

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 15, 2023**

The Newberry County Council met on Wednesday, February 15, 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  
Susan C. Fellers, Clerk to Council

**MEDIA:** Andrew Wigger, Newberry Observer

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

Mrs. Arrowood had the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

**1. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Newberry County Council Regular Meeting – February 1, 2023**
- b. Public Safety Committee Meeting – February 6, 2023**

Without objection, Mr. Shealy moved to adopt both items (a) and (b), as presented; seconded by Mr. Reeder. There being no discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

**2. ADDITIONS. DELETIONS AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

**3. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF MATCHING FUNDS FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS – BRANDON WICKER, EMERGENCY SERVICES COORDINATOR**

<b>a. Friendly</b>	<b>\$4,122</b>
<b>b. Consolidated</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
<b>c. Little Mountain</b>	<b>\$1,251</b>
<b>d. Bush River</b>	<b>\$2,116</b>
<b>e. St. Phillips</b>	<b>\$9,697</b>
<b>f. Prosperity</b>	<b>\$4,798</b>
<b>Total Requested:</b>	<b>\$26,984</b>

This is a 50/50 match between the Forestry Commission and Newberry County. The \$26,984 is the County's cost.

Available Funding Source: One-Time Capital has a balance of \$84,011.77

Mr. Wicker requested approval of the County's match in the amount of \$26,984.



Mrs. Arrowood moved to approve the matching funds of \$26,984, said funds to be taken out of the One-Time Capital; seconded by Mr. Shealy. There being no discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

#### **4. CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST TO UTILIZE FUNDING FOR A HURST TOOL TO BE USED TO PURCHASE SEVEN (7) ULTRASOUND MACHINES – CHRIS JOHNSON, NEWBERRY RESCUE SQUAD**

The amount budgeted for the Hurst tool is \$50,000.00.

Chris Johnson felt the Rescue Squads would be better served by using the funds allocated for the Hurst Tool to purchase the ultrasound machines instead. These machines would assist with cardiac and trauma patients and transmit information to the hospitals before arrival of the patient. He requested that the capital funds budgeted to purchase Hurst Tools in the amount of \$50,000 be used to purchase seven (7) ultrasound machines. This would allow each of the seven Rescue Squads to have an ultrasound machine.

Mr. Shealy moved to approve the request to utilize the capital funds budgeted for Hurst Tools in the amount of \$50,000 to instead be used to purchase seven (7) ultrasound machines; seconded by Mr. Sease. There being no discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

#### **5. APPOINTMENTS**

Mrs. Arrowood nominated Colonel (Retired) Carl Horn to serve on the Newberry County Water and Sewer Authority Board; seconded by Mr. Shealy. There being no discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

Mrs. Arrowood nominated Daniel Boland for reappointment to the Joint Planning Commission; seconded by Mr. Reeder. There being no discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

## **6. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Robert Dennis had signed up but passed as he was there concerning Agenda Item 3 and that matter had been taken care of.

## **7. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**Code Section 30-4-70(a) 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 that the hearing be conducted publicly. Nothing contained in this item shall prevent the public body, in its discretion, from deleting the names of the other employees or clients whose records are submitted for use at the hearing.**
  
- (2) 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.**

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION  
6:18 P.M. – 7:20 P.M.**



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

1. Mr. Sease moved to appoint Jeff Shacker as the Newberry County Administrator with a beginning employment date of March 13, 2023; seconded by Mr. Hipp.

Mr. Hipp felt this was a win/win situation to have Jeff Shacker as the County Administrator and welcomed Mr. Shacker.

Mrs. Arrowood felt the County could not have found anyone with as much experience as him and welcomed Mr. Shacker.

Council Members Reeder, Scurry, Shealy and Johnson all welcomed Mr. Shacker.

There being no further discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Shacker thanked Council for the opportunity. He enjoyed getting to know Council during the interview process and looks forward to working with everyone to achieve the goals for Newberry County. He also looks forward to developing relationships with both Council and all County employees. We have great people who work and live in Newberry County. Mr. Shacker has worked with the Municipal Association for the past ten years and looks forward to a continued working relationship with them in a new capacity.

2. Mr. Sease moved to authorize the County Attorney to extend the terms of the Addendum to the Option and Contract to Purchase and Sale of the property known as Jacobs Carport, such extension allowing Jacobs an additional 77 days to vacate and turn possession of the property over to the County. The term of the extension would expire on August 31, 2023. Mr. Hipp seconded the motion. There being no discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

## **8. COMMENTS/REQUESTS FROM ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

Mrs. Brehmer stated it was nice to have Mr. Shacker coming on board with the County.

## **9. COMMENTS/REQUESTS FROM COUNCIL**

Mr. Reeder appreciated everyone coming out tonight.

Mr. Sease thanked Mrs. Brehmer and the staff for picking up the workload the past few months.

Mr. Shealy welcomed Mr. Shacker aboard. He also thanked the staff for keeping the boat afloat.

Mr. Johnson felt hiring Mr. Shacker along with some other hires will get the County back to where we need to be as a county.

## **10.FUTURE MEETINGS:**

- a. **A Tribute to Walton J. McLeod - February 19, 2023 at the Old Hotel, 1110 Caldwell Street - 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.**  
**RSVP - [FriendsofWaltMcLeod@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsofWaltMcLeod@gmail.com) or call 803-960-2596**
- b. **Economic Development Committee - February 21, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. (Conference Room)**
- c. **Executive Committee - February 27, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.**

## **11.ADJOURNMENT**

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



Mr. Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL**

*Todd Johnson*

**Todd Johnson, Chair**

*Susan C. Fellers*

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

**Minutes Approved:** 3-1-2023