he did not

recall in the presentation which help clients better utilize the software. Mr. Shacker said something else that impressed him, regarding Tyler, is that they allow each user to have a customer service user account, with their own ID, for responses, updates and follow ups.

- Mr. Hipp asked if all the companies demonstrated their product or only certain ones. Mr. Shacker said that all companies presented their product to the committee.
- Mr. Hipp asked if the county went with Tyler, are there other software packages this would replace. Mr. Shacker said that Tyler would replace the county's current General Ledger software. It would not replace the county's tax software. The county will still use QS1 for it. It will not replace the county's HR and payroll software. The county currently uses ADP. However, Tyler offers a module for payroll and HR. Mr. Hipp followed up by asking did other companies offer similar modules. Mr. Shacker said Edmunds did but couldn't recall the others. Mr. Shacker said that unfortunately the county currently does not have specialized software for many of its process.
- Mr. Shacker said there is no question that Tyler is the most expensive of the five software proposals. However, a good portion of that higher cost is the upfront cost to cover the training and configuration, which will allow the county to make good use of the capabilities of the software.
- Mr. Sease asked when you looked at Tyler versus Springbrook, if Tyler had more functions that serve the whole county and could Springbrook serve the whole county or just the Treasurer's Office, and if that was the difference in cost. Mr. Shacker said he didn't know if he could entirely speak to Springbrook's capabilities off of memory, but that they may have had some of those same capabilities. However, the committee concluded that Tyler has been in the business longer and has been providing a

cloud-based solution longer and that Tyler's product showed that.

- Mr. Johnson then asked Ms. Smith if she could speak to what Springbrook offers. Ms. Smith said she thinks they were basically about the same, with Tyler being more Cloud based. She said out of the two treasurers she found that had it, one appointed and one elected, they were very new and said don't mention their names. One said Tyler was very difficult and the other said to post a check it was seven steps. Mr. Johnson said they were asking more about features, and Ms. Smith said they were about the same.
- Mr. Sease asked Ms. Smith how many steps it takes to write a check with Springbrook, Ms. Smith said about two.
- Mr. Hipp said when they had a demonstration and that was asked (posting a check), and the Tyler representative disputed that, and they said it was three steps.
- Mr. Hipp said normally, when council receives a recommendation from staff it comes with only one recommendation. However, in this case, they are receiving conflicting recommendations. He said he looked at how the grading was done. The IT irector rated Tyler above the others, as did the purchasing director, the administrator, and the finance director. He said he does not think this body can decide on its own which software to select unless the council is prepared to receive demonstrations from all the vendors who submitted proposals. He said on one hand he cannot pick software when he has only seen one of the five products demonstrated and on the other hand he supports administration and what they have unanimously decided with the exception of the Treasurer, and he supports her because she has a job to do. He said right now, he cannot vote to support either option because he doesn't feel he has all the information to do so without additional support.

- Mr. Johnson said this is something he campaigned on, unified software, however, he is in the software business and when you pick a company you are in it for the long haul. He said he thinks they are on the right track but more discussion and written documentation about what can be done seamlessly.
- Mr. Shealy said it may be good to have an independent party look at it and compare the software. Mr. Johnson said the problem with software is if you aren't using it, you don't know what it needs to do and what is not capable of doing.
- Mr. Sease made a motion to table the issue; Mr. Hipp provided the second.
  - Mr. Fulmer thanked staff for going through the effort to put everything together. He said he agrees with Mr. Hipp and Mr. Johnson that council should hold off on making a decision so that further discussion can occur. As far as the cost, that is something to be concerned with. However, in a situation like this, you must make sure you have the right software, and very often you get what you pay for. He said the evaluations that came back were strongly in favor of Tyler.
  - Mr. Hipp asked that the purchasing director, and staff, be provided with all the documents that were given to council by Ms. Smith, so that they can review the documents and understand everything that was presented.
- Ms. Smith said she would be glad to do so and expressed her desire to have council receive a demonstration from Springbrook. Ms. Spurgen said she hopes they will look at all the products.
- Mr. Johnson said they have to trust their staff to a little bit of the process, but he appreciates the input.
- Mr. Scurry asked if they are trying to pick one for the whole county or each department picks for themselves. Mr.

Johnson said that was a valid question and that he would like the end goal to be the entire county communicating together financially and to see everything.

- The motion was approved 7-0.

8. Consideration of a motion to approve the purchase of 30 replacement firefighter air packs as recommended by the Public Safety Committee – Tommy Long, Emergency Services Director.

- Mr. Long said they presented this information to the Public Safety Committee, and they have 30 air packs that failed testing and that it would cost $15,000 to repair those airpacks. However, these air packs are at the end of their life expectancy. As a result, staff is requesting that council approve the replacement of those airpacks, which totals $299,653.50 (price good through Feb. 1, 2024).
- Mr. Fulmer said they certainly need to provide their volunteer firefighters with the equipment they need so they can safely do the job they are being asked to do, which is a tremendous service they provide on a volunteer basis.
- Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Shacker to speak to funding. He responded by saying that staff has the pre-audit financial statements for FY2022-2023. Those statements show an approximate $1.8 million contribution to fund balance. Staff is recommending to council that it appropriate a use of fund balance in the current fiscal year to purchase the air packs with the understanding that the proposed use of fund balance is less than the contribution in the previous year.
- Mr. Sease made a motion to approve the purchase, Mr. Shealy provided the second.
  - Mr. Hipp requested that Mr. Long look into a rotating replacement schedule for these, knowing they must be replaced every so often, and they need to spread these out in the budget, so they know what they need

to spend each year. Mr. Long said they are going to do that.
- The motion was approved 7-0.

9. Consideration of a motion to reimburse fire departments for the cost of purchasing replacement firefighter air packs in 2023 as recommended by the Public Safety Committee – Tommy Long, Emergency Services Director.

- Mr. Long explained that the request is for air packs which were previously purchased by Prosperity Fire Department and Consolidated #5 Fire Department. The two fire departments purchased those air packs using their own funds. Both departments are now requesting reimbursement for the cost of those air packs.
- Consolidated obtained a grant to purchase the air packs. However, the actual cost of the air packs exceeded the amount of the grant.
- The requested reimbursement for Consolidated is $6,203.18 and the requested reimbursement for Prosperity is $35,852.28.
- Mr. Shacker then indicated that staff recommends the use of fund balance to cover the cost of the reimbursements.
- Mr. Shealy made a motion to approve the reimbursements; Mr. Sease provided the second and the motion was approved 7-0.

10. Consideration of a motion to provide matching funds for FY2023-2024 S.C. Forestry Commission Volunteer Fire Assistance Grants awarded to Bush River VFD, Chappells VFD, Little Mountain VFD, Prosperity VFD, and Whitmire VFD, as recommended by the Public Safety Committee – Tommy Long, Emergency Services Director.

- Mr. Long said each year, fire departments have an opportunity to apply for this forestry grant and five of the county's volunteer fire departments applied. He said they must spend $10,000 in order to receive $5,000 in grant funds. There is already $15,000 in this year's budget for matching grants pursued for the fire departments. Staff is requesting an additional $9,562 to match the forestry grants.
- Mr. Fulmer and Mr. Johnson said that they think it is money well spent to secure the funding from these grants.
- Mr. Shacker indicated that staff can find the money in the current budget.
- Mr. Scurry made a motion to provide the matching funds; Mr. Reeder provided the second. The motion was approved 7-0.

11. Appointments.

- There were no appointments.

12. Public Comments.

- Mr. Theo Lane, with Duke Energy, said thank you for consideration of the second project in Newberry County. He said Mr. Bill Parr's property was great for solar development and this new one may be one of the best sites he's engaged with. He said thank you and that the staff was great to work with.

13. Comments/Requests from County Administrator.

- Mr. Shacker said they have several projects going on, the sidewalk project in Whitmire, CPST projects, and financial software. He said he appreciated council's input on the draft nuisance code.
- Mr. Shacker said they are working on the new budget and will be getting information to council as soon as it is available.

14. Comments/Requests from Council.

- Mr. Scurry said he prays that the county can come together to find out what is best for everyone.
- Mr. Reeder said it was a good meeting and they accomplished a lot and they have more to work on. He further thanked everyone who came out to the MLK program, and it was a good MLK this year.
- Mr. Sease thanked staff for doing a good job, putting together a great package, and demonstrating what software they came up with and Ms. Smith for doing her research and Ms. Spurgen for bringing things to light and they may need to look into.
- Mr. Fulmer said it is always a good day when they listen to everyone's opinions. He said they are all here for what is best for Newberry County, as a whole.
- Mr. Shealy said he appreciates the staff's hard work and not that they won't go with their pick but that it will be beneficial to take more time to make sure that the right software is selected.
- Mr. Johnson said he appreciates everyone's input and citizens who care enough to pick up the phone and call. He said he also appreciates the staff and their efforts.

15. Future meetings:

a. Newberry County Council Work Session – February 7 at 5 p.m.
b. Newberry County Council – February 7 at 6 p.m.
c. Economic Development Committee – February 12 at 6 p.m.
d. Presidents' Day Holiday – Offices Closed – February 19.
e. Newberry County Council Work Session – February 21 at 5 p.m.
f. Newberry County Council – February 21 at 6 p.m.
g. Executive Committee – February 26 at 6 p.m.

16. Adjournment.

- Mr. Shealy made a motion to adjourn at 7:23 p.m.; Mr. Fulmer provided the second and the motion was approved 7-0.

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

Todd Johnson

Todd Johnson, Chairman

Andrew Wigger

Andrew Wigger, Clerk to Council

Minutes Approved: 2-7-2024

Public Comments Sign-In Sheet
Newberry County Council
January 17, 2024
6:00pm

NAME-PLEASE PRINT	NAME-PLEASE PRINT
1. Marlene Spurgin P 2023·17	11.
2. Leo Lane Duke Energy	12.
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