

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES
MAY 20, 2020**

Newberry County Council met on Wednesday, May 20, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Courthouse Annex, 1309 College Street, Newberry, S.C., for a regular scheduled meeting.

Notice of the meeting was duly advertised as required by law.

PRESENT: Henry H. Livingston, III, Chairman
Steve Stockman, Council Member
Scott Cain, Council Member
Travis Reeder, Council Member
Dr. Harriett Rucker, Council Member
Johnny Mack Scurry, Council Member
Wayne Adams, County Administrator
Debbie Cromer, Finance Director
Karen Brehmer, Deputy Administrator
Taylor Davenport, Legislative Support Specialist
Susan C. Fellers, Clerk to Council

ABSENT: Kirksey Koon, Council Member
A.J. Tothacer, III, County Attorney

MEDIA: Andrew Wigger, Newberry Observer

Mr. Livingston called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

NOTE: Comments from the public during public hearings are received by e-mail or mail prior to the meeting and will be read into the record. A 30 minute time slot is allowed per public hearing for anyone from the public to call in with questions or comments.

1. Additions, Deletions and Adoption of the Agenda.

There being no additions or deletions to the Agenda, Mr. Cain moved to adopt the Agenda as presented; seconded by Mr. Reeder.

Vote was unanimous to adopt the Agenda as presented.

2. Ordinance #04-14-20: An Ordinance to provide appropriations for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021, for the Newberry County Budget for County Ordinary purposes and for the 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. Public Hearing

At 7:10 p.m., Mr. Livingston declared the public hearing open.

Les Hipp, 1817 Harrington Street, Newberry, SC - liked the live streaming of the meetings and hopes it can be continued. inquired as to whether Newberry County had considered tax relief for small to medium industries/businesses. Larger businesses are given tax incentives.

Mr. Adams responded that the Federal government may approve some type of stimulus relief. County government is waiting to hear if there is a proposal from the Federal government. Options by the County are limited at this time. There would be a cost to everybody to do that.

Mr. Hipp asked if the June Council meeting would be open for the public to attend and if so, would Council schedule another public hearing on the budget ordinances.

Mr. Adams advised that all public hearings have to be advertised 15 days in advance of the public hearing.

Mr. Hipp responded that the public can speak at any meeting and would like for Council to allow the public to speak prior to third reading of the ordinances.

Mr. Adams advised Council would take that under advisement.

Robbiette Hazel, 128 Wessinger Drive, Prosperity, SC - inquired as to non-governmental groups being funded by the County when roads need to be fixed and departments in County government are not getting fully funded.

Mr. Adams responded the County does have funding in the operating budget for some non-governmental agencies.

Ms. Hazel questioned whether that was needed and how the County determined the need.

Mr. Adams advised this funding was not compromising any County Departments.

Mr. Adams read an email from **Barbara Miller**, 1530 Main Street, Apartment 2, Newberry, S.C.. Ms. Miller is a Business Consultant at the Newberry Area Small Business Development Center, a copy of which is on file in the County Administrator's Office.

Mr. Livingston pointed out this was not essential but this agency helps small businesses.

Jacqueline Riser, 4225 Old Whitmire Highway - read an article regarding the Deputy Coroner position and why Council did not fund it. She felt the Coroner's Office was the least funded office in the County.

Mr. Adams advised her comment was noted. County Council has heard all comments and can take that under advisement prior to third reading on June 3.

Mr. Livingston thanked everyone for calling in. He agreed with some comments but as to the roads, Newberry County is comprised of county-owned

roads, state-owned roads and federal-owned roads. We can report road conditions but the County cannot appropriate funds for state and federal roads.

As to the Coroner's Office there has been a \$65,000 increase over the past 5 years. We have not neglected the Coroner's Office.

Mr. Livingston declared the public hearing closed at 7:40 p.m.

3. Ordinance #04-15-20: An Ordinance to provide appropriations for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021, for the Newberry County Library, Piedmont Technical College and Newberry Agency for the Disabilities and Special Needs; to provide for the levy of taxes on all taxable personal and real estate properties in Newberry County for said purposes; to provide for the expenditure of said taxes and other revenues received by the County during said fiscal year for said purposes.

A. Public Hearing

The community services levy budget is balanced at \$1,003,584. Staff projects a millage levy of 6.9 mills (millage rate of 0.0069), which is the same as for the previous budget year.

Mr. Livingston declared the public hearing open at 7:45 p.m.

(County Council continued with the agenda while waiting for any public comments)

4. Ordinance #05-16-20: An Ordinance amending an ordinance entitled "An Ordinance to provide for the issuance and sale of not exceeding \$1,250,000 general obligation bonds of Newberry County, South Carolina, for the issuance of notes in anticipation of such bonds, to prescribe the purposes for which the proceeds of such obligations shall be expended, to provide for the payment thereof, and other matters relating thereto" to amend the use of a portion of the proceeds of the bonds authorized thereby.

A. First Reading

This Ordinance would re-allocate \$300,000 in funding already on hand to purchase an existing building and renovate it for use by the facilities maintenance department. The funding would be reallocated as follows:

Courthouse Elevator Repair	\$150,000
Detention Center Alarm System	85,000
Consolidated Fire Dept. Roof Replacement	30,000
Prosperity Fire Dept. Roof Replacement	35,000
Total	\$300,000

Motion by Dr. Rucker for first reading; second by Mr. Reeder.

There being no discussion, Mr. Livingston called for the vote.

Vote was unanimous.

5. Resolution #03-20: A Resolution accepting FAA Grants for reimbursement of Cares Act-related expenses.

This Resolution accepts and authorizes the County Administrator to execute a \$20,000 grant for the Newberry County Airport. This funding is intended to assist airports affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, though it allows for broad latitude in how it is spent. The airport manager intends to use the funding to repair the security access gate into the airport, and to repair doors to T-hangars.

Mr. Cain recused himself because of his use of the Newberry County Airport.

Motion by Dr. Rucker to adopt Resolution; second by Mr. Stockman.

There being no discussion, Mr. Livingston called for the vote.

Voting for the motion: Council Members Livingston, Koon, Stockman, Reeder, Rucker and Scurry.

Vote was unanimous with the exception of Mr. Cain who recused himself.

Motion passed.

6. Resolution #04-20: A Resolution declaring the intention of Newberry County, South Carolina to reimburse itself for certain expenditures with the proceeds of debt to be incurred by Newberry County, South Carolina.

This Resolution would allow the County to reimburse itself from the proceeds of a planned borrowing for FY 20-21. The County would pay cash from fund balance for a pumper-tanker fire truck (demo) that is in stock now (\$300,000) and be reimbursed once that borrowing is funded. This new pumper-tanker would be assigned to the Little Mountain Volunteer Fire Department.

Motion by Mr. Stockman to adopt Resolution; second by Mr. Cain.

There being no discussion, Mr. Livingston called for the vote.

Vote was unanimous to adopt the Resolution.

7. Resolution #05-20: A Resolution to approve a memorandum of understanding between the South Carolina Department of Social Services, Office of Inspector General and State Law Enforcement Bureau and the Newberry County Sheriff's Office.

This Resolution acknowledges that the Sheriff will be entering into an interagency agreement, the purpose of which is to combat fraud in the use of Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards. EBT cards are similar to credit or debit cards but are used to administer the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as "food stamps." This agreement is slightly modified from an existing one that was approved in 2015.

Motion by Mr. Cain to adopt Resolution; second by Dr. Rucker.

There being no discussion, Mr. Livingston called for the vote.

Vote was unanimous to adopt the Resolution.

8. Executive Session (if needed).

No Executive Session needed.

9. Public Comments.

No written comments were received by the County Administration Office.

10. Comments/Requests from County Administrator.

Mr. Adams had no comments.

11. Comments/Requests from Council Members.

Mr. Scurry had no comments.

Dr. Rucker felt the 20-21 budget was good. She also asked if the live stream of the meetings was something the County could possibly continue.

Mr. Reeder thanked the County Administrator and staff for an excellent job on the budget. He also congratulated all graduating high school and college graduates.

Mr. Cain and Mr. Stockman said Memorial Day weekend was coming up and hoped everyone would stay safe.

Mr. Livingston asked when County Offices would reopen. Mr. Adams advised that all County government offices would reopen on May 26.

Mr. Livingston thanked the community for being supportive with all we have been going through. He thanked the County Employees who had input into the budget for 20-21.

Mr. Livingston also thanked all first responders during this pandemic.

12. Future Meetings

- A. County Council, 6/3/2020 at 7:00 p.m.**
- B. Economic Development, 6/15/2020 at 7:00 p.m.**
- C. County Council, 6/17/2020 at 7:00 p.m.**

As to **Agenda Item #4**, no call-in comments were received; therefore, Mr. Livingston declared the public hearing closed at 8:15 p.m.

13. Adjournment.

Motion by Mr. Cain to adjourn.

Mr. Livingston declared the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

Henry H. Livingston, III, Chairman

Susan C. Fellers, Clerk to Council

MINUTES APPROVED:_____