

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES
August 20, 2025

Newberry County Council met on Wednesday, August 20, 2025, 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: Robert Shealy, Chairman
Karl Sease, Vice-Chairman
Leon Fulmer Jr., Council Member
Todd Johnson, Council Member
Travis Reeder, Council Member
Johnny Mack Scurry, Council Member
Stuart Smith, Council Member
Jeff Shacker, County Administrator
Joanie Winters, County Attorney
Captain Ben Chapman, NCSO
Captain Daniel Floyd, NCSO
Tommy Long, Emergency Services Director
Eric Nieto, IT Director
Brandon Wicker, Emergency Services Coordinator
Andrew Wigger, Clerk to Council/PIO

Mr. Shealy called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Mr. Sease led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Adoption of Consent Agenda:

- a. Newberry County Council Work Session Minutes – July 16, 2025.
- b. Newberry County Council Meeting Minutes – July 16, 2025.
- c. Newberry County Public Safety and Courts Committee Minutes – July 21, 2025.

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

2. Additions, Deletions & Adoption of the Agenda.

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

3. Personal Appearances:

a. Steven Knapp, Executive Director of The Newberry Museum.

- Mr. Knapp said visitation at the museum remains busy and steady. They recently opened "Spinning a Legacy: Newberry Cotton Mills" focusing on the four major cotton mills in Newberry County.
- The museum has been working with the 250 Committee, researching the major events taking place during the Revolutionary War, and focusing on those forgotten -- loyalist, women, children, African Americans, Native Americans -- to put a full picture forward of what took place here in Newberry County. Mr. Knapp recently had a meeting with the head archivist and other representatives of the Catawba Nation and cultivating that relationship.
- The Newberry Museum has also been heavily involved in research with the Rosenwald Schools, a display was also placed in the lobby of the Newberry County Annex Building.
- Mr. Knapp said they are working on increased marketing, looking into billboards, online marketing, print media and a television ad that will also appear on streaming services.
- Mr. Shealy told Mr. Knapp that they are doing excellent work, and he commends The Newberry Museum.

4. Special Recognition:

a. Employee Recognitions:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|----------|-------------|
| • Daniel Long | 5 years | Facilities |
| • Christopher Cleveland | 10 years | Corrections |

- Barry Koon 30 years Magistrate
- Liz McDonald Retirement Assessor

- Mr. Shacker recognized the above employees for their service to Newberry County, highlighting their accomplishments and pivotal moments while working for Newberry County.

b. Bush River Fire Department

- Mr. Long recognized the station listed above for their accomplishments, history and other accolades, as well as highlighting the work they do throughout the year.

5. Proclamation in Recognition of Therapy Dog Appreciation Week in Newberry County.

- Mr. Reeder made a motion to accept the proclamation; Mr. Sease provided the second and the motion carried 7-0.
- Mr. Greg Kitchens and therapy dog Sage, both with Newberry Health, accepted a copy of the proclamation.

6. Ordinance No. 07-01-2025. An Ordinance authorizing the acceptance of roads within Stewart Landing Subdivision - Stewart Landing Drive, Shoreview Drive, and Timber Trail Lane. into the Newberry County Public Road System.

a. Public Hearing

- Mr. Shealy declared the public hearing open. With no one signed up to speak, Mr. Shealy declared the public hearing closed.

b. Second Reading

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

7. Consideration of a motion to approve State Accommodations Tax (State A-Tax) funding recommendation of the Newberry County Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee (ATAC) – Ernie Shealy, ATAC Chairman.
- Mr. Shealy provided the following recommendations from the Newberry County Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee for funding allocation:
 - For the applicants from the Promotional Fund: Capital City Lake Murray Country \$10,899,84, Newberry County Chamber of Commerce \$14,014.09, Prosperity Business Association \$6,228.41.
 - For applicants from the Tourism Fund: Newberry Community Players \$819, 4th of July Fireworks \$2,500, Newberry Opera House \$19,500, County of Newberry Parks and Recreation \$7,000, Visitors Center \$14,000.97, Whitmire Fall Crawl \$200, Prosperity Hoppin' \$5,000, Shoppers' Walk \$3,500, The Newberry Museum \$10,000, Palmetto Conservation Foundation \$5,000, Ritz Fest \$5,000.
 - Mr. Johnson made a motion to accept the recommendation; Mr. Sease provided the second and the motion carried 7-0.
8. Consideration and approval of bids for construction of the Newberry County Detention Center Housing Unit, a 2022 CPST Project (Bid Number 2025-12).
- Mr. Shacker said they solicited bids this summer for this project, which is a significant project in a tight space. He said there were concerns going into the design that the county would be able to do the project with the allotted funds. The county received four responses, with the lowest responsive and responsible bidder being Solid Structures in the amount of \$10,167,000.
 - The updated allocation of the project with the issuance of the bond is \$9 million, but this runs the total, adding the cost of architectural and engineering, project management and construction administration, environmental expenses, over \$11 million.
 - In anticipation of this, council reserved \$2 million in the CPST fund, to recover overruns if they materialized on bid day.
 - Mr. Shacker said staff recommends awarding to Solid Structures, and work with them to see what can be shaved off the project. They approve

the bid with the context of staff coming to council to potentially amend the budget.

- Mr. Johnson said there was some significant overcollection, as previously mentioned, and he wanted to know how that will play into that fund and if they can reimburse themselves with that money. Mr. Shacker said they can, and the recovery would be at the end of the 2022 CPST. Mr. Johnson said they should focus on getting every benefit they can from the CPST fund.
- Mr. Reeder asked if they will have to pay to remove the inmates and house elsewhere; Mr. Shacker said they will not have to remove the inmates but there will be challenges in that tight environment.
- Mr. Johnson made a motion to accept the bid from Solid Structures in the amount of \$10,167,000; Mr. Reeder provided the second and the motion carried 7-0.

9. County Council may take action on matters discussed during the 5:00 pm executive session.

- There was no action taken.

10. Appointments.

- Airport commission – District 2. Milledge Wilson, nominated by Mr. Fulmer.
- Joint Planning Commission – District 2. Daniel Boland, nominated by Mr. Fulmer.
- Newberry Hospital Board (Seat One) – District 2. John W. Pugh, nominated by Mr. Fulmer.
- Newberry Hospital Board (Seat Two) – District 2. Candace Frick, nominated by Mr. Fulmer.
- Westview Behavioral Health Board – District 2. Tina Nichols, nominated by Mr. Fulmer.
- Westview Behavioral Health Board – District 4. Jaclyn Sease, nominated by Mr. Shealy.
- Joint Planning Commission – District 5. Jack Shields, nominated by Mr. Smith.
- Newberry Hospital Board (Seat One) – District 5. Dan Rhoad, nominated by Mr. Smith.

- Newberry Hospital Board (Seat Two) – District 5. Leslie “Les” Hipp, nominated by Mr. Smith.
- Westview Behavioral Health – District 5. Donna Perry, nominated by Mr. Smith.
- Airport Commission – District 7. Adonis Hill, nominated by Mr. Reeder.
- Joint Planning Commission – District 7. Lisa Toland, nominated by Mr. Reeder.
- Westview Behavioral Health Board – District 7. Alma Sullivan, nominated by Mr. Reeder.
- GLEAMNS Board of Directors:
 - Public Sector. Dr. Mamie Shippy, nominated by Mr. Sease per the recommendation of GLEAMNS.
 - Low-Income Sector. Travis Reeder, nominated by Mr. Sease per the recommendation of GLEAMNS.
 - Private Sector. Carlton Kinard, nominated by Mr. Sease per the recommendation of GLEAMNS.
- Central Midlands Council of Government – Minority Citizen Representative. Vina Abrams, as nominated by Mr. Reeder.
- Mr. Reeder provided a Recusal Statement for the vote regarding the GLEAMNS Board as he was one of the nominees.
- Mr. Johnson made a motion to accept all of the nominations listed above; Mr. Sease provided the second and the motion carried 7-0, except in the case of the GLEAMNS Board where Mr. Reeder recused himself.

11. Public Comments (Three Minutes).

- Mr. Josh Rodriguez came to speak on an issue in his community regarding Airbnb. He said he spoke previously but provided an update that they hopefully have an attorney that can help them out. He said they are trying to handle the situation. He said this is an issue that is coming out and is resonating within our state as something that should be regulated.
 - Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Shacker if there had been any progress looking at comparative ordinance across the state. Mr. Reeder

asked if the state is coming up with something, as well. Mr. Shacker said, yes, the state is, to his knowledge, and that they have looked into the issue and spoken with those businesses as well.

12. Comments/Requests from County Administrator.

- Mr. Shacker said in terms of other CPST projects, they are making progress. He said they have received renderings for the roof of The Newberry Museum.
- The Streetscaping project is also progressing well in Whitmire, a companion progress for the City Gym.
- The county also had solicitations come in for engineering services for bridges that were impacted by Hurricane Helene. The county is seeking FEMA funding for that work.

13. Comments/Requests from Council.

- Mr. Fulmer thanked everyone for coming out and attending their meeting. He thanked Bush River Fire Department, and it is always great to recognize their volunteers.
- Mr. Johnson said he has gotten a lot of calls regarding EMS staffing, he understands they are running with two ambulances sometimes due to staffing, but sometimes it is hard to get a rescue squad out there because people have to go to work. He said he doesn't know how much they can do, and he is not saying the hospital is not doing all they can do, but they need to become partners and advocate and do what they can to make sure EMS is getting good coverage for the county. He also mentioned he had several questions about the moratorium and there will be several work sessions about that coming up. Lastly, he said this council has been with him through difficult times following the passing of his wife, and his best friend undergoing heart surgery. He said he is thankful for their support, staff support and how many of the public reached out during this difficult time.

- Mr. Reeder said he appreciates everything being done at the museum. He also thanked Mr. Shealy for all he's done over the years. He said our fire departments have done a great job over the last couple weeks following several incidents that have happened.
- Mr. Smith thanked Ms. McDonald for her years of service and her retirement, he also thanked all the recognized employees and Bush River Fire Department. He said something good happening, last week he went to where the volunteers were having a class and there were nine firefighters attending, all volunteers.
- Mr. Scurry thanked everyone for coming out and voice their opinions. He said they will do their best to solve them. He also congratulated Judge Koon on his service.
- Mr. Sease thanked everyone for coming and asking questions. He thanked all the employees for their service to the county. He also thanked Mr. Knapp for his presentation and the great work they are doing at The Newberry Museum. He also thanked Ms. Rose Marie Favors for the Rosenwald Schools display put up in the lobby.
- Mr. Shealy told Mr. Johnson that they were still there for him.

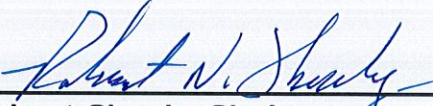
14. Future meetings:

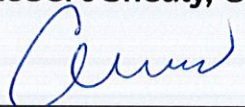

- a. Labor Day, Offices Closed – September 1.
- b. Newberry County Council Work Session – September 3 at 5 p.m.
- c. Newberry County Council – September 3 at 6 p.m.
- d. Newberry County Council Work Session – September 17 at 5 p.m.
- e. Newberry County Council – September 17 at 6 p.m.
- f. Newberry County Finance Committee – September 22 at 5 p.m.

15. Adjournment.

- Mr. Scurry made a motion to adjourn; Mr. Johnson provided the second and the motion carried 7-0.
- Newberry County Council adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL


Robert Shealy, Chairman

 
Andrew Wigger, Clerk to Council

Minutes Approved: 9-3-2025