

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
JANUARY 18, 2023**

The Newberry County Council met on Wednesday, January 18, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Courthouse Annex, 1309 College Street, Newberry, SC, for a regular meeting.

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

PRESENT: Todd Johnson, Chairman (District 1)  
Les Hipp, Vice-Chairman (District 5)  
Mary Arrowood, Council Member (District 2)  
Karl Sease, Council Member (District 3)  
Robert N. Shealy, Council Member (District 4)  
Johnny Mack Scurry, Council Member (District 6)  
Travis Reeder, Council Member (District 7)  
Karen Brehmer, Acting County Administrator  
Joanie Winters, Interim County Attorney  
Debbie S. Cromer, Finance Director  
Susan C. Fellers, Clerk to Council

MEDIA: Andrew Wigger, Newberry Observer

Mr. Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed all visitors.

Mr. Hipp had the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1. PUBLIC APPEARANCES:**

**a. Abigail Fuller, Director of Newberry County Library System – Library Update**

Ms. Fuller updated Council as follows:

- Infrastructure was outdated. She applied for a grant, which was received. With the grant funds and working with budget funds, the Library is now replacing all computers in both the Newberry Library and the Whitmire Library.
- Technology has been updated in the meeting rooms.
- They have acquired two new digital signs to advertise library and community events.
- They now have mobile print capability.
- Self checkout at the library is now available.
- They now have a data base for genealogy.

- Weekly story time for children averaged approximately 20 children each week..
- They are looking into building an adult program in outreach to include poetry, adult summer reading programs, nutritional classes, financial literacy for teens and adults, possibly bringing in a mobile escape room for teens and adults, computer training, yoga, etc.

There has been an increase in the number of people using the Library.

Mr. Reeder thanked her for bringing in a lot of new things to the Library to peak the interest of all people.

Mr. Hipp asked about the Library's website. Ms. Fuller advised they would be getting a new website in just a few weeks. Mr. Hipp suggested the County provide a link to the Library website once it is up and running.

Mrs. Arrowood expressed appreciation for the great community service provided by the Library and thanked Ms. Fuller for reaching out to obtain grants.

**b. Doug Heydt, Newberry County Soil and Water Conservation District – Update of Programs**

Mr. Heydt, Chairman of the Newberry County Soil and Water Conservation District, updated Council as follows:

- Banquet was held in November with over 100 participants. Satterwhite Farms won the Willie B. Piester Conservation award.
- Grinding of the Greens – 52 trees were mulched and given away to the citizens.
- Legislative Breakfast will be held on February 7 at Springfield Place at 7:30 am
- As to the feral hog program, they are 2 ½ years into that with 580 hogs being eradicated so far off of 26 farms. The University of Georgia does the trapping, recording and disposal of the hogs.
- On March 9 there will be a lecture at Piedmont Technical College by Dr. Horne, a biologist with Newberry College, about the nature species in Newberry County.
- Movie Night is scheduled for May 2 at Setzler Farms and will begin as soon as the sun sets.
- Camp Conservation will be held the third week in June. This past year we had 37 kids to attend.
- Keep Newberry County Beautiful is planning another summer fair from August 24-27, 2023. Last year's fair brought in over 10,000 people to the first fair in almost 20 years.
- Earth and Sky Photo Contest entries are due in October.
- Crista Lukoski, District Coordinator for Newberry Soil and Water Conservation District, has now been certified to teach Project Learning Tree and Project Wet in the schools.
- Their membership drive is now underway. Currently they have 20 participants and have collected \$3,400, which funds go towards programming and other things beyond budget.

- They sponsor a book drive wherein used books are donated and then mailed to the VA Hospitals.
- They partner with seven other counties for an anti-littering campaign known as “Team Up to Clean Up” to start in April.
- Their State conference will be held next week in Greenville with the Lt. Governor as the main speaker. At that conference Ben Setzler will be installed as the new State president.

Mr. Johnson thanked Mr. Heydt for being true to his word by giving quarterly reports to County Council.

(A copy of the Newberry Soil and Water Conservation District Annual Report for 2022 is on file in the office of the Clerk to Council).

**2. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

- a. **Newberry County Council Special Called Meeting Minutes – January 4, 2023**
- b. **Newberry County Council Regular Meeting Minutes – January 4, 2023**

Without objection, Mr. Sease moved to adopt both of the Consent Agenda items together; seconded by Mr. Hipp. There being no discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

**3. ADDITIONS, DELETIONS AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

There being no additions or deletions to the Agenda, Mr. Scurry moved to adopt the Agenda as presented; seconded by Mr. Reeder. There being no discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

**4. PROCLAMATION – NATIONAL CORONERS/MEDICAL EXAMINERS WEEK, JANUARY 27-FEBRUARY 2, 2023**

Mr. Johnson read the Proclamation Recognizing National Coroners/Medical Examiners Week into the record. A copy of the Proclamation is attached hereto and incorporated herein.

Mr. Reeder moved to adopt the Proclamation; seconded by Mrs. Arrowood. There being no discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

Thereafter, Mr. Johnson presented the framed Proclamation to Laura Kneece, Newberry County Coroner.

**5. RESOLUTION #02-23: A RESOLUTION DECLARING INTENT TO REIMBURSE EXPENDITURES FOR CERTAIN CAPITAL PROJECTS WITH THE PROCEEDS OF NOT TO EXCEED \$35,250,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS**

Mrs. Brehmer advised the \$35,250,000 are the proceeds to be used for the Capital Projects Sales Tax projects. This Resolution authorizes the Council to use its funds and then be reimbursed from the bond funding once received.

Mr. Hipp moved to adopt the Resolution; seconded by Mr. Shealy. There being no discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

## 6. APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Johnson advised that Blair Long had tendered his resignation from the Board of Rural Fire Control. He thanked Mr. Long for his many years of service on this Board.

Mr. Johnson moved to appoint Keith Minick to finish out the term of Blair Long on the Board of Rural Fire Control as the representative from Bush River Fire Department; seconded by Mr. Hipp. There being no discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

## 7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Eric Boyer inquired as to whether there were any laws or statutes enforcing abandoned mobile homes, vehicles and tires. He also asked about the possibility of redirecting 18 wheelers going through the Town of Prosperity on Main Street. An unidentified gentlemen in the audience advised that was discussed at the last Town of Prosperity Council meeting.

Sharon Browning appeared before Council regarding the declining condition of Scurry Church Road. She has discussed the road conditions with Mike Pisano, Public Works Director, who has sent patching crews out. She has also discussed this with the CTC who told her she had to appear before Council.

Mr. Johnson thanked her for coming and advised that Mr. Pisano would be the contact on this.

Mr. Reeder said Council would try to work with the transportation committee on getting some of these roads taken care of.

## 8. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

**Code Section 30-4-70(a)(2) of the Code of Laws of SC, as amended, 1976:**

- (1) Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale or purchase of property, the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to a pending, threatened or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege, settlement of legal claims, or the position of the public agency in other adversary situations involving the assertion against the agency of a claim.**

- (2) Discussions of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee, a student, or a person regulated by a public body or the appointment of a person to a public body; however, if an adversary hearing involving the employee or client is held, the employee or client has the right to demand the hearing be conducted publicly. Nothing contained in this item shall prevent the public body, in its discretion, from deleting names of the other employees or clients whose records are submitted for use at the hearing.**

Mr. Shealy moved to go into Executive Session for the above-stated reasons; seconded by Mrs. Arrowood. There being no discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

EXECUTIVE SESSION  
6:50 P.M. – 7:56 P.M.

Mr. Shealy moved to return to open session; second by Mr. Sease. There being no discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Johnson moved to correct a scrivener's error in the October 5, 2022 Minutes. The Minutes should reflect that Bonnie Shealy was a volunteer with Newberry County Animal Control and not the Humane Society; seconded by Mr. Shealy. There being no discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

**9. COMMENTS/REQUESTS FROM ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

Mrs. Brehmer reminded Council of the Korean-American Day on Saturday, January 21, at 5:00 p.m.

**10. COMMENTS/REQUESTS FROM COUNCIL**

Mr. Scurry had no comments.

Mr. Reeder stated the MLK program was successful with over 300 people marching throughout the county.

Mr. Shealy will be on a cruise and will be unable to attend the Korean-American Day.

Mr. Sease will also be out of town on Koren-American Day.

Mr. Sease was asked by Hugh Gray about some opioid money and he told him to talk with Council. Mr. Johnson said money would be available but he would need to do the proper paperwork. Mr. Gray needs to get in touch with the County Attorney.

Mrs. Arrowood had no comments.

Mr. Hipp had no comments.

Mr. Johnson said he would be officiating at a wedding on Saturday but Mr. Hipp had agreed to represent him and Council at the Korean-American Day.

**11. FUTURE MEETINGS:**

- a. **Korean-American Day in Newberry – January 21, 2023, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Center for Teacher Education at Newberry College**
- b. **Public Safety Committee – January 30, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.**
- c. **Newberry County Council – February 1, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.**
- d. **Newberry County Council – February 15, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.**
- e. **Executive Committee – February 27, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.**

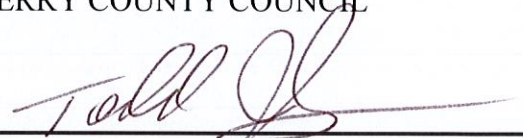
Mr. Johnson advised that the Public Safety Committee meeting would have to be rescheduled because it conflicts with the Governmental Association meeting.

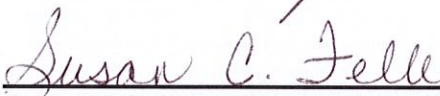
**12. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mr. Shealy moved to adjourn; seconded by Mrs. Arrowood. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

  
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Todd Johnson, Chairman

  
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Susan C. Fellers, Clerk to Council

Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY OF NEWBERRY )  
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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )

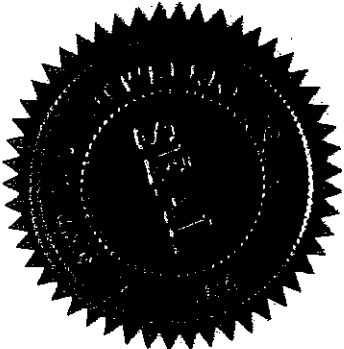
**PROCLAMATION OF RECOGNITION  
AND APPRECIATION NATIONAL  
CORONERS/MEDICAL EXAMINERS WEEK  
JANUARY 27- FEBRUARY 2, 2023**

**WHEREAS**, the Newberry County Coroner’s Office and its dedicated staff are committed to Newberry County; and

**WHEREAS**, Newberry County Council wishes to extend our appreciation for the work that the Newberry County Coroner’s Office does to thoroughly investigate causes and manners of death as well as serve the families of Newberry County; and

**WHEREAS**, Newberry County Council does hereby proclaim the week of January 27 – February 2, 2023 as National Coroners/Medical Examiners Recognition with January 29<sup>th</sup> being the focus day.

**DONE** at the Newberry , SC this 18th day of January, 2023.



**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL**  
BY: Todd Johnson  
Todd Johnson, Chairman

**ATTEST:**  
Susan Fellers  
Susan Fellers, Clerk of Council