

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 2, 2020**

The Newberry County Council met on Wednesday, September 2, 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, Chairman  
Kirksey Koon, Vice-Chairman  
Steve Stockman, 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, Assistant to County Administrator  
Susan C. Fellers, Clerk to Council

**ABSENT:** Scott Cain, Council Member

**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.

**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; seconded by Mr. Reeder. Vote was unanimous.

**2. Personal Appearances**  
**a. Donna Lominack, Auditor**

“As Newberry County Auditor, I am officially setting the 2020 Tax Levy for all County and School Bonded Indebtedness Purposes as authorized by Sections 4-15-150 and 59-71-150 of the 1976 Code of Laws of South Carolina. I am presenting the 2020 Tax Levy for School Ordinary Purposes as set by the Newberry County Board of Education per letter dated August 14, 2020 which stated in part, ‘the 2020 School Ordinary Tax Levy be set at 180.0 mills’.

Per County of Newberry Budget Ordinance No. 04-14-20, I am recommending County Council levy 119.4 mills for County Ordinary Purposes and 0.0 mills for Reserve Fund Purposes; 2020 County Lease Purchase - I am levying 5.0 mills; 2013 A Santee Cooper - I am levying 0.1 mill; County General Obligation Bonds of 2020 A - I am levying 1.4 mill; County General Obligation of 2020 B - I am levying 0.6 mill; County General Obligation Bonds of 2018 C - I am levying 0.6 mill. Per County of Newberry Budget Ordinance No. 04-15-20, I am recommending County Council levy 6.9 mills for Community Services; for a total 2020 levy for County Purposes of 134.0 mills.

For School Purposes - the Newberry County Board of Education has levied 180.0 mills for School Ordinary Purposes for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year. For School General Obligation Bonds of 2020, I am levying 53.0 mills for a total 2020 levy for School Purposes of 233.0 mills.

The total levy for County Purposes is 134.0 mills and for School Purposes is 233.0 mills. The total Tax Levy for both County and School Purposes is 367.0 mills (a drop of 2 mills).

The anticipated value of one mill for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year for County Purposes is \$145,447, for School Purposes (Bonds) is \$150,952 and for School Purposes (School Operating) is \$94,904.

Respectfully submitted,  
/s/ Donna W. Lominack  
Newberry County Auditor”

3. **Ordinance #08-18-20: An Ordinance amending an ordinance entitled “An Ordinance authorizing the execution of an equipment lease-purchase agreement in an amount not exceeding \$965,000 relating to the purchase of certain equipment by Newberry County, authorizing the execution of other necessary documents and papers, and other matters relating thereto” to direct the use of available proceeds of the lease-purchase agreement authorized thereby.**

**a. Second Reading**

This Ordinance amends a previous lease-purchase ordinance (Ordinance #08-10-19) to allow for purchasing three heart monitors for use by rescue squads, rather than two. The funding is available with the original borrowing amount.

Motion by Dr. Rucker to approve second reading; second by Mr. Reeder. There being no discussion, Mr. Livingston called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

4. **Ordinance #08-19-2020: An Ordinance authorizing the execution of an equipment lease-purchase agreement in an amount not exceeding \$875,000 relating to the purchase of certain equipment by Newberry County, authorizing the execution of other necessary documents and papers, and other matters relating thereto.**

**a. Second Reading**

This ordinance provides for the lease purchase of the following equipment items, which Council has approved as part of the FY 20-21 budget:

One EMS ambulance remount	\$174,000
One pumper/tanker fire truck	325,000
Two heart monitors	70,000
One motor grader	229,500
Two vehicles for school resource officers	80,000
Total	\$878,500

Motion by Mr. Koon to approve second reading; second by Mr. Stockman. There being no discussion, Mr. Livingston called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

**5. Ordinance #08-20-20: An Ordinance to create the JB Fulmer Special Tax District.**

**a. Second Reading**

On July 14, 2020, by a margin of 14-1, voters residing on JB Fulmer Court approved the creation of a special tax district for the purpose of maintaining their unpaved roadway. The approved referendum called for a not-to-exceed %150 annual uniform service charge to offset expenses incurred by the County in providing this service Under Code Section 4-9-30(5) of the South Carolina Code of Laws, the creation of a special tax district requires the adoption of an ordinance by County Council.

Motion by Mr. Scurry to approve second reading; second by Dr. Rucker. There being no further discussion, Mr. Livingston called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

**6. Consideration to approve a joint partnership with the City of Newberry for Civic Leadership Academy.**

The City of Newberry is launching this program to make interested citizens aware of opportunities to serve local government in both paid and voluntary capacities (employment, boards, commissions, volunteer programs, etc.). If the County participates, our opportunities would be showcased as well. The first iteration of the academy will involve eight evening sessions, each lasting from one to two hours in length.

The sessions would be led by Charles Weathers of the Weathers Group. Weathers can be described as a consultant and motivational speaker. Though the stated purpose of the sessions is to introduce various aspects of local government to citizens, it is likely that the participating local governments will learn a lot about how their citizens view them as institutions.

The total cost of the program is \$20,000. The City is requesting that we contribute \$10,000, if the County wants to be part of this pilot program.

Motion by Mr. Reeder to approve a joint partnership with the City of Newberry for the Civic Leadership Academy; second by Dr. Rucker.

Dr. Rucker felt this was a great opportunity for people to learn about the different committees and to understand what each committee does.

Mr. Koon said there was already a similar program in place through the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Livingston said this is a somewhat different format. The other is more of an overview of county government. This one is more committee oriented and we are in need of someone to volunteer for a board position now. He felt it might be a good thing.

Mr. Koon said this would increase the amount of people who would participate. He felt if the County was paying half the bill, the County should have half the sayso.

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

- 7. Executive Session: Section 30-4-70(a)(2) and (a)(5): Discussion of matters incident to proposed contractual arrangements, and related to the proposed location, expansion, or the provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other business in the area served by the public body.**

Mr. Adams advised the Executive Session was not necessary at this time.

## **8. Appointments**

No appointments,

## **9. Public Comments**

No public comments.

## **10. Comments/Requests from County Administrator**

Mr. Adams introduced Liz McDonald, the newly hired Newberry County Assessor.

## **11. Comments/Requests from Council Members**

Mr. Scurry thanked Donna Lominack and her staff for doing such great work and welcomed Ms. McDonald.

Dr. Rucker also thanked Donna Lominack for all she does. She advised that Dr. Bobby Livingston, who was born and reared here, passed away and asked that everyone keep his family in prayer.

Mr. Reeder also expressed appreciation to Ms. Lominack and welcomed Ms. McDonald.

Mr. Stockman thanked Ms. Lominack and her staff, as well as Mr. Adams and his staff.

Mr. Koon dittoed all that had been said. He requested prayers for the families of P.K. Fulmer (retired USAF and former City Recreation Director) and Al Morrison (retired from the Marines, served in the Korean conflict, expert marksman, former VA Director, 3 times gold medal winner in the Olympics),

Mr. Livingston also requested prayers for the families mentioned tonight. There will be a time that taxes will have to go back up, and we will have to make some tough decisions. We hope it will continue to go down. He thanked everyone for working together for the good of Newberry County. He also welcomed Ms. McDonald to Newberry County.

Dr. Rucker thanked Mr. Adams for being so budget oriented..

**12. Future Meetings**

- a. Personnel and Intergovernmental on 9/14/20 at 6:00 p.m.
- b. County Council on 9/16/20 at 7:00 p.m.
- c. Economic Development n 9/28/20 at 7:00 p.m.

**13. Adjournment**

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

Mr. Livingston declared the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL**

---

**Henry H. Livingston, III, Chairman**

---

**Susan C. Fellers, Clerk to Council**

**MINUTES APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_**