

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES
MARCH 15, 2023**

The Newberry County Council met on Wednesday, March 15, 2023, 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: Todd Johnson, Chair
Les Hipp, Vice-Chair
Mary Arrowood, Council Member
Karl Sease, Council Member
Robert N. Shealy, Council Member
Johnny Mack Scurry, Council Member
Travis Reeder, Council Member
Jeff Shacker, County Administrator
Karen Brehmer, Deputy County Administrator
Joanie Winters, Interim County Attorney
Debbie S. Cromer, Finance Director
Susan C. Fellers, Clerk to Council

MEDIA: Andrew Wigger, Newberry Observer

Mr. Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and determined a quorum to be present. He welcomed all visitors, as well as the new County Administrator, Jeff Shacker.

Mr. Johnson had the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA:

a. Newberry County Council Meeting of March 1, 2023

Mr. Shealy moved to adopt the Consent Agenda, as presented; seconded by Mrs. Arrowood. There being no discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

2. ADDITIONS, DELETIONS AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

There being no additions or deletions to the Agenda, Mrs. Arrowood moved to adopt the Agenda, as presented; seconded by Mr. Reeder. There being no discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Code Section 30-4-70(a) of the Code of Law of SC, as amended, 1976:

(1) Discussion of matters relating to the proposed location, expansion, or the provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body.

Mr. Sease moved to go into Executive Session for the reasons set forth above; seconded by Mr. Shealy. There being no discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

6:04 P.M. – 6:36 P.M.

Mr. Shealy moved to return to open session; seconded by Mr. Scurry. There being no discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

Council met in Executive Session for the above-stated reasons and no action was taken in Executive Session.

4. RESOLUTION #03-23: INDUCEMENT RESOLUTION COMMITTING TO NEGOTIATE A FEE IN LIEU OF TAX AGREEMENT BETWEEN NEWBERRY COUNTY AND PROJECT N.

Mr. Hipp moved to adopt Resolution #03-23; seconded by Mrs. Arrowood. There being no discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

5. ORDINANCE #03-01-23: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN NEWBERRY COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND PROJECT N PROVIDING FOR A PAYMENT OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAXES, PROVIDING SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDITS, AND AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE MASTER AGREEMENT GOVERNING THE GREENWOOD-NEWBERRY INDUSTRIAL PARK TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADDITION OF PROPERTY AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

a. First Reading

Mrs. Arrowood moved to approve First Reading of Ordinance #03-01-23; seconded by Mr. Sease.

Mr. Hipp stated this was first reading and possibly through second and third readings of this Ordinance minor changes or adjustments could be made. We do not anticipate any substantial changes.

Mr. Johnson stated that the county's legal counsel would finalize the agreement.

There being no further discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Code Section 30-4-70(a) of the Code of Laws of SC, as amended, 1976:

- (1) Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale or purchase of property, the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to a pending, threatened, or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege, settlement of legal claims, or the position of the public agency in other adversary situations involving the assertion against the agency of a claim.**

Mr. Shealy moved to go into Executive Session for the reasons set forth above; seconded by Mr. Hipp. There being no discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION
6:39 P.M. – 6:52 P.M.**

Mr. Shealy moved to return to open session; seconded by Mr. Sease. There being no discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

Council met in Executive Session for the reasons set forth above, and no action was taken in Executive Session.

7. APPOINTMENTS

No appointments were made.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jim Heilman from Prosperity, SC, addressed Council regarding the County web page documentation. The agenda is 41 pages. He pointed out issues with the following:

- page 3, Section 2 of Ordinance #03-01-23 – no documentation

Mr. Hipp interrupted to state that Council's documentation was not going to match the website.

Mr. Heilman continued as follows:

- Fee Agreement, Number 2 – no documentation
- Fee Agreement, page 5, Article II, Section 2.1(b) – no documentation.

Mr. Johnson thanked Mr. Heilman for his comments and advised that in economic development matters the company is not made public until it has been finalized.

9. COMMENTS/REQUESTS FROM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Shacker thanked Council for the opportunity to serve as the County Administrator. He has enjoyed working with Council and staff since his employment three days ago. The staff has been wonderful. The staff meeting on Tuesday was great.

SC Geodetic Survey has a meeting scheduled for county officials on March 29, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at Joanna Woodson Elementary School in Joanna, regarding clarification of the boundary between Laurens County and Newberry County. This meeting will also be available on Zoom.

10. COMMENTS/REQUESTS FROM COUNCIL

Johnny Mack Scurry said it was great to be here with the new County Administrator.

Travis Reeder said it was great to have Mr. Shacker here and just in time for budget meetings.

Mary Arrowood was happy to have Mr. Shacker here and looks forward to working together.

Karl Sease said it was great to have Mr. Shacker here. He also expressed appreciation to Karen, Debbie, and the staff for stepping up when we didn't have an Administrator and keeping the county going.

Nick Shealy concurred with the above statements. He thanked the staff for keeping the County rolling and was glad to see they were feeling better. He looks forward to working with Mr. Shacker.

Les Hipp echoed what everyone said. He also stated during budget workshops the Economic Development Strategic Plan and the salary market survey would have to be considered during budget discussions. Mr. Shacker stated he had copies of both of those and would review them prior to the budget workshops.

Mr. Johnson thanked everybody who held it together.

11. FUTURE MEETINGS:

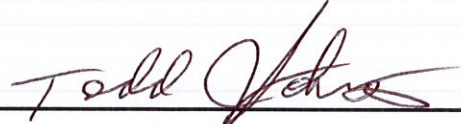
- a. Finance Committee Meeting, March 27, 2023, 6:00 p.m.
- b. FILOT Meeting, March 28, 2023, 2:00 p.m., Annex Conference Room
- c. Newberry County Workforce Summit, March 31, 2023, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Piedmont Tech
- d. County Council Meeting, April 5, 2023, 6:00 p.m.
- e. Budget Work Session, April 12, 2023, 6:00 p.m.
- f. County Council Meeting, April 19, 2023, 6:00 p.m.
- g. Public Safety Committee, April 24, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

12. ADJOURNMENT

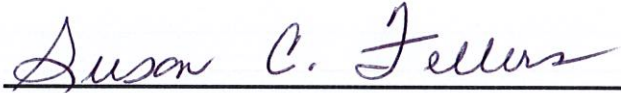
There being no further business to come before Council, Mr. Shealy moved to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Reeder. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL



Todd Johnson, Chair



Susan C. Fellers, Clerk to Council

Minutes Approved: 4-5-2023