

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
BUDGET WORK SESSION
MINUTES
APRIL 6, 2020**

The Newberry County Council met on Monday, April 6, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Courthouse Annex, 1309 College Street, Newberry, S.C., for a budget work session.

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
Travis Reeder, Council Member
Dr. Harriett Rucker, Council Member
Johnny Mack Scurry, Council Member
Waye Adams, County Administrator
Debbie S. Cromer, Finance Director
Karen Brehmer, Deputy County Administrator

WATCHING LIVE STREAM: Scott Cain, Council Member
Susan C. Fellers, Clerk to Council

MEDIA: Andrew Wigger, Newberry Observer

1. Call to Order - Henry H. Livingston, III, Chairman

Mr. Livingston called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Koon opened with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Appearances:

A. Laura Kneece, Coroner

Ms. Kneece presented handouts to Council (copies of which are on file in the County Administrator's Office). She requested an increase in her budget of approximately \$40,000¹ for 2 part time Deputy Coroners (29 hours each per week).

Mr. Stockman requested that she forward a written review of the staffing pattern to the County Administrator.

B. Jason Hentz, EMS Director

Mr. Hentz requested an increase of \$37,000 in addition to what is already in the budget for a second remount.²

3. General Operating Budget - County Administrator and Finance Staff.

Mr. Adams presented the General Operating Budget which is currently balanced at \$27,038,791. This is an increase of \$721,909 over the FY 2019-2020 budget. A copy of the FY 20-21 Budget and the Executive Summary setting forth the budget matters presented by Mr. Adams is on file in the County Administrator's Office.

The value of a mill for FY 2020-2021 is \$143,298. Budget mill value is \$145,477.

4. Community Services Levy Budget - County Administrator and Finance Staff.

This budget is comprised of Newberry County Disabilities and Special Needs, Newberry County Library and Piedmont Technical College. The proposed budget for FY 2020-2021 includes revenue from 6.9 mills, dividing the growth

¹ Ms. Kneece mentioned several figures and it was not clear to the Clerk to Council exactly what amount she requested.

² Mr. Hentz was not speaking into the microphone and there was considerable background noise from paper rustling that caused much of his presentation to be inaudible.

in levy revenue of \$28,313 (total) proportionately among the three agencies based on the prior year's budget for each. The proposed budget is currently balanced at \$1,003,791.

5. Debt Service Levy Budget - County Administrator and Finance Staff.

The Traditional GO Bond Indebtedness for FY 20-21 requires a levy of 2.4 mills (same mills as required in the FY 19-20 budget).

Under Lease Purchase Indebtedness, the FY 20-21 budget includes funding for 1 ambulance for EMS (\$174,000), 1 pumper tanker (\$325,000), 2 heart monitors (\$70,000) for rescue, 4 vehicles for new school resource officers (\$160,000), and 1 motor grader for Public Works (\$229,590). Levy for FY 20-21 is 4.6, the same levy as FY 19-20.

Speculative Building Indebtedness remains at 0.1 mill (same as FY 19-20).

All Bonded Indebtedness purposes require 7.1 mills for FY 20-21 (same as FY 19-20).

The Public Hearing on the FY 20-21 budget will be held on May 20. This meeting will be live streamed, and anyone from the public wishing to comment may do so by phone-in during the meeting or email to be received no later than 5:00 pm on May 20. The email will be read into the record at the May 20 meeting.

As of right now, there is a 3.44 mill increase for the FY 20-21 budget.

Mr. Stockman said the millage has decreased over the past 11 years. At this time with people losing jobs, the last thing they need is an increase in taxes. The staff always does an excellent job with the budget and the budget should not be increased this year.

Mr. Livingston said there is still time to take a closer view of the budget prior to third reading. There are many unfunded mandates with which the County is required to comply.

Mr. Adams said the County is in excellent shape financially. The FY 20-21 budget was cut \$1.5 Million prior to presenting it to Council for consideration. The Capital Outlay was cut from \$1.75 Million to \$554,000.

Mr. Koon agreed with the comments of Mr. Livingston and Mr. Stockman. He feels there should be no consideration of funds for special interest groups. We should only consider essential funding.

After discussion, Council requested the County Administrator and Finance Staff review the budget for additional cuts.

6. Capital Budgeting and Fund Balance - County Administrator and Finance Staff.

Mr. Adams said as of June 30, 2020 the County will have 6.76 months of fund balance. June 30, 2021 assumes 100% of expenditure of FY 20-21 budget.

7. Consideration of Annual Indexing of Elected Officials' Salaries.

Unless County Council says otherwise by the first meeting in May, it is automatically figured as to the CPI for the prior year.

This year it would be 1.5% regardless of the CPI, which is the same percentage increase for all other County employees.

8. Questions/Comments from Council Members.

Mr. Scurry - none.

Dr. Rucker thanked the staff for their work during these very distressing times.

Mr. Reeder requested that the budget be cut and taxes not be increased.

Mr. Stockman said for everyone to remain safe during these times.

Mr. Koon said the Governor has issued a stay at home order and that everyone should take his advice.

Mr. Livingston thanked the first responders since they don't have the option of staying at home. He also thanked all Department Heads, Elected Officials and staff for working together on the budget.

9. Public Comments.

Public Comments were to be submitted by email or mailed to the County. As of the time of this meeting no comments had been received either by email or mail.

10. Adjournment.

Motion by Dr. Rucker to adjourn.

Mr. Livingston declared the meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

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Henry H. Livingston, III, Chairman

Susan C. Fellers, Clerk to Council

Minutes Approved: _____