

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES
JUNE 17, 2020**

Newberry County Council met on Wednesday, June 17, 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
Kirksey Koon, Vice-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
A.J. Tothacer, III, County Attorney
Debbie S. Cromer, Finance Director
Karen Brehmer, Deputy Administrator
Taylor Davenport, Legislative Support Specialist
Susan C. Fellers, Clerk to Council (live stream)

Media: Andrew Wigger, Newberry Observer

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

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

1. Adoption of Consent Agenda

Motion by Mr. Scurry to adopt the Consent Agenda consisting of Minutes of the April 6, 2020 and May 4, 2020 Council meetings; second by Dr. Rucker.

Vote was unanimous.

2. Additions, Deletions and Adoption of Agenda

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

Vote was unanimous.

3. Employee Service Awards

Mr. Livingston recognized and presented Employee Service Awards to the following employees:

- Jasmonique Ruff, Sheriff's Office - 5 years
- Richard Farmer, Economic Development - 5 years
- Joseph Bickley, Public Works - 10 years
- McKea Kinard-Shelton, Sheriff's Office - 10 years
- Timothy Hueble, Sheriff's Office - 15 years
- Jeffery Martin, Building Maintenance - 20 years
- Connie Johnson, Sheriff's Office - 20 years
- Tony Eigner, Sheriff's Office - 20 years
- Debra Beard, Sheriff's Office - 25 years

4. Personal Appearances

- **Newberry Soil and Water Conservation District - Mr. Joseph Berry, District Coordinator and Mr. Doug Heydt, Treasurer**

Mr. Heydt updated Council on happenings at the Newberry Soil and Water Conservation District.

- **Camp Conservation:** scheduled for next week at Wilson Farm in Silverstreet with over 40 registrants.
- **Feral Hogs:** Newberry has been selected along with 20 other counties in the southeast to work on a trial program. A grant has been obtained for over \$300,000 over a 3 year period. Seventy-five per cent of this grant is federal funds.
- **Federal government,** the United States Department of Agriculture in expanding the impact of the conservation service in the county.

- Ben Setzler has been elected vice president of the South Carolina Conservation District.
- Joe Berry has been elected vice president of the State Employees Association.
- Newberry County was selected as the state winner for the Soil and Conservation Districts.

Mr. Heydt thanked County Council for its support over the past year.

Mr. Reeder thanked the Newberry Soil and Water Conservation District for all they do for Newberry County.

5. Ordinance #02-13-20: An Ordinance to amend the Budget Ordinance for the FY 2019-2020, Ordinance #04-04-2019, to provide for revised revenues and appropriations.

a. Public Hearing

Mr. Livingston declared the public hearing open.

This ordinance reconciles actual expenditures and revenues with those originally included in the FY 19-20 budget, in advance of the fiscal year's end. Revenues will reflect updated estimates, based on actual receipts. Expenditure items to be amended include salaries for law enforcement officers and economic development costs.

There being no comments from the public, Mr. Livingston declared the public hearing closed.

b. Third Reading

Motion by Dr. Rucker to approve third reading; second by Mr. Reeder.

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

Vote was unanimous to approve third reading.

6. **Ordinance #05-16-20: An Ordinance amending an ordinance entitled “An Ordinance to provide for the issuance and sale of not exceeding one million two hundred fifty thousand (1,250,000) dollars 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. Public Hearing

Mr. Livingston declared the public hearing open.

This ordinance re-allocates \$300,000 in funds from the FY 19-20 budget originally intended to purchase an existing building and renovate it for use by the facilities maintenance department. The funding is to 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

There being no comments from the public, Mr. Livingston declared the public hearing closed.

b. Third Reading

Motion by Mr. Stockman to approve third reading; second by Mr. Cain.

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

Vote was unanimous to approve third reading.

- 7. Ordinance #06-17-20: An Ordinance to provide for the issuance and sale of not exceeding one million one hundred twenty-five thousand (\$1,125,000) dollars general obligation refunding bonds of Newberry County, South Carolina, 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. (TITLE ONLY)**

a. First Reading

This ordinance provides for the re-issuance of the County's 2018 bonds, which have no prepayment penalty. Prevailing (lower) interest rates are expected to save the County approximately \$7,500 annually.

Motion to approve first reading by Mr. Scurry; second by Mr. Stockman.

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

Vote was unanimous to approve first reading.

8. Executive Session (if needed)

No Executive Session needed.

9. Committee Report

- a. Economic Development Committee 6/15/20 - Rick Farmer, Economic Development Director**

Mr. Farmer reported as follows:

- slowed project activity due to Covid.
- Spec building is completed.
- Duke site readiness effort: Duke Power will spend up to \$40,000 and Newberry County \$1,000 for the readiness of the site.
- Larger industrial site for an industrial park has been stalled with owner permissions.
- SC Department of Commerce has granted up to \$5,000 each for drone videos. Five sites have been selected at no cost to the County.

- At the March meeting of the Economic Development Committee, the Committee approved submitting the \$18,000 quarterly invoice for Central Alliance to the full Council for action.
- Existing industries need lots of support. A lot of time has been spent distributing information on how to deal with Covid in the workplace. Industries are being contacted about every 2 weeks to determine any needs they may have. No industries are back to any relative state of normal.
- Toast of the Town was cancelled and not sure it will happen at all in 2020.

The Central Alliance invoice cannot be approved tonight since it was not noted on the agenda.

Mr. Reeder asked if any other companies were having problems with Covid.

Mr. Farmer indicated there were quite a few. Samsung closed down a couple of times but they still have cases popping up. They are screening before employees enter the building.

Some companies laid off workers and couldn't get employees back because of the lucrative unemployment benefits.

10.Appointments

The Newberry County Memorial Hospital has requested that Council consider for approval the appointment of Dr. Phil Milner as the Medical Staff Representative. Dr. Milner will replace Dr. Steven Fiamengo, who is no longer with the hospital.

Motion by Mr. Koon to appoint Dr. Phil Milner as the Medical Staff Representative on the Newberry County Memorial Hospital Board; second by Mr. Cain.

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

Vote was unanimous to appoint Dr. Phil Milner.

Dr. Rucker recommended the appointment of Jeff Wicker to the Newberry County Hospital Board to replace Bob Burch; second by Mr. Reeder.

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

Vote was unanimous to appoint Jeff Wicker to the hospital board.

11. Public Comments

No comments from the public.

12. Comments/Requests from County Administrator

No comments.

13. Comments/Requests from Council Members

Dr. Rucker said it was nice to be done with the budget.

Mr. Reeder thanked everyone who came to the unity march last Sunday and requested that everyone keep up the good work when it comes to being unified.

Mr. Stockman reminded Council District 2 voters a very important run-off coming up Tuesday and urged those voters to come out and vote in order to have a qualified person.

Mr. Koon mentioned Tony Eigner who has been with the Sheriff's Office for 20 years.

Mr. Livingston reminded everyone of the fireworks at Lake Murray on July 4 around 9:00 p.m.

14. Future Meetings

- a. County Council, 7/1/2020 at 7:00 p.m.**
- b. Public Safety and Courts, 7/13/2020 at 5:00 p.m.**
- c. County Council, 7/15/20 at 7:00 p.m.**

15. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Reeder to adjourn.

Mr. Livingston declared the meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

Henry H. Livingston, III, Chairman

Susan C. Fellers, Clerk to Council

APPROVED: _____