

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES
June 4, 2025**

Newberry County Council met on Wednesday, June 4, 2025, 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: Robert Shealy, Chairman
Karl Sease, Vice-Chairman
Leon Fulmer Jr., Council Member
Todd Johnson, Council Member
Johnny Mack Scurry, Council Member
Stuart Smith, Council Member
Jeff Shacker, County Administrator
Joanie Winters, County Attorney
Karen Brehmer, Deputy County Administrator
Debbie Cromer, Finance Director
Rick Farmer, Economic Development Director
Captain Daniel Floyd, Newberry County Detention Center
Tommy Long, Emergency Management Director
Eric Nieto, I.T. Director
Andrew Wigger, Clerk to Council/PIO

ABSENT: Travis Reeder, Council Member

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

Mr. Fulmer led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Adoption of Consent Agenda:

- a. Newberry County Council Work Session – May 21, 2025.
 - b. Newberry County Council Meeting – May 21, 2025.
- Mr. Scurry made a motion to adopt the minutes as presented; Mr. Fulmer provided the second and the motion carried 6-0.

2. Additions, Deletions & Adoption of the Agenda.

- Mr. Sease made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented; Mr. Smith provided the second and the motion carried 6-0.

3. Special Recognition:

a. Newberry County Fire and Rescue:

- Consolidated #5 Fire Department.
 - Little Mountain Fire Department.
 - Little Mountain Rescue Squad.
- Mr. Long recognized the stations listed above for their achievements and other accolades, as well as highlighting the work they do throughout the year.
 - Mr. Shealy said they were glad to have all of them at the meeting, and they appreciated them. He said he doesn't think many people realize what it takes to be a volunteer firefighter/first responder, the amount of time to earn their qualifications, time away from their families to support their community. He said he commends all of them and thanked them for what they do.
 - Mr. Smith thanked Mr. Long for putting this together and that they have been discussing doing this for a few months. He said it was long overdue to get volunteers together and thank them and let residents know what resources the county has. He said the county could not have their services without the volunteers and they appreciate them, and they are behind them.

- Mr. Johnson said he has had the honor and privilege to work with many of the volunteers. He said he travels the state and most people in public safety are blown away when he tells them they still run on a volunteer basis, but he said it is because of amazing people like the volunteers in attendance. He said he thanks God for them; he thanks God for what they do for the county, and he knows they can't do everything, but he wanted them to know that they are loved, prayed for, and supported and they will do everything in their power to show that they are with them 100%. He thanked God for each for them.
 - Mr. Sease thanked the volunteers for the time they spent on calls, training, meetings, just to get that small tax break. He said Newberry County and its residents thank them for all they do.
4. Ordinance No. 05-01-2025. An Ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a fee agreement by and between Newberry County, South Carolina and Newberry PV1, LLC providing for a payment of a fee in lieu of taxes, providing special source revenue credits, and addressing other matters related thereto.
- a. Third Reading.
- Mr. Smith made a motion to accept third reading; Mr. Sease provided the second and the motion carried 6-0.
5. Ordinance No. 05-02-2025. An Ordinance to provide appropriations for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, for the Newberry County budget for County Ordinary purposes and for other County purposes for which the County may levy a tax and receive revenues; to provide for the levy of taxes on all taxable personal and real property in Newberry County for all county purposes, including sufficient tax to pay the principal and interest on outstanding indebtedness of Newberry County payable during said fiscal year; to provide for matters relating to Newberry County; and to provide for the expenditure of said taxes and other revenues received by the county during said fiscal year,

and to provide for borrowing in anticipation of tax collections by the issuance of one or more tax anticipation notes, if necessary.

a. Third Reading.

- Mr. Shacker said the budget is unchanged from the previous readings. This is a \$94.7 million budget, \$50.7 million is associated with the capital projects fund, the bulk of which are the CPST projects. Mr. Shacker also mentioned that the General Fund budget is proposed at \$39.8 million a 1.5% decrease compared to the current fiscal year and there are no tax, fee, or service charge increases proposed. There is also a cost of living adjustment that equals the increase in the consumer price index for the 12 months in calendar year 2024.
- Mr. Shealy said the budget is a living, breathing number that can be worked with during the year, as needed. He said he thinks it is a good budget going in.
- Mr. Johnson asked if there is a proviso for the elected officials that states they will get the cost of living adjustment, as well. Mr. Shacker said that is in there.
- Mr. Johnson made a motion to accept third reading; Mr. Scurry provided the second.
- Mr. Johnson commended the job for the incredible job of holding the line and not increasing taxes, in an economy like this, and to provide these services, is just phenomenal. He said hats off to his fellow council members and staff. He said he knows it took a lot, but he thinks it is the right thing to do for residents as they are feeling the pinch of this economy, and he is thankful they were able to do this.
- Mr. Fulmer said their fiscal year runs July 1 through June 30, and there is a requirement to have a budget in place by July 1 so that the county is fiscally responsible for their expenses going forward. He said there is a need have these approvals and readings take place on a certain time frame in order to get those in place by July 1. However, he said this is a working

document and if there are any problems with the budget, he said Administrator Shacker is graciously committed to try and address those concerns and if need be, they can come back and amend the budget at a later date. He said it is a living document and it is not end all be all after third reading. He also thanked staff for their efforts to put the budget together.

- Mr. Smith thanked staff for working hard on the budget.
- The motion carried 6-0.

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

- There was no action taken.

7. Appointments.

- There were no appointments.

8. Public Comments (three minutes).

- Ms. Robbiette Hazel said one thing that was important to her, she said she would like before the budget for council to consider, next year, an opportunity for residents to ask questions and get answers, like a forum. Mr. Shealy said the work sessions are designed to be as such, if he is correct. Mr. Johnson said plus the public hearing is an opportunity to do so, as well. Ms. Hazel also said she has a concern of a department and was going to give out, in an envelope, a copy of a particular employee's W2, and what she is making. She said she wants them to look at that, and at the next meeting, look at this particular employee. She said she thinks something is not right there, and there is not an understanding of how her salary and her pay work. She said from what she remembers, you cannot have, and she may be wrong, a part time, salaried employee. She also said that particular department had grant money, and she understands the grant money came in and that money has been paid out in the

budget money and she listed that out. She said she doesn't understand what they are doing with the funds that are budgeted, that's now being moved over to take care of the grant money.

- Mr. Jerry Reno, of Goggans Road, said he hopes they are going to get their road paved, and it has been an ongoing issue for over 20 years. Mr. Reno said that Mr. Shacker said that possibly next year, they will come into some money to pave their road in the fiscal 2025 budget. He said they had one road out of their subdivision paved and all of them were supposed to be taken in and paved, but something happened in interim, and 20 years has gone by, and they still haven't gotten it paved. He said they have a lot of information, and they have gotten that information out to Senator Cromer, and he doesn't know what else they can do. He said he knows the 2007 is an issue, but he went to the S.C. Attorney General's Office, they are exempt from that ordinance because they bought their property prior to that ordinance. He said he does not know what they can do to get it paved, but they are willing to do what they can to get it paved. Mr. Shealy asked if this was the same road that they asked the CTC to look into. Mr. Shacker said they are formulating a plan, and he will talk with Mr. Reno after the meeting.

9. Comments/Requests from County Administrator.

- Mr. Shacker provided a CPST update, he said at the July 2, 2025, meeting will be recommendation for bids on the Little Mountain Reunion Park improvements. The second project will be half of the museum scope of work, specifically for HVAC, the other half of that project is the roof, and it has been assessed, and an architect is working to design a solution.
- Mr. Shacker said some things changed at the federal level related to federal funding, and that caused a few funding items for the county to be paused. He said some of those have resumed, including the Safe Streets for All funding.

10. Comments/Requests from Council.

- Mr. Fulmer welcomed the stations and said this was a long overdue recognition of their volunteer service. He added that there is a huge benefit financially and personnel-wise the county gets for volunteer service.
- Mr. Johnson said thank God for all of you and God speed to each of you.
- Mr. Smith thanked Mr. Long for putting the recognition together. He said he had the honor of a 35-year career of being able to work with each and every station in the county and he knows what it takes to make it happen.
- Mr. Scurry thanked all the volunteers for being out tonight. He told Mr. Reno they are on his side, and they are moving in the right direction.
- Mr. Sease thanked the volunteers for the great work they do for the county and the service they do for the residents of the county, and it is long overdue. He also appreciated the residents who made public comments. He also thanked staff for doing a great job on the budget and made it easy on council this year. He also thanked his fellow council members for working together.
- Mr. Shealy said God bless the county's volunteers and they are the backbone of the county, and they could not do it without them. He also thanked those who gave public comment and reminded them that the budget is a working, living, breathing document and it can be altered, and streets can be paved. He said they will do what they can.

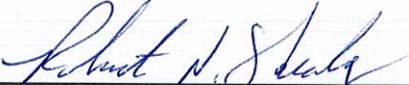
11. Future meetings:

- a. Newberry County Economic Development Committee – June 9 at 5 p.m. Moved to June 23, 2025, at 5 p.m.
- b. Newberry County Council Work Session – June 18 at 5 p.m.
- c. Newberry County Council – June 18 at 6 p.m.
- d. Newberry County Finance Committee – June 23 at 5 p.m.
CANCELLED.

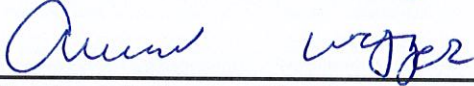
12. Adjournment.

- Mr. Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Scurry provided the second and the motion carried 6-0.
- Newberry County Council adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL



Robert "Nick" Shealy, Chairman



Andrew Wigger, Clerk to Council

Minutes Approved: 6-18-25