

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
MINUTES
DECEMBER 10, 2021**

Newberry County Council met on Friday, December 10, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Courthouse Annex, 1309 College Street, Newberry, S.C., for a special called meeting.

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

PRESENT: Henry H. Livingston, III, Chairman (District 3)
Mary Arrowood, Council Member (District 2)
Robert N. Shealy, Council Member (District 4)
Johnny Mack Scurry, Council Member (District 6)
Travis Reeder, Council Member (District 7)
Tony McDonald, Interim County Administrator
Karen Brehmer, Deputy County Administrator
Crystal Waldrop, Purchasing Director
Susan C. Fellers, Clerk to Council

PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Todd Johnson, Council Member (District 1)
Les Hipp, Council Member (District 5)
A.J. Tothacer, Jr., County Attorney

ABSENT: Debbie S. Cromer, Finance Director (medical leave)

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

Mr. Livingston called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and determined a quorum to be present through both in-person and Zoom attendance.

2. Additions, Deletions and Adoption of Agenda

There being no additions or deletions to the Agenda, Mr. Shealy moved to adopt the agenda, as presented; seconded by Mrs. Arrowood.

Mr. Livingston called for the vote which was unanimous by both in-person and Zoom Council Members.

3. Consideration of Premium Pay

Mr. Livingston requested that Mr. McDonald review the proposed Resolution for the benefit of Council and others in attendance at the meeting. He and Mrs. Brehmer advised Council that our Resolution was mirrored very closely to the Resolution passed by the City of Newberry.

Resolution #14-21 reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the United States Congress passed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (“ARPA”) is delivering direct relief to the American people, rescuing the American economy, and starting to beat the virus; and

WHEREAS, County Council has determined that certain criteria should be followed in authorizing Premium Pay for certain employees and volunteers of Newberry County and desires to express and endorse those criteria by this Resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL, IN MEETING DULY ASSEMBLED, that the following criteria are adopted for the purposes of guiding the payment of Premium Pay:

- Qualifying individuals must have worked between April 2020 and April 2021 and be currently employed as of the date of this Resolution.
- The qualifying individual's Premium Pay will be based on the following tiers:

- \$2,500 gross for critical infrastructure and high degrees of COVID exposure (FTE-law enforcement, public safety, public works, building maintenance, custodial, coroner)
 - \$1,500 gross for administrative support and leadership (FTE) who worked through the height of the pandemic
 - \$1,000 gross for volunteers (fire, rescue, hazmat) who complied with the volunteer incentive program for 2020 and for part-time deputy coroners.
- A written statement is required for each individual who will receive Premium Pay and whose salary is greater than \$69,345 justifying why this individual qualifies to receive Premium Pay. The statement is to be signed by the department head.
 - Premium Pay will be taxed for federal, state, social security, and Medicare. No deductions will be made for SC Retirement (SCRS or PORS.)
 - Funding for this Premium Pay one-time disbursement will be taken from funds received through the American Rescue Plan Act.

AND IT IS SO RESOLVED THIS 10TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2021.

The City of Newberry did not include volunteers or part-time employees in their tiers.

Mr. Hipp asked if administration could give a timeline as to when the Premium Pay would be paid to employees.

Mr. McDonald advised that in checking with staff and ADP, the checks can be issued by the end of the year. Payment can be made on December 30th and HR has determined she can make this happen and ADP can too.

Mrs. Brehmer advised this will be a real check sent to those eligible. IT WILL NOT BE DIRECT DEPOSIT.

Mr. Livingston stated that elected officials are included in the Premium Pay; HOWEVER, COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE NOT INCLUDED. This is a token of appreciation to the County employees.

4. Resolution #14-21: A Resolution adopting criteria to be used in determining Premium Pay and authorizing payment pursuant to the American Rescue Plan Act.

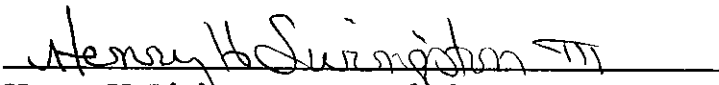
Having heard the explanation and discussions regarding the Premium Pay, Mr. Reeder moved to adopt the Resolution, as presented; seconded by Mr. Scurry. Vote was unanimous by both in-person and Zoom Council Members.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before Council, Mrs. Arrowood moved to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Reeder. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Livingston declared the meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL


Henry H. Livingston, III, Chairman


Susan C. Fellers, Clerk to Council

Approved: 1-5-2022