

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES
JUNE 16, 2021**

Newberry County Council met on Wednesday, June 16, 2021, 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:

Council Members:

Henry H. Livingston, III, Chairman - District 3
Todd Johnson, Vice-Chairman - District 1
Mary C. Arrowood - District 2
Nick Shealy - District 4 (virtual)
Les Hipp - District 5
Johnny Mack Scurry - District 6
Travis Reeder - District 7

Staff:

William A. McDonald, Interim Administrator
A.J. Tothacer, Jr., County Attorney
Taylor Davenport, Assistant to County Administrator
Susan C. Fellers, Clerk to Council
Debbie S. Cromer, Finance Director
Katherine Cook, HR Director
Beth Folk, Clerk of Court
Lee Foster, Sheriff
Ben Chapman, Sheriff's Office
Laura Kneece, Coroner
Rick Farmer, Economic Development Director

Media:

Andrew Wigger, Newberry Observer

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

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

1. Adoption of Consent Agenda

Mrs. Arrowood moved to adopt the Consent Agenda consisting of the minutes of the May 10, 2021 meeting; seconded by Mr. Reeder.

Mr. Hipp advised no minutes were attached to the agenda packets distributed to Council, and he had a problem voting on something he had not seen.

During discussion, Mrs. Davenport stated she had the minutes if anyone wanted to see them.

Mr. Hipp recommended delay of adoption of the minutes of May 10, 2021 and that they be included in the next Council agenda packet.

Consensus of Council was to delay approval of the May 10, 2021 minutes.

2. Additions, Deletions and Adoption of the Agenda

Mr. Scurry moved to adopt the Agenda as presented; seconded by Mr. Reeder. Vote was unanimous.

3. Employee Recognition

Mr. Livingston recognized and thanked the following employees for their years of service to Newberry County:

Keith Suber, Public Works - 15 years

Michael Stribble, Sheriff's Office - 20 years

Shannon Murphy, Auditor's Office - 25 years

4. Committee Report

**A. Economic Development Committee 6/14/21
Rick Farmer, Economic Development Director**

Mr. Farmer reviewed the powerpoint presentation which was presented to the Economic Development Committee at its meeting on June 14, 2021. A copy of the presentation is on file in the Administration Office and the Economic Development Office.

5. Introduction of Interim County Administrator

Mr. Livingston read the press release from Parker Poe Consulting into the record:

“Newberry County Council Hires Interim Administrator:

Newberry County Council has engaged with the Law Firm of Parker Poe Adams and Bernstein of Columbia SC through an existing agreement to employ an Interim Administrator.

The Consulting Division of Parker Poe (Parker Poe Consulting) will provide direct Interim Administrator services to Newberry County Council until a full-time Administrator has been appointed.

Mr. William A. McDonald will serve in the role of Interim Administrator for Newberry County Council. Mr. McDonald has over 30 years of local government management experience and holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in Public Administration from the University of South Carolina.

Parker Poe Consulting will also assist Newberry County in the search process for a full-time Administrator.”

Mr. Livingston welcomed Mr. McDonald and expressed appreciation to him for acting as Interim Administrator until a permanent administrator could be hired.

Mr. McDonald stated he was happy to be here and it was great to finally be sitting in the seat. His first three days have been quite an experience but have been good. The employees he has met have been very positive. He felt there were a lot of good things going on here.

Mr. Hipp thanked him for accepting this and felt he would find Newberry County has wonderful staff and employees who will support him.

Mrs. Arrowood welcomed Mr. McDonald and looked forward to working with him. The County has good employees and management, both of whom are willing to work with you and help you.

6. Appointments

Mrs. Arrowood recommended the re-appointment of John Pugh to the Newberry County Memorial Hospital Board; seconded by Mr Reeder. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Reeder recommended the appointment of Adonis Hill to the Airport Commission; seconded by Mr. Hipp. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Reeder recommended the appointment of John T. Nichols to the Newberry Water and Sewer Authority Board; seconded by Mrs. Arrowood. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Shealy recommended the appointment of Doug Hipp to the Board of Zoning Appeals; seconded by Mr. Scurry. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Shealy recommended the appointment of Misty West to the Airport Commission; seconded by Mrs. Arrowood. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Shealy recommended the appointment of Joe Trainor to the Newberry County Memorial Hospital Board; seconded by Mr. Reeder. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Shealy recommended the appointment of Shawn Pomeroy to the Newberry County Memorial Hospital Board; seconded by Mr. Hipp. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Shealy recommended the appointment of Randall Malloy to the Westview Behavioral Board; seconded by Mr. Reeder. Vote was unanimous.

7. Executive Session

No Executive Session needed.

8. Public Comments

Mark Kyzer with the Soil and Water Conservation District introduced their new employee, Crista Lukoski.

9. Comments/Requests from Council Members

Mr. Shealy - none

Mr. Hipp - none

Mrs. Arrowood - happy to have the Interim Administrator on board and looks forward to working with him.

Mr. Johnson - welcomed Mr. McDonald and looked forward to working with him. You will find Newberry to be the greatest county with the greatest people God has put on the earth.

Mr. Scurry - none

Mr. Reeder - welcomed Mr. McDonald and looked forward to working with him. He said it was good to see Sheriff Foster out and at the meeting. He invited everyone to the first annual Juneteenth celebration on Saturday. There will be a march from Bethlehem Church to

downtown Newberry. There will be exhibits at the museum and the Newberry Opera House.

Mr. Livingston thanked Mr. McDonald for being here. He thanked Mr. Poe for his guidance in the search for an interim and permanent administrator. He thanked Katherine Cook for coordinating all of the information and getting it out in a timely manner.

He also expressed appreciation to the long term employees.

He thanked Rick Farmer for his work with economic development.

He also recognized the Sheriff and welcomed him back.

10. Future Meetings

A.	County Council	7/7/21	6:00 pm
B.	Public Safety and Courts Committee	7/12/21	6:00 pm
C.	County Council	7/21/21	6:00 pm

11. Adjournment

Mr. Scurry moved to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Hipp.

Mr. Livingston declared the meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

Henry H. Livingston, III, Chairman

Susan C. Fellers, Clerk to Council

Minutes Approved:_____