

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES
September 3, 2025

Newberry County Council met on Wednesday, September 3, 2025, at 6:00 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
Travis Reeder, Council Member
Johnny Mack Scurry, Council Member
Stuart Smith, Council Member
Jeff Shacker, County Administrator
Joanie Winters, County Attorney
Karen Brehmer, Deputy County Administrator
Captain Ben Chapman, NCSO
Tommy Long, Emergency Services Director
Eric Nieto, IT Director
Brandon Wicker, Emergency Services Coordinator
Andrew Wigger, Clerk to Council/PIO

ABSENT: Todd Johnson, Council Member

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

Mr. Shealy led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Adoption of Consent Agenda:

- a. Newberry County Economic Development Committee Minutes – August 18, 2025.
- b. Newberry County Council Work Session Minutes – August 20, 2025.
- c. Newberry County Council Meeting Minutes – August 20, 2025.

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

2. Additions, Deletions & Adoption of the Agenda.

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

3. Special Recognition:

- a. Fairview Fire Department.
- b. Lake Murray Rescue Squad.

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

4. Consideration of a motion to accept a surety bond for the roads within Stewart Landing Subdivision - Stewart Landing Drive, Shoreview Drive, and Timber Trail Lane - into the Newberry County Public Road System.

- Mr. Shacker said these three roads are in the Stewart Landing Subdivision and the county is in the process of accepting the roads, which are within the count standards (requirements ensured on the front end). In order for the county to accept the roads, there is a 24-month warranty period provided by the developer and there is a surety requirement.
- The surety bond amount required by the Newberry County Code of Ordinances is \$90,375.
- Mr. Fulmer made a motion to accept the surety bond; Mr. Smith provided the second and the motion carried 6-0.

5. 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. Third Reading.

- Mr. Sease made a motion to accept third reading; Mr. Reeder provided the second and the motion carried 6-0.

6. Ordinance No. 09-01-2025. An Ordinance to provide for the issuance and sale of a general obligation bond of Newberry County, South Carolina not exceeding \$405,000 in principal amount, to prescribe the purposes for which the proceeds of said bond shall be expended, to provide for the payment of said bond, and other matters relating thereto.

a. First Reading.

- Mr. Reeder made a motion to accept first reading; Mr. Smith provided the second.
- Mr. Shacker said during the budget process, they had over \$4 million in proposed capital that council approved as part of the budget process with different sources of funding.
- This is one of the funding sources, the county has funds available in the debt service fund that are restricted to bonded indebtedness, which means the bond would essentially be paid off immediately. The funds will be used to purchase a dump truck for Public Works, a trailer and a 6500 series with an adaptable body.
- Cash on hand would be used to pay off that bond.
- The motion carried 6-0.

7. Ordinance No. 09-02-2025. An Ordinance authorizing the execution of an equipment lease-purchase agreement in an amount not exceeding \$2,100,000 relating to the purchase of certain equipment by Newberry County, authorizing the execution of other necessary documents and papers, and other matters relating thereto.

a. First Reading.

- Mr. Shacker said a lease-purchase agreement is a form of indebtedness but because of the language in the document, it is not treated like long term debt. However, it is required to be completed by ordinance and public hearing.

- This lease-purchase agreement will be used to purchase two new ambulances and a fire truck.
- Mr. Sease made a motion to accept first reading; Mr. Fulmer provided the second and the motion carried 6-0.

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

- There was no executive session.

9. Appointments.

- a. Board of Rural Fire Control – Friendly Fire Department. Mr. Smith nominated Mr. Barry Brown. Mr. Reeder made a motion to accept the nomination; Mr. Sease provided the second and the motion carried 6-0.
- b. ~~Westview Behavioral Health Board – District 7.~~

10. Public Comments (Three Minutes).

- Ms. Liesha Wessinger-Hufstetler said Newberry is in the crosshairs of big developers and these developers have destroyed Chapin, Lexington, Ballentine, and Irmo. She said there are changes that need to be made and need to be in process by October in order to be completed prior to the moratorium expiring at the end of the year. She said Newberry County needs the biggest buffers possible, the largest requirements for open space, need to add concurrency (can it be handled by first responders, schools, water/sewer, etc.), zoning needs to be changed to 1-2 houses an acre, and parking in subdivisions to make sure cars are not parking on the street. She said she doesn't want to see Newberry destroyed.

11. Comments/Requests from County Administrator.

- While utilizing an example of a reassessment notice, Mr. Shacker explained the reassessment process and explained the reassessment notices that were mailed out in August. Mr. Shacker said that the levies will be set in early October, but that Newberry County Council

has made it clear that they will roll back on milage to the maximum extent possible.

- Mr. Shacker also announced they have the designs completed on the downtown streetscape improvements in Whitmire. The next project, and it will be a little while, will be the park improvements in Prosperity (CPST) and the roof at the Newberry Museum.

12. Comments/Requests from Council.

- Mr. Smith said if anyone has any concerns please reach out to them. He thanked Mr. Shacker for his example and helping a lot of people. He also thanked Fairview Fire Department and Lake Murray Rescue Squad for all they do.
- Mr. Scurry thanked everyone for coming out and thanked the county administrator and county attorney for being at their side.
- Mr. Fulmer thanked everyone for participating in their county government and gave a huge thank you to Fairview Fire Department and Lake Murray Rescue Squad, Mr. Fulmer is a former member of Fairview Fire Department and has a lot of respect for the volunteers. He also thanked Mr. Shacker for his explanation, and he knows people have a lot of questions about reassessment and if they do, to please reach out to the Newberry County Assessor's Office. He said council committed not to raise taxes during reassessment.
- Mr. Reeder reiterated what everyone said, he said Newberry County is the county of friendly folks and he wants to keep it that way. He thanked the Fairview Fire Department and Lake Murray Rescue Squad for the work they continue to do.
- Mr. Sease reiterated what all the councilmembers said, thanking everyone for coming out and participating. He also thanked Fairview Fire Department and Lake Murray Rescue Squad for the service they provide to the county. He also thanked Ms. Liesha Wessinger-Hufstetler for coming out and providing her input.
- Mr. Shealy said staff did a good job with all of their hard work. He also thanked all volunteers, he also said he knows Newberry County is in the crosshairs and asked Ms. Wessinger-Hufstetler to email her concerns.

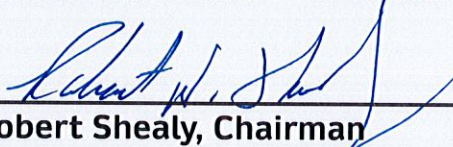
13. Future meetings:

- a. Newberry County Council Work Session – September 17 at 5 p.m.
- b. Newberry County Council – September 17 at 6 p.m.
- c. Newberry County Finance Committee – September 22 at 5 p.m.
- d. Newberry County Council Work Session – October 1 at 5 p.m.
- e. Newberry County Council – October 1 at 6 p.m.

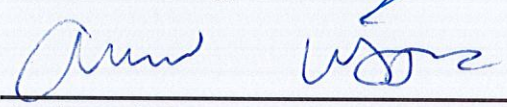
14. Adjournment.

- Mr. Smith made a motion to adjourn; Mr. Scurry provided the second and the motion carried 6-0.
- Newberry County Council adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL



Robert Shealy, Chairman



Andrew Wigger, Clerk to Council

Minutes Approved: 9-17-25