

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 1, 2023**

The Newberry County Council met on Wednesday, February 1, 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, Chair (District 1)
Les Hipp, Vice-Chair (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
Crystal Waldrop, Procurement 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. Johnson then had the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Adoption of Consent Agenda

- a. Minutes of January 18, 2023 Work Session**
- b. Newberry County Council Regular Meeting**

Without objection, Mr. Shealy moved to adopt all items on the Consent Agenda; seconded by Mr. Scurry. There being no discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

2. Additions, Deletions and Adoption of the Agenda

Mr. Johnson moved to add an item 6(b) to consider a Proclamation to recognize Walt McLeod; seconded by Mr. Shealy. Under discussion, Mr. Hipp pointed out that this item was already on the agenda as Agenda Item 3. Mr. Johnson withdrew his motion.

Mr. Shealy moved to adopt the agenda as presented; seconded by Mr. Scurry. There being no discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

After the vote, Rick Farmer, Economic Development Director, advised Council he had an economic development project presentation he would like to present in Executive Session. Mrs. Brehmer advised Council a second Executive Session matter would have to be added to consider the economic development project proposal as requested by Mr. Farmer since the Executive Session approved on the Agenda does not relate to economic development matters.

Mrs. Winters advised the original motion, second and vote to approve the agenda would have to be withdrawn and then another motion made to approve as amended.

Mr. Shealy agreed to withdraw his motion for approval, and Mr. Scurry agreed to withdraw his second.

Mr. Hipp then moved to amend the agenda to add a second Executive Session for the purpose of an economic development matter; seconded by Mr. Shealy. There being no discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous to add a second Executive Session for the purpose of economic development.

Mr. Shealy moved to adopt the agenda, as amended; seconded by Mr. Sease. There being no discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous to adopt the agenda, as amended.

3. Proclamation to Honor the Service of House Representative Walton J. McLeod

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

Mr. Johnson advised the Proclamation would be read at the drop-in honoring Representative McLeod on February 19.

A copy of the Proclamation is on file in the Office of the Clerk to Council.

4. Consideration to Approve the Purchase of a mini excavator – Mike Pisano

Mike Pisano, Public Works Director, advised an excavator and a backhoe were originally approved in his budget. The backhoe has now been cut from his original request. Since the approval of the budget, prices of equipment have gone up. Mr. Pisano is requesting approval of Council to go forward with a small model which is a 50G quoted at \$73,627.

Mrs. Arrowood asked if the smaller excavator would be sufficient for what he needs. Mr. Pisano responded that the mini excavator would do well for them. It is not as strong a backhoe but he feels they would gain efficiency with the smaller one. Last year they had 62 requests for driveway installs. The mini excavator will increase efficiency, cause less property damage and has the ability to get into smaller spaces.

Mr. Reeder moved to approve the purchase of a mini excavator in the amount of \$73,627; seconded by Rev. Scurry. There being no further discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

5. Acceptance of bids for Community Hall roof repairs – Crystal Waldrop

Mrs. Waldrop received 7 bids for the project with the low bidder being Mays Contracting at \$17,520. The cornice repair has been removed and will be done in a change order or separate bid altogether because of the architectural work on the outside of the building. There is a 30 year warranty on the roof.

Once the deck is removed, damage will be determined. Mays has quoted \$2.45 per square foot to do repairs.

Staff recommends acceptance of the low bid from Mays Contracting in the amount of \$17,520.

Mr. Hipp asked for information as to the other bids. Mrs. Waldrop reviewed the other bids as outlined on the sheet included in the agenda packets.

Mr. Hipp also asked if there would be any use of the building during repairs. Mrs. Waldrop stated she was not renting the building to any new renters. She will notify the ones already booked and will either refund rental money or arrange another meeting place for them.

Mr. Shealy moved to approve the low bid from Mays Contracting in the amount of \$17,520; seconded by Mrs. Arrowood. There being no further discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

6. Appointments

a. Re-appointment of Walton J. McLeod as the Council Representative to the Central Midlands Council of Governments Board (term 2-1-23 through 1-31-26)

Mr. Scurry moved to re-appoint Mr. McLeod to the Central Midlands Council of Governments; seconded by Mr. Reeder. There being no discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

7. Public Comments

SSGT Andrew Fluke of the Marine Raider Training Unit, advised for the past 13 years they have conducted training in several other adjoining counties but do not have any type of understanding with Newberry County. He appeared seeking approval to conduct training in Newberry County.

A Memorandum of Understanding has been sent to Mrs. Brehmer. The County Attorney now has the MOU to review, and once she has reviewed and approved it, Council will proceed with its approval process.

8. Executive Session:

Code Section 30-4-7-(a)(2) of the Code of Laws of SC, as amended, 1976:

(1) Discussion 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.

(2) Economic Development matter.

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION
6:40 P.M. – 7:08 P.M.**

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

Mr. Johnson reported that Council met in the Executive Session to discuss the matters as stated above, and no action was taken.

9. Comments/Requests from Acting County Administrator

No comments.

10. Comments/Requests from Council

No comments.

11. Future Meetings:

Mr. Johnson announced the following meetings:

- February 2 at 4:00 PM – Executive Session relating to Personnel
- February 2 at 6:00 PM – Public Meeting regarding Lynches Woods (Council Chambers)

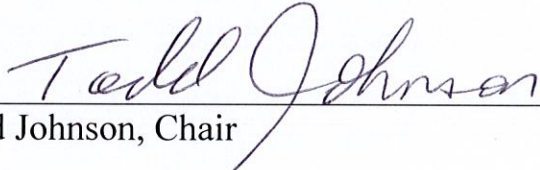
- February 6 at 4:00 PM – Meeting with the Newberry City Council at City Hall
- February 6 at 6:00 PM – Public Safety Committee
- February 6 at 7:00 PM – Farm Bureau Supper
- February 15 at 6:00 PM – County Council
- February 27 at 6:00 PM – Executive Committee
- March 1 at 6:00 PM – County Council
- March 6 at 6:00 PM – Economic Development Committee. Mr. Johnson advised this meeting would have to be rescheduled as Mr. Reeder has a conflict.

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 7:12 p.m.

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL



Todd Johnson, Chair



Susan C. Fellers, Clerk to Council

Minutes Approved: 2-15-2023