

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES
September 6, 2023**

Newberry County Council met on Wednesday, September 6, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Courthouse Annex, 1309 College Street, Newberry, SC, for a regular scheduled meeting.

Notice of the meeting was duly advertised, as required by law.

PRESENT: Todd Johnson, Chairman
Les Hipp, Vice Chairman
Karl Sease, Council Member
Robert N. Shealy, Council Member
Johnny Mack Scurry, Council Member
Travis Reeder, Council Member
Jeff Shacker, County Administrator
Joanie Winters, Interim County Attorney
Karen Brehmer, Deputy County Administrator
Debbie S. Cromer, Finance Director
Donna Lominack, Auditor
Melinda Long, Deputy Auditor
Karen Lindler Smith, Treasurer
Rick Farmer, Economic Development Director
Katie Werts, Director of Planning and Development Services
Eric Nieto, I.T. Director
Liz McDonald, Assessor
Captain Ben Chapman, NCSO
Major Robert Dennis, NCSO

MEDIA: Orion Griffin, The Newberry Observer

Mr. Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and determined a quorum to be present.

Mr. Johnson led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Adoption of Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Shealy to accept the minutes (for the August 16, 2023, Newberry Council meeting and the August 21 Finance Committee meeting), seconded by Mr. Scurry.

Mr. Hipp requested, under Future Meetings (under the August 16, 2023 meeting minutes), that the date for the Executive Committee Meeting be corrected from September 20, 2023, to September 11, 2023.

Mr. Shealy amended his motion to include that change and Mr. Scurry amended his second. The motion passed 6-0.

2. Additions, Deletions & Adoption of the Agenda

Mr. Sease made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented; the motion was seconded by Mr. Shealy. The motion passed 6-0.

3. Presentations:

a. Newberry County Auditor Donna Lominack – Setting of 2023-24 Tax Levy

Prior to announcing the Tax Levy, Ms. Lominack thanked Ms. Cromer for her expertise in assisting her this year, saying she is an asset to Newberry County. Ms. Lominack also thanked Ms. Brehmer, Ms. Smith, and Mr. Shacker for their assistance. She also thanked the Newberry County Auditor's Office for always helping her.

Ms. Lominack officially set the 2023 Tax Levy for all County and School Bonded Indebtedness Purposes. The total 2023 Tax Levy for both County and School Purposes is 368.0 mills. (See attachment).

b. Mauldin and Jenkins – Presentation of FY 2021-22 Audit

Mr. Johnson said that he was informed prior to the meeting the auditor's wife just had a baby and they will get that report at the next meeting.

4. A Proclamation Recognizing September 15-October 15, 2023, as *National Hispanic Heritage Month in Newberry County*.

Mr. Johnson read the Proclamation as follows: "WHEREAS, the County of Newberry encourages and promotes strong and inclusive communities that recognize and celebrate efforts to bring people together for a greater good; and, WHEREAS, the County of Newberry commemorate the strong and visible roots of Hispanic and Latino heritage in the national, regional, and local landscape of the nation; and, WHEREAS, September 15th to October 15th is National Hispanic Heritage Month and in which many federal agencies, such as the Library of Congress, National Park Service and Smithsonian Institution, join in paying tribute to the generations of Hispanic Americans who have positively influenced and enriched our nation and society; and, WHEREAS, the date September 15th is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for the Latin American countries of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua and additionally Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16th and 18th respectively; and, WHEREAS, Newberry County has many families representing different Hispanic Cultures and traditions from Puerto Rico, Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Chile, and other South American countries; and, WHEREAS, National Hispanic Heritage Month has been celebrated since 1989; and WHEREAS, the Hispanic community in Newberry County makes significant contributions to the cultural, educational, and economic vitality of Newberry County." NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the County Council of the County of Newberry that September 15th through October 15, 2023, shall be *National Hispanic Heritage Month in Newberry County* in recognition of the many important and positive contributions of Hispanic culture to our nation, state, and county."

Mr. Shealy made a motion to issue the Proclamation, Mr. Hipp gave the second. The motion passed 6-0.

Ms. Liz Rivera and other members of the Hispanic community accepted a framed copy of the Proclamation.

Ms. Rivera thanked the council and the county administrator for the Proclamation and expressed her appreciation. She said the Hispanic community is growing in Newberry County and is being economically favorable to the county.

5. A Proclamation Recognizing September 18-22, 2023, as *Newberry County Adult Education and Family Literacy Week*.

Mr. Johnson read the Proclamation as follows: "WHEREAS, during the 2021-2022 academic year, 5,754 high school students in South Carolina dropped out of school, a rate of 2.4 percent; and WHEREAS, Adult Education programs contribute to solving these challenges by helping Americans move along the continuum in their educational journey to achieve basic skills and get prepared for career and college; and WHEREAS, Adult Education and family literacy programs assist adults who are parents or family members in obtaining the education and skills that are necessary to become full partners in the educational development of their children and lead to sustainable improvements in the economic opportunities for their family; and WHEREAS, South Carolina celebrates Adult Education and Family Literacy Week as a proud participant in the national Educate & Elevate Campaign which helps our citizens learn about all of their Adult Education options to attain their professional and personal goals; and WHEREAS, in the Palmetto State an estimated 796,387 citizens ages 16-74 are below the literacy level, and an estimated 450,966 South Carolinians over the age of 18 do not have a high school diploma or equivalent; and WHEREAS, in 2022-23, South Carolina adult education programs served 21,009 adult learners: with 2,157 earning a high school equivalency diploma (GED) and 831 earning a high school diploma; and WHEREAS, in 2022-23 Newberry Adult and Continuing Education programs served 289 adult learners; with 28 earning a high school equivalency diploma (GED) and 25 earning a South Carolina High School Diploma."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the County Council of the County of Newberry that September 18-22, 2023, shall be *Newberry County Adult Education and Family Literacy Week* throughout the county and encourage all Citizens of Newberry County to work together to increase literacy among the residents of the Palmetto State.

Mr. Shealy made a motion to issue the Proclamation, Mr. Reeder gave the second. The motion passed 6-0.

Staff members of Newberry Adult Education accepted a framed copy of the Proclamation.

Ms. Donna Hill thanked council and Newberry County for supporting adult education in Newberry County.

6. Ordinance No. 07-01-2023. An Ordinance for the purpose of leasing county property located as a part of the Fairgrounds Property (TMS No. 399-39-2) to the Newberry Pistol Club.

a. Public Hearing

Mr. Johnson declared the public hearing open. With no one signing up or standing up to speak, Mr. Johnson declared the public hearing closed.

b. Third Reading

Mr. Hipp made a motion to approve the third reading; Mr. Reeder gave a second. Mr. Sease abstained from the vote. The third reading was approved 5-0.

7. Ordinance No. 07-02-2023. An Ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a Fee-In-Lieu of *Ad Valorem* Taxes and incentive agreement by and between Newberry County, South Carolina and *Project Viking* to provide

for payment of a Fee-In-Lieu of Taxes; authorizing certain infrastructure credits; and other related matters.

a. Third Reading

Mr. Reeder made a motion to approve third reading, Mr. Sease gave a second. The motion was approved 6-0.

- 8. Ordinance No. 08-01-2023. An Ordinance acting on a request to amend the official zoning map established pursuant to Zoning Ordinance No. 12-24-01 as revised and amended by Zoning Ordinance 06-11-16 and codified in Chapter 153 of the Newberry County Code of Ordinances, establishes zoning classification and districts as to rezone two (2) real estate parcels totaling twelve and twenty-nine hundredths (12.29) acres designated as TMS No. 290-16 and TMS No. 290-12 from LC-Limited Commercial To RG-General Residential.**

a. Second Reading

Ms. Werts said there were no changes to this Ordinance.

Mr. Sease made a motion to approve the second reading, Mr. Shealy gave the second. The motion was approved 6-0.

- 9. Ordinance No. 08-02-2023. An Ordinance acting on a request to amend the official zoning map established pursuant to Zoning Ordinance No. 12-24-01 as revised and amended by Zoning Ordinance 06-11-16 and codified in Chapter 153 of the Newberry County Code of Ordinances, establishes zoning classification and districts as to rezone one (1) real estate parcel totaling two (2) acres designated as TMS No. 530-13 from LC - Limited Commercial to R2-Rural.**

a. Second Reading

Ms. Werts said there were no changes to this Ordinance.

Mr. Shealy made the motion to approve the second reading, Mr. Reeder gave the second. The motion was approved 6-0.

10. Ordinance No. 08-03-2023. An Ordinance authorizing the acceptance of Prosperity Park Avenue into the Newberry County Public Road System.

a. Public Hearing

Mr. Johnson declared the public hearing open. With no one signing up or standing up to speak, Mr. Johnson declared the public hearing closed.

b. Second Reading

Mr. Hipp made a motion to approve the second reading; Mr. Shealy gave the second. The motion was approved 6-0.

11. Ordinance No. 08-04-2023. An Ordinance authorizing the acceptance of roads within Autumn's Cay Subdivision - Autumn Drive, Golden Way, Harvest Lane and Red Leaf Court - into the Newberry County Public Road System.

a. Public Hearing

Mr. Johnson declared the public hearing open. With no one signing up or standing up to speak, Mr. Johnson declared the public hearing closed.

b. Second Reading

Mr. Sease made a motion to approve the second reading, Mr. Shealy gave the second. The motion was approved 6-0.

12. Appointments

- a. Mr. Scurry made a motion to re-appoint Ms. Ann Ward, for District 6, to the Joint Planning Commission. Mr. Shealy gave a second to the motion. The nomination was approved 6-0.
- b. Mr. Scurry made a motion to re-appoint Mr. Ashley Wilson, for District 6, to the Airport Commission. Mr. Reeder gave the second. The nomination was approved 6-0.
- c. Mr. Scurry made a motion to re-appoint Ms. Shirley Suber, for District 6, to the Library Board. Mr. Hipp gave the second. The nomination was approved 6-0.
- d. Mr. Shealy made a motion to re-appoint Bennett Garner, for the Town of Prosperity, to the Joint Planning Commission. Mr. Sease gave the second. The nomination was approved 6-0.

13. Public Comments

- Ms. Hill spoke and said she is thankful to this council and the education board for their support of adult education efforts. She also thanked council for helping in Whitmire, as they go forward with the blessing of the town, having classes in Whitmire. She said they appreciate everything Newberry County Council does.

14. Executive Session

Mr. Shealy made a motion to go into executive session, Mr. Sease gave a second. Council approved going into Executive Session 6-0 at 6:28 p.m. for the following reasons:

- a. Contractual Matter(s):
 - i. Discussion of matters related to a Multi-County Park Agreement with Greenwood County pursuant to SC Code of Laws Section 30-4-70(a)(2).

- ii. Discussion of matters related to contract for construction management services pursuant to SC Code of Laws Section 30-4-70(a)(2).

b. Legal Matter(s):

- i. Discussion of matters related to the Board of Zoning Appeals pursuant to SC Code of Laws Section 30-4-70(a)(2).

At 7:17 p.m., Mr. Sease made a motion to come out of Executive Session, Mr. Shealy gave the second. Council approved coming out of Executive Session 6-0.

Mr. Johnson said Newberry County Council met in Executive Session for the aforementioned reasons and no action was taken.

15. Ordinance No. 09-01-2023. An Ordinance authorizing the creation of a Capital Projects Account; authorizing an amendment to the Master Agreement governing the Greenwood-Newberry Industrial Park; authorizing the county to retain certain Fee-In-Lieu of Tax revenues to fund the Capital Projects Account; and other related matters.

a. First Reading

Mr. Sease made a motion to approve the first reading; Mr. Shealy gave the second. The motion was approved 6-0.

16. County Council may take additional action(s) following executive session on matters discussed during executive session.

Mr. Johnson said no further action was necessary.

17. Comments/Request from County Administrator

- Mr. Shacker gave a timeline for the remainder of the Comprehensive Plan: The intent is to present the remaining elements to the Joint Planning Commission at their September 19, 2023, meeting, then bring those remaining elements to council on October 4, 2023. Mr. Shacker said the goal would be to have first reading of the Ordinance to council to adopt the plan on October 18, 2023, second reading on November 1, 2023, then adoption on December 6, 2023.
- Mr. Shacker said regarding code enforcement, they have some work to do with the Draft Ordinance and will bring those changes to council.

18. COMMENTS/REQUESTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Mr. Scurry said they have learned working together works and he is so glad to see it.
- Mr. Reeder said he appreciates everything they have gone through today, appreciated the millage and all the work to get it to that point and thumbs up to the staff. He also said he enjoyed all the proclamations during the meeting.
- Mr. Sease said everyone did a great job putting everything together.
- Mr. Shealy echoed what Mr. Sease said.
- Mr. Hipp said he thinks council has had a very good meeting as they have had a lot of those lately. He said they have another challenge at the next meeting with the results of the audit.
- Mr. Johnson reminded everyone of the First Responder Monument Dedication on September 10, 2023, at 3 p.m.

19. FUTURE MEETINGS:

- Executive Committee Meeting – September 11, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.**
- County Council Meeting – September 20, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.**
- Economic Development Committee Meeting – September 25, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.**

20. ADJOURNMENT


There being no further business, Mr. Shealy moved to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Sease. The motion was approved 6-0

Mr. Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL



Todd Johnson, Chairman



Andrew Wigger, Clerk to Council

Minutes Approved: 9-20-2023

September 6, 2023

As Newberry County Auditor, I am officially setting the 2023 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 2023 Tax Levy for School Ordinary Purposes as set by the Newberry County Board of Education per letter dated August 08, 2023, which stated in part, "the 2023 School Ordinary Tax Levy be set at 180.0 mills".

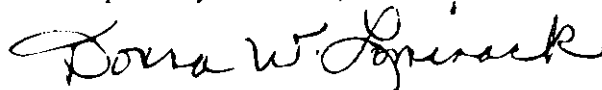
Per County of Newberry Budget Ordinance No. 05-08-2023, I am recommending County Council levy 123.0 mills for County Ordinary Purposes and 0.0 mills for Reserve Fund Purposes; 2023 County Lease Purchase - I am levying 3.6 mills; County General Obligation Bonds of 2020 A - I am levying .9 mill; County General Obligation Bonds of 2020 B - I am levying 0.3 mill; County General Obligation Bonds of 2018 C - I am levying 0.3 mill. Per County of Newberry Budget Ordinance, No. 05-9-23 I am recommending County Council levy 6.9 mills for Community Services; for a total 2023 levy for County Purposes of 135.0 mills.

For School Purposes - the Newberry County Board of Education has levied 180.0 mills for School Ordinary Purposes for the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year. For School General Obligation Bonds of 2023, I am levying 53.0 mills for a total 2023 levy for School Purposes of 233.0 mills.

The total levy for County Purposes is 135.0 mills and for School Purposes is 233.0 mills. The total 2023 Tax Levy for both County and School Purposes is 368.0 mills.

The anticipated value of one mill for the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year for County Purposes is \$164,645 for School Purposes (Bonds) is \$171,003 and for School Purposes (School Operating) is \$111,342.

Respectfully submitted,



Donna W. Lominack
Newberry County Auditor

2023 Tax Levy - Municipalities

MILLS

CITY OF NEWBERRY:	81.7 (Ordinary 80.6, Reserve 1.1) – increase 1 mill
TOWN OF LITTLE MOUNTAIN:	52.07 (increase 7.97 mills)
TOWN OF POMARIA:	3.7 (no increase)
TOWN OF PROSPERITY:	41.0 (no increase)
TOWN OF WHITMIRE:	105.5 (Increase 2.5 mills)



NEWBERRY COUNTY

2023 TAX LEVY

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>MILLS</u>
General Fund	123.0
GO Bonds	5.1
Community Services	6.9
Reserve Fund	<u>0.0</u>
TOTAL COUNTY	<u>135.0</u>
SCHOOLS	
General Fund	180.0
GO Bonds	<u>53.0</u>
TOTAL SCHOOLS	<u>233.0</u>
TOTAL 2022 TAX LEVY	<u>368.0</u>

2023 Anticipated Value of One Mill:

County Purposes & Community Services	\$ 164,645
School Purposes (Bonds)	\$ 171,003
School Purposes (School Operating)	\$ 111,342

2023 Residential State Credit (School Operating Levy) equates to -180.0 Mills

Total 2023 TAX LEVY (all taxable property excluding legal residences) = 368.0 Mills
Total 2023 TAX LEVY (4% legal residences only) = 188.0 Mills

COMPARISON OF 2022 & 2023 LEVIES

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>2022 MILLS</u>	<u>2023 MILLS</u>
General Fund	121.0	123.0
GO Bonds	5.1	5.1
Community Services	6.9	6.9
Reserve Fund	<u>0.0</u>	<u>0.0</u>
TOTAL COUNTY	133.0	135.0
 <u>SCHOOL</u>		
General Fund	180.0	180.0
GO Bonds	<u>53.0</u>	<u>53.0</u>
TOTAL SCHOOL	233.0	233.0
TOTAL TAX LEVY	<u>366.0</u>	<u>368.0</u>

Anticipated Value of One Mill:

	2022	2023
County Purposes	\$160,370.	\$164,645.
School Purposes	\$165,806.	\$171,003.
School Purposes (Legal Residences)	\$105,997.	\$111,342.

Residential State Credit (School Operating Mills) equates to:

<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
180.0 Mills	180.0 Mills

HOW TAXPAYERS' DOLLARS ARE SPENT

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>2022 MILLS</u>	<u>% OF DOLLAR</u>	<u>2023 MILLS</u>	<u>% OF DOLLAR</u>
General Fund	121.0	\$0.330	123.0	\$0.334
Debt Service	5.1	\$0.014	5.1	\$0.014
Community Services	6.9	\$0.019	6.9	\$0.019
Reserve Fund	<u>0.0</u>	<u>\$0.000</u>	<u>0.0</u>	<u>\$0.000</u>
Total County	<u>133.0</u>	<u>\$0.363</u>	<u>135.0</u>	<u>\$0.367</u>
<u>SCHOOL</u>				
General Fund	180.0	\$0.492	180.0	\$0.489
Debt Service	<u>53.0</u>	<u>\$0.145</u>	<u>53.0</u>	<u>\$0.144</u>
Total School	<u>233.0</u>	<u>\$0.637</u>	<u>233.0</u>	<u>\$0.633</u>
Total County & School	366.0	\$1.000	368.0	\$1.000

2023 TAX RATES
(FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024)

**6% PROPERTIES (VEHICLES, AIRCRAFT, LOCAL BUSINESS PERSONAL
PROPERTY, RENTAL & 2ND HOMES, ETC.)**

Market Value 2023 Taxes ('24 Taxes on Vehicles and Watercraft)

\$ 5,000.	\$ 110.40
\$ 10,000.	\$ 220.80
\$ 15,000.	\$ 331.20
\$ 20,000.	\$ 441.60
\$ 25,000.	\$ 552.00
\$ 50,000.	\$1,104.00
\$100,000.	\$2,208.00
\$150,000.	\$3,312.00
\$200,000.	\$4,416.00
\$250,000.	\$5,520.00
\$300,000.	\$6,624.00
\$400,000.	\$8,832.00

LEGAL RESIDENCE

Market Value 2023 Taxes

\$ 25,000.	\$ 188.00
\$ 50,000.	\$ 376.00
\$ 75,000.	\$ 564.00
\$100,000.	\$ 752.00
\$150,000.	\$1,128.00
\$200,000.	\$1,504.00
\$250,000.	\$1,880.00
\$300,000.	\$2,256.00
\$400,000.	\$3,008.00
\$500,000.	\$3,760.00

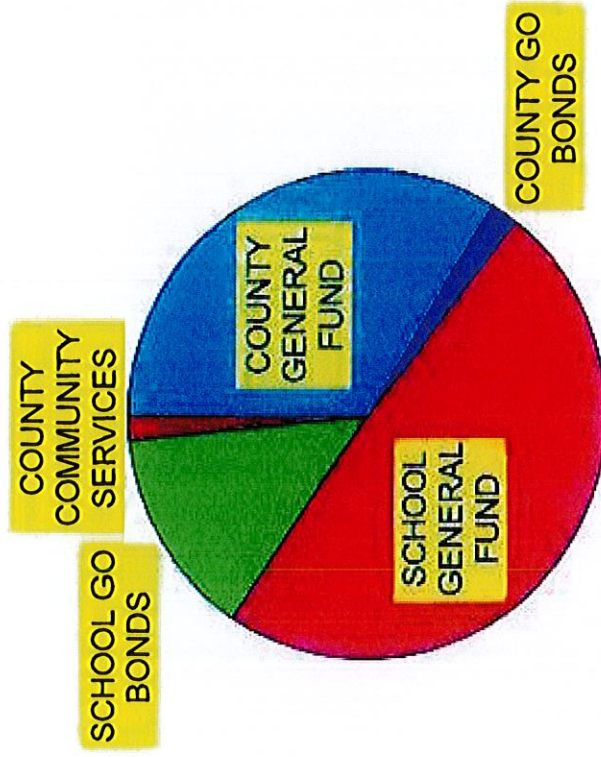
LEGAL RESIDENCE WITH HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

<u>Market Value</u>	<u>2023 Taxes</u>
\$ 25,000.	\$ 0.00
\$ 50,000.	\$ 0.00
\$ 75,000.	\$ 188.00
\$100,000.	\$ 376.00
\$150,000.	\$ 752.00
\$200,000.	\$ 1,128.00
\$250,000.	\$ 1,504.00
\$300,000.	\$ 1,880.00
\$400,000.	\$ 2,632.00
\$500,000.	\$ 3,384.00

RESIDENTIAL STATE CREDIT

<u>TAX YEAR</u>	<u>MILLAGE</u>
2008	194.0
2009	194.0
2010	184.8
2011	186.8
2012	186.8
2013	186.8
2014	186.8
2015	186.8
2016	186.8
2017	186.8
2018	186.8
2019	180.0
2020	180.0
2021	180.0
2022	180.0
2023	180.0

2023
NEWBERRY COUNTY TAX LEVY



Public Comments Sign-In Sheet
Newberry County Council
September 6, 2023
6:00pm

NAME-PLEASE PRINT	NAME-PLEASE PRINT
1. FRAN MERCHANT	11.
2. Donna Lee	12.
3. Lonny Hill	13.
4. Margaret Sparrow	14.
5.	15.
6.	16.
7.	17.
8.	18.
9.	19.
10.	20.