

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES
December 4, 2024**

Newberry County Council met on Wednesday, December 4, 2024, at 6:01 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 (Virtually)
Robert Shealy, Vice-Chairman
Leon Fulmer Jr., Council Member
Les Hipp, Council Member
Travis Reeder, Council Member
Karl Sease, Council Member
Johnny Mack Scurry, Council Member
Jeff Shacker, County Administrator
Joanie Winters, County Attorney
Captain Ben Chapman, NCSO
Rick Farmer, Economic Development Director
Eric Nieto, I.T. Director
Andrew Wigger, Clerk to Council/PIO

ABSENT:

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

Mr. Scurry led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Adoption of Consent Agenda:

- a. Newberry County Council Work Session – November 20, 2024.
- b. Newberry County Council Meeting – November 20, 2024.

c. Newberry County Economic Development Committee Meeting – November 25, 2024.

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

2. Additions, Deletions & Adoption of the Agenda.

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

3. Resolution No. 09-2024. A Resolution Honoring Councilman Leslie “Les” Hipp.

- Mr. Sease made a motion to adopt the Resolution; Mr. Reeder provided the second and the motion carried 6-0, with Mr. Hipp recusing himself from the vote.
- Mr. Hipp thanked his fellow councilmembers for this honorable Resolution, and he appreciates it immensely.
- Mr. Hipp said he could not do this without his wife, Mrs. Beth Hipp, who supported him this entire time.
- Mr. Hipp was presented with a plaque for his years of service to Newberry County.

4. Ordinance No. 11-01-2024. An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 91 of the Code of Ordinances of the County of Newberry to Adopt Road and Development Design Standards and Specifications.

a. Public Hearing

- Mr. Shealy declared the Public Hearing open, with no one signing up or standing to speak, Mr. Shealy declared the Public Hearing closed.

b. Second Reading.

- Mr. Fulmer made a motion to approve second reading; Mr. Hipp provided the second and the motion carried 7-0.

5. Ordinance No. 12-01-2024. An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 152 of the Code of Ordinances of the County of Newberry to Adopt Updated Standards for the Reduction of Flood Hazards.

a. First Reading.

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

6. Consideration of a motion to adopt the proposed 2025 County Council Meeting Schedule.

- Mr. Fulmer made a motion to adopt the 2025 County Council Meeting Schedule; Mr. Scurry provided the second.
- Mr. Sease said usually the first meeting in July they do not have a meeting, but it looks like there is one scheduled for next year; Mr. Shacker answered in the affirmative and said that is what staff was proposing.
- The motion carried 7-0.

7. Consideration and approval of a bid for HVAC Replacements of thirteen units (seven Newberry County locations) (Bid No. 2024-9).

- Mr. Shacker said this was a project staff proposed the grant application to the S.C. Energy Office, to which council approved. Staff submitted an application for the federal fund for replacement of heating/air units. The scope of the project is 13 units in seven buildings. The project budget that was previously approved \$156,300, \$75,000 of which would be funded via the grant.
- The lowest bidder was Fulmer Heating and Cooling was under budget at \$104,646, making the local share \$29,646.
- Mr. Sease made a motion to approve the low bid from Fulmer Heating and Cooling; Mr. Reeder provided the second.
- Mr. Hipp said he thinks it is good they got these bids in under what they expected, and was glad the lowest bidder was local to the county.
- Mr. Johnson said he thinks it is good business, and it will save the county money in the long run.
- The motion carried 7-0.

8. Appointments.

- There were no appointments.

9. Public Comments.

- There were no public comments.

10. Executive Session:

a. Contractual Matter(s):

i. Discussion of matters related to the proposed purchase of real estate pursuant to SC Code of Laws Section 30-4-70(a)(2)

- Mr. Hipp made a motion to go into Executive Session; Mr. Fulmer provided the second and the motion carried 7-0. Newberry County Council went into Executive Session at 6:19 p.m.
- Mr. Fulmer made a motion to come out of Executive Session; Mr. Sease provided the second and the motion carried 7-0. Newberry County Council came out of Executive Session at 6:59 p.m.
- No action was taken.

11. Comments/Requests from County Administrator.

- Mr. Shacker said staff appreciates this council, and that Mr. Hipp and his service to Newberry County and staff will miss him greatly.
- Mr. Shacker wished council a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

12. Comments/Requests from Council.

- Mr. Scurry said he hopes Mr. Hipp enjoys himself in retirement, and he is so proud to see everyone in attendance.
- Mr. Reeder said to Mr. Hipp that they would truly miss him. He said he hopes they get to do everything they want to do in that time. He then wished everyone a happy holiday and to be safe.

- Mr. Sease thanked Mr. Hipp for all of his years of service to the county. He added that he would not be on council if it wasn't for Mr. Hipp putting a bug in his ear to run and that it has been an eye-opening experience.
- Mr. Fulmer said it has been a pleasure working with Mr. Hipp. He added that he values Mr. Hipp's opinion and respects all the work he has done for Newberry County, and it is very much appreciated. Mr. Fulmer added that they are praying for Mrs. Johnson's recovery.
- Mr. Johnson said to Mr. Hipp that he gives him all the honor and that he is a blessing. He said Mr. Hipp has challenged and pushed him in many ways, and that he respects that, and he has made him better. He thanked him for his wisdom and guidance. He said the scriptures say iron sharpens iron, and Mr. Hipp has done that. Mr. Johnson said to everyone who has called and texted, thank you and they covet their prayers in the days to come.
- Mr. Shealy said he appreciates all Mr. Hipp has done for Newberry County, and all he has done for him.
- Mr. Hipp told Mr. Johnson his prayers are with him and Mrs. Johnson to have a full and rapid recovery. He said his wife is with him tonight, and he knows how important it is to have a spouse that supports you. Mr. Hipp thanked administration for all they have done to help him through the years he has been on council. He thanked those who came out earlier to the reception and was humbled by those who came out to wish him well. He said a questioning attitude is something they should all have in

their toolbox, and no one should hesitate to ask questions.

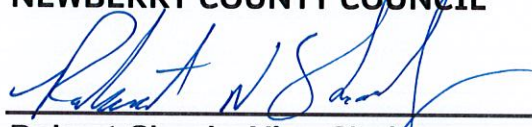
13. Future meetings:

- a. Newberry County Finance Committee – December 9 at 5 p.m.
(Cancelled)
- b. Newberry County Council, if needed – December 18 at 6 p.m.
- c. Christmas Holiday – December 24-26 – Offices Closed.
- d. New Years Day – January 1, 2025 – Offices Closed.

14. Adjournment.

- Mr. Hipp made a motion to adjourn; Mr. Scurry provided the second and the motion carried 7-0.
- Newberry County Council adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL


Robert Shealy, Vice-Chairman


Andrew Wigger, Clerk to Council

Minutes Approved: 1-8-2024