

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
FY 21-22 BUDGET WORK SESSION
MINUTES
MAY 10, 2021**

Newberry County Council met on Monday, May 10, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Courthouse Annex, 1309 College Street, Newberry, SC, for a scheduled budget work session.

Notice of the budget work session was duly advertised, as required by law.

PRESENT:

Council Members:

Henry H. Livingston, III (District 3)
Todd Johnson (District 1)
Mary Arrowood (District 2)
Nick Shealy (District 4)
Johnny Mack Scurry (District 6)
Travis Reeder (District 7)

Staff:

A.J. Tothacer, Jr., County Attorney
Karen Brehmer, Deputy County Administrator
Katherine Cook, HR Director
Debbie Cromer, Finance Director
Taylor Davenport, Assistant to County Administrator
Susan Fellers, Clerk to Council
Donna Lominack, Auditor

Media:

Andrew Wigger, Newberry Observer

ABSENT:

Les Hipp, Council Member (District 5)

1. Call to Order

Mr. Livingston called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and determined a quorum to be present.

Mr. Livingston advised that Mr. Hipp injured his neck while working around his house today and would not be in attendance tonight.

- 2. Executive Session: Code Section 30-4-70(a)(1): Discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee, a student, or a person regulated by a public body; however, if an adversary hearing involving the employee or client is held, the employee or client has the right to demand that the hearing be conducted publicly. Nothing contained in this item shall prevent the public body, in its discretion, from deleting the names of the other employees or clients whose records are submitted for use at the hearing.**

Motion by Mr. Shealy to go into Executive Session for the above stated reasons; seconded by Mr. Reeder. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Livingston requested that Mrs. Cook and Mr. Tothacer remain for Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

6:04 p.m. - 6:33 p.m.

Upon returning to open session, Mr. Johnson advised that Council met in Executive Session regarding a contractual and employment matter. No action was taken.

3. General Operating Budget - Finance Staff

Mrs. Cromer updated Council as follows:

- The FY 21-22 County Ordinary budget was balanced at \$27,678,608 as of second reading. This is an increase of \$1,017, 042 over FY 20-21, or an increase of 3.8%.
- Proposed Amendment by Staff: A motion to authorize staff to adjust final FY 20-21 budget revenues and expenditures for capital projects to reflect actual progress to date at the time of the budget's publication.
- Theo DuBose has expressed concern regarding how the payment for the SSRB is handled. Mr. DuBose has scheduled a meeting with staff and the treasurer for May 21, 2021 to discuss the proper way to account for the transactions related to the SSRB. An amendment will be necessary during third reading to decrease the expenditure, Economic Development (Mid Carolina Commerce Park-FILOT) by \$450,769 to \$0 and to decrease revenue (MCCP-FILOT) by \$450,769 to \$0.
- Council needs to direct staff as to how to distribute the salary increases. There is currently an increase of 1.5% for employees and 2.5% for law enforcement. The County's classification and compensation policy allows that funding for general salary increases be distributed using any of four methods, or by any combination of those methods:
 - Cost of Living increase of 1.5%
 - Merit based on employee's work performance
 - Combination of cost of living and merit
 - Competitive
 - Fixed amount.

Mrs. Arrowood felt it should be the cost of living with everybody getting the same amount.

No further discussion or action on this item

4. Community Services Levy Budget - Finance Staff

Mrs. Cromer reported no change since second reading.

5. Debt Service Levy Budget - Finance Staff

Mrs. Brehmer said there is a .9 mill increase but that does not take into account any money that the Auditor, Donna Lominack, may have on hand.

6. Capital Budgeting and Fund Balance - Finance Staff

Mrs. Cromer reported no change since second reading.

7. Discussion of Fees and Fines - Finance Staff

Mrs. Cromer handed out a list of fees and fines to Council and advised there was nothing to report at this time.

8. Discussion of Provisos - Finance Staff

A copy of the Provisos was provided to Council.

9. Public Comments

No comments from the public.

10. Questions/Comments from Council Members

As to the covid funds, Mrs. Arrowood requested staff to research use of those funds for broadband.

Mr. Reeder said his baby daughter graduated from USC Saturday.

Mr. Livingston wished Mrs. Cromer a happy birthday.

11. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, Mr. Shealy moved to adjourn; seconded by Mrs. Arrowood.

Mr. Livingston declared the meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

Henry H. Livingston, III, Chairman

Susan C. Fellers, Clerk to Council

Minutes Approved: _____