

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL  
BUDGET WORK SESSION  
MINUTES  
MAY 4, 2020**

The Newberry County Council met on Monday, May 4, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Courthouse Annex, 1309 College Street, Newberry, SC, for a scheduled budget work session.

Notice of the budget work session 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  
Debbie S. Cromer, Finance Director  
Karen Brehmer, Deputy County Administrator  
Taylor Davenport, Assistant to County Administrator

**WATCHING LIVE STREAM:** Susan C. Fellers, Clerk to Council

**ABSENT:** A.J. Tothacer, III, County Attorney

**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 had the prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

- 2. General Operating Budget - County Administrator and Finance Staff**
  - a. Consideration of staff-prepared amendments**
  - b. Council discussion**

Mr. Adams presented the staff-prepared amendments (copies of which are on file in the County Administrator's Office).

The budget is currently balanced at \$27,038,790, of which \$17,744,534 will be generated from property taxes. The projected value of a tax mill is \$145,447. This budget is balanced at 122 mills, which is the same levy as last year.

- 3. Community Services Levy Budget - County Administrator and Finance Staff**
  - a. Consideration of staff-prepared amendments**
  - b. Council discussion**

The Community Services Levy Budget is \$1,000,000 and equates to 6.9 mills. This will generate an additional \$28,313 to be divided among the Newberry County Library, Piedmont Technical College and the Newberry Disabilities and Special Needs.

After discussion, Council requested this to also be included on the May 4 Council agenda for further discussion and action.

- 4. Debt Service Levy Budget - County Administrator and Finance Staff**
  - a. Consideration of staff-prepared amendments**
  - b. Council discussion**

This budget is balanced at \$1.5 million. Council's consensus was to give further consideration of deleting 2 of the School Resource Officers' vehicles at second reading.

After comments and discussion by Council Members of Agenda Items 2-4, Council requested proposed deletions/amendments of the following items at second reading of the Ordinances:

- 1) Delete salary increases for County employees in the amount of \$175,191 (1.20 mills)
- 2) Delete Council Contingency (partial) in the amount of \$101,634 (0.70 of a mill)
- 3) Delete funding to Newberry Museum in the amount of \$70,000 (0.48 of a mill)
- 4) Delete one time equipment purchase for School Resource Officers in the amount of \$33,400 (0.23 of a mill)
- 5) Delete funding to Newberry Opera House in the amount of \$25,000 (0.17 of a mill)
- 6) Reduce Facilities - Capital Repairs to jail gas line) in the amount of \$20,000 (0.14 of a mill). This has already been done.
- 7) Reduce Sheriff's Fuel Budget by \$17,000 (0.12 of a mill)
- 8) Reduce Fleet Maintenance - Contracted Service by \$8,000 (0.06 of a mill)
- 9) Remove Helena Center Site repairs in the amount of \$8,000 (0.06 of a mill)
- 10) Delete Newberry County Literacy in the amount of \$6,000 (0.04 of a mill)
- 11) Reduce GIS Contract Maintenance (fly over) in the amount of \$5,000 (0.03 of a mill). This has already been done.
- 12) Delete funding to the Small Business Development Center in the amount of \$5,000 (0.03 of a mill)
- 13) Delete funding to Free Medical Clinic in the amount of \$5,000 (0.03 of a mill)

- 14) Delete funding for Chamber of Commerce video in the amount of \$5,000 (0.03 of a mill)
- 15) Remove site repairs to Community Hall in the amount of \$4,000 (0.03 of a mill).
- 16) Delete funding to Sexual Trauma Service in the amount of \$4,250 (0.03 of a mill)
- 17) Delete funding to Comet in the amount of \$2,500 (0.02 of a mill)
- 18) Delete funding to Sistercare, Inc. in the amount of \$2,295 (0.02 of a mill)
- 19) Delete funding to Village Cemetery in the amount of \$2,000 (0.01 of a mill)
- 20) Delete funding for Christmas lights in the amount of \$1,500 (0.01 of a mill)
- 21) Decrease funding to Newberry Downtown Development in the amount of \$1,000 (0.01 of a mill)
- 22) Keep Community Services Levy as is reducing funding by \$28,313 (0.19 of a mill)
- 23) Remove 2 of the School Resource Officers' Vehicles in the amount of \$17,250 (0.12 of a mill)

Council requested that each proposed deletion/amendment be discussed and voted on separately at the May 6 Council meeting.

#### **5. Capital Budgeting and Fund Balance - County Administrator and Finance Staff**

The fund balance as of June 30, 2020 will be \$14.8 million, which equates to 6.5 months of operating expenses on hand.

## **6. Consideration of Annual Indexing of Elected Officials' Salaries**

Further consideration of an amendment to eliminate the 1.5% CPI for elected officials will be discussed and voted on at the May 6 Council meeting.

## **7. Questions/Comments from Council Members**

Mr. Koon said he **will** be running for County Council this year.

Mr. Livingston requested that we all keep Probate Judge Kelly Nobles in our prayers in the loss of her husband.

## **8. Public Comments**

No comments from the public were received by the County Administrator's Office.

## **9. Adjournment**

Dr. Rucker moved to adjourn.

Mr. Livingston declared the meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL  
BUDGET WORK SESSION**

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

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

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