

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES
JUNE 3, 2020**

Newberry County Council met on Wednesday, June 3, 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

MEDIA: Andrew Wigger, Newberry Observer

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

Mr. Stockman had the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Additions, Deletions and Adoption of Agenda.

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

Vote was unanimous.

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. **Third Reading**

The general operating budget is balanced at \$26,661,566 and will require a levy of 119.4 mills. It is estimated this levy will produce \$17,367,309 in ad valorem property tax revenue.

The projected levy for general operating (119.4 mills) is 2.6 mills lower than the current year (122.0 mills). There will be no increase in property taxes.

The estimated mill value for FY 20-21 is \$145,447, up 1.5% from the collected mill value for the current year (\$143,298). Historically, this is in line with mill value increases for Newberry County in non-reassessment years.

In 2006 Newberry County was truly one of the highest taxing counties. Today Newberry County is 24th in the State.

Motion by Mr. Scurry to adopt third reading; second by Mr. Reeder.

Mr. Koon said Council has worked very hard as well as the administration and staff. Cuts have been made and those cuts will keep us from raising taxes this year. It is a good and fair budget and will vote for third reading.

Mr. Stockman thanked the staff, Wayne Adams, and County Council for working hard to make cuts in the budget.

Dr. Rucker thanked staff and administration for their work on the budget.

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

Vote was unanimous to adopt third reading.

- 3. Ordinance #04-15-20: An Ordinance to provide appropriations for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021, for Newberry County Library, Piedmont Technical College and Newberry Agency for Disabilities and Special Needs; to provide for the levy of taxes on all personal and real 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. Third Reading**

The community services levy remains at 6.9 mills for FY 20-21. The additional revenue that will result from the increase in mill value (\$28,106) will be shared proportionately among the three entities funded by this levy.

Motion by Dr. Rucker to adopt third reading; second by Mr. Scurry.

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

Vote was unanimous to adopt third reading.

- 4. 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 the 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. Second Reading

This ordinance would re-allocate \$300,000 in funds already on hand but originally borrowed (FY 19-20 budget) 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 Mr. Reeder to adopt second reading; second by Mr. Scurry.

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

Vote was unanimous to adopt second reading.

5. Executive Session (if needed)

No Executive Session needed.

6. Public Comments

No public comments.

7. Comments/Requests from County Administrator

Mr. Adams recognized the staff budget committee: Debbie Cromer, Karen Brehmer and Taylor Davenport.

8. Comments/Requests from Council Members

Mr. Scurry thanked the County Administrator and staff in helping to lower the budget. He urged that we look beyond everyone's faults and asked that we extend love to everyone.

Dr. Rucker thanked the staff, administration and Council for remaining united in support of the budget.

Mr. Reeder thanked the staff for their work on the budget. He never thought we would have a virus that has taken so many lives. In looking back into the 60s when there was marching and protesting, it is time we all take a look and stand for what is right and do what is right. Our country can go up or down, and everybody needs to improve. We take a lot for granted. We should all lift our hands to the Man above to get back to where we need to be. Keep praying for our country.

Mr. Cain said freedom is not free. We have worked hard and right now we need to work even harder on coming back together. We need to return to “One nation under God.” We can improve and pray that we will get through this as one nation still.

Mr. Stockman said it is hard to add to everything that has already been said. We need to look to the Lord God above. This is not the first pandemic and won't be the last but He is the only one that can see us through.

The primary is June 9 and Mr. Stockman is willing to serve another term for the people of district 2. He is running on the platform of taxpayer protection.

Mr. Koon requested prayers for our nation, law enforcement and those affected by the virus. There are some bad apples in law enforcement and justice will be served. Last year 89 law enforcement officers lost their lives in the line of duty. Prayers and thoughts for all who lost loved ones and have had their lives turned upside down.

Mr. Livingston asked for prayers for our country and for the day that we can unite together and praise the good Lord above.

Mr. Livingston said he is not big on political parties but urged consideration of voting for our resident Senator, Ronnie Cromer. If he is not re-elected, Newberry County will lose a major force for our county.

He also thanked elected officials, staff and all county employees who are going without a salary increase in FY 20-21.

Mike Briggs' health is failing and Mr. Livingston requested that Council keep him and his family in prayer. He will be stepping down from his position on June 30 as cancer is wreaking havoc on him.

9. Future Meetings:

- a. Economic Development, 6/15/2020, 7:00 p.m.
- b. County Council, 6/17/2020, 7:00 p.m.
- c. County Council, 7/1/2020. 7:00 p.m.

10. Adjournment.

There being no further business to come before Council, Dr. Rucker moved for adjournment.

Mr. Livingston declared the meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

Henry H. Livingston, III, Chairman

Susan C. Fellers, Clerk to Council

APPROVED _____