

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES
MARCH 16, 2022**

Newberry County Council met on Wednesday, March 16, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 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 (District 1)
Les Hipp, Vice-Chairman (District 5)
Mary Arrowood, Council Member (District 2)
Henry H. Livingston, III, Council Member (District 3)
Robert N. Shealy, Council Member (District 4)
Johnny Mack Scurry, Council Member (District 6)
Travis Reeder, Council Member (District 7)
Christopher Inglese, County Administrator
A.J. Tothacer, Jr., County Administrator
Karen Brehmer, Deputy County Administrator
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.

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

1. Adoption of the Consent Agenda:

- a. Budget Planning Workshop Minutes, 2/3-2/4/2022
- b. County Council Minutes, 2/4/2022
- c. CPST County Council Minutes, 2/14/2022
- d. County Council Minutes, 2/16/2022

Mr. Shealy voted to adopt the Consent Agenda, as presented; seconded by Mr. Reeder. Vote was unanimous.

2. Additions, Deletions and Adoption of the Agenda

There being no additions or deletions to the Agenda, Mr. Shealy moved to adopt the Agenda, as presented; seconded by Mr. Hipp. Vote was unanimous.

3. Public Appearances:

a. Ben Setzler, Newberry County Soil and Water Conservation District

Mr. Setzler updated Council on events of the Newberry County Soil and Water Conservation District:

- Legislative Breakfast was held in February
- The Conservation District received a \$300,000 feral hog grant, which eradicated 334 hogs from the County
- Whitmire Clean-up was held
- The Great American Clean-up is scheduled for March 19
- Camp Conservation - they have approximately 60 youth scheduled for this camp. They have received small grants to offset camp expense/registration as well as \$240 in donations.
- Received a \$9,100 grant from Palmetto Pride
- Movie night is scheduled for May 14 at Setzler Farm
- They have established a pollinator garden.
- Photo contest runs through October
- Field day is scheduled to include wildlife, etc.
- Newsletter
- Received \$5,000 in dues
- NRC - federal partner brings in federal money for farmers and landowners in the county.
- Audit is completed
- State lobbying - working with Senate and House

Mr. Hipp thanked Mr. Setzler for keeping Council informed on what is going on.

b. Jessie Long, Director of Parks and Recreation

Ms. Long requested the County consider broadening and expanding its partnership with the City of Newberry and the Town of Prosperity to offer baseball and softball to ages 3 to 17. A copy of her powerpoint presentation is on file in the County Administration office.

c. Sheriff Lee Foster

Sheriff Foster stated retention of employees at the Detention Center is critical. They are unable to keep officers or recruit because salaries are very low. Right now there are 7 openings at the Detention Center.

There are funds in his personnel account from which retention pay could be offered to those employees staying. Payments could be made in 3 separate payments for the fiscal year. It would be a total of \$1,200 for each employee divided into three payments.

Mr. Inglese felt it was important to take measures within existing resources to try and keep the employees we have.

d. David Parnell, Director of Veterans Affairs

Mr. Parnell read into the record "What is a Veteran?"

"A 'Veteran' - whether active duty, discharged, retired, or reserve - is someone who, at one point in his life, wrote a blank check made payable to 'The United States of America,' for an amount of 'up to, and including his life.' That is honor. And there are way too many people in this country today, who no longer understand that fact."

He said Newberry County does not recognize Veterans Day as a county holiday.

Mr. Parnell also advised Council he was retiring as of June 30, 2022.

4. Council to consider agreement between Newberry County Sheriff's Office and the Newberry County School District for School Resource Officers Program

Sheriff Foster advised this agreement was required in order for the Sheriff's Office to receive funding from the State.

He requested that in the section regarding SRO law related training that the word "shall" be changed to "may."

Mr. Reeder moved to approve the Agreement with the word "shall" being changed to "may"; seconded by Mr. Hipp. Vote was unanimous

5. Ordinance #02-02-2022: An Ordinance amending the Budget Ordinance for the fiscal year 2021-22, Ordinance Number 04-12-21, to provide for revised revenue and expenditure appropriations related to operating and capital purposes of Newberry County.

a. Public Hearing

Mr. Johnson declared this to be the public hearing. There being no comments from the public, Mr. Johnson declared the public hearing closed.

b. Third and Final Reading

Mr. Inglese advised the budget request for \$60,000 for the compensation study has been eliminated as there is enough money already in this year's budget to cover that cost.

Also, the Administrative Assistant is already in the budget.

The request is down to \$126,956 from the initial \$218,571.

Mr. Hipp moved for third and final reading; seconded by Mr. Shealy. There being no discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

6. Ordinance #03-04-2022: An Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance of the County of Newberry adopted June 30, 2016, so as to amend the zoning map acting on a request to amend the official zoning map established and codified in Chapter 153 of the County of Newberry Code of Ordinances, so as to rezone three (3) real estate parcels totaling thirteen and ninety-one hundredths (13.91) acres designated as TMS Parcels No. 639-8, 639-87, and 639-88 from RS-Single Family Residential to R2-Rural.

a. Second Reading

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

7. Ordinance #03-05-2022: An Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance of the County of Newberry adopted June 30, 2016, so as to amend the zoning map acting on a request to amend the official zoning map established and codified in Chapter 153 of the County of Newberry Code of Ordinances, so as to rezone one (1) real estate parcel totaling one and forty-nine hundredths (1.49) acres designated as TMS Parcel No. 340-2-21 from RS-Single Family Residential to R2-Rural.

a. Second Reading

Mr. Shealy moved for second reading; seconded by Mr. Livingston. There being no discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

8. Executive Session:

(1) Code Section 30-4-70(a)(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.

(2) Code Section 30-4-70(a)(5): Discussion of matters relating to the proposed location, expansion, or the provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body.

Mr. Hipp moved to go into Executive Session for the above-stated purposes; seconded by Mrs. Arrowood. Vote was unanimous.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

6:40 P.M. - 7:55 P.M.

Mr. Reeder moved to return to open session; seconded by Mrs. Arrowood. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Johnson reported that Council met in Executive Session for the above-stated reasons, and no action was taken in Executive Session.

9. Ordinance #02-03-2022: An Ordinance to declare surplus and approve the sale and transfer of a parcel of real estate property owned by Newberry County.

Prior to the public hearing, Mr. Inglese stated the top bid for the Cavanaugh Tract was \$1,210,000. Mr. Corso has come to Newberry twice to review the land and they had very positive discussions this past Friday. He found Mr. Corso and his son to be extremely authentic and genuine, and they want to become a part of the Newberry community.

They shared concerns about the need for housing in the County and City of Newberry. They want to work with the community and would be open to a housing development on this property.

They also agree the warehouse would be better located at another tract other than the Cavanaugh Tract.

They want to invest in Newberry County.

a. Public Hearing

Mr. Johnson declared this to be the public hearing.

Karol Kunkle had conversations with Mr. Inglese, and he addressed most of her concerns. She had no objection to the buyers if they did something other than the business on the Cavanaugh Tract. She would prefer a subdivision type housing. She asked as to any arrangements or if that is a viable option.

Mr. Inglese advised this was public comments and all comments will be taken under advisement.

Ms. Kunkle said quality housing is needed to attract good quality families to Newberry over a warehouse. We need people to live here and work here, and housing has to be a component. If County Council could prescribe or restrict the type of housing, it would be greatly appreciated.

There being no further comments from the public, Mr. Johnson declared the public hearing closed.

b. Third and Final Reading

Mr. Reeder moved to approve third and final reading; seconded by Mr. Scurry. Vote was unanimous.

10. Resolution establishing a Newberry County Council Economic Development Task Force to assist in creating an Economic Development Strategic Plan.

Mr. Inglese advised that the Economic Development Committee met and discussed establishing a task force to assist staff with an economic development plan. County Council expressed its desire to do more strategic planning, and this would be a good way to do that.

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

11. Resolution amending the Newberry County Employee Handbook to add Veterans Day as a holiday.

Mr. Inglese advised this Resolution would establish Veterans Day as a county holiday. He felt this was the right thing to do and would provide a much needed morale boost to our employees. Staff recommends this be part of the county employee handbook.

Mr. Livingston felt honoring our veterans was reason enough to have the day.

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

12. Council to prioritize County sponsored CPST Projects

Projects to be presented to the CPST Committee by Council are as follows:

1. County Courthouse IT/Network Security Improvements - \$295,000
2. Public Safety Complex - Friendly Fire relocation - \$7.5 million
3. Mawsons Way Improvements and Extension - \$2 million
4. Roof Replacement and HVAC Improvement at Museum - \$815,000
5. Downtown Amphitheater - \$3,650,000
6. Renovation of old Gallman High School (Phase 1) - \$1,450,000
7. New Detention Center - \$6,000,000

It is unknown as to how much emphasis the CPST Committee will place on Council's rankings.

Mr. Scurry moved to present the above ranked projects to the CPST Committee for consideration; seconded by Mr. Reeder. Vote was unanimous.

13. Public Comments

Jimmy Smith requested approval to put a marker recognizing the first responders on a lot in Moore Park.

Mr. Johnson advised him to get with Mr. Inglese to work out the details.

David Parnell thanked Council for passing the Resolution recognizing Veterans Day as a county holiday.

Tom Pope - signed up but advised he did not need to speak.

14. Comments/Requests from County Administrator

Mr. Inglese advised he recently visited Friendly Fire Department and learned what they do for the County.

15. Comments/Requests from Council Members

Mr. Shealy had no comments.

Mr. Livingston had no comments.

Mrs. Arrowood stated Council really takes seriously the work on the CPST projects. It took a lot of thought and she was looking forward to getting it passed. It will take everyone talking to their neighbors and friends to keep this tax. This is the only way we are going to grow and get the things the County needs.

Mr. Scurry thanked Council for putting their hands and hearts together on the CPST projects.

Mr. Reeder thanked everyone for coming out tonight. If we don't hear from the public, we won't know the issues. He hoped this was something they wanted.

Mr. Hipp said it is still a long road with the CPST projects. Many of you will need to approach the CPST Committee in support of the projects. The CPST Committee will approve the projects for the ballot, and you will have to support all of them in order for the referendum to pass.

Mr. Johnson hoped Council was able to prove a good effort in trying to get housing into the County, and he appreciated all that had been done. Council tries to do the right thing with each decision it makes.

16. Future Meetings (all meetings begin at 6:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted):

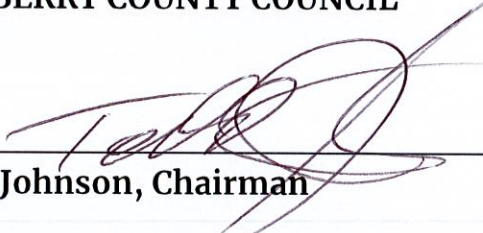
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|---------------------------|---------|
| a. Finance Committee | 3/28/22 |
| b. County Council Meeting | 4/6/22 |
| c. Budget Work Session | 4/12/22 |
| d. County Council Meeting | 4/20/22 |
| e. Executive Committee | 4/25/22 |
| f. Budget Work Session | 4/26/22 |

17. Adjournment

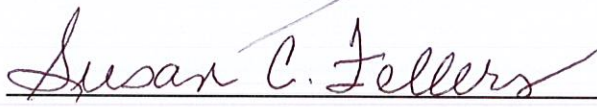
There being no further matters to come before Council, Mr. Shealy moved to adjourn; seconded by Mrs. Arrowood. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL



Todd Johnson, Chairman



Susan C. Fellers, Clerk to Council

Minutes Approved: 4-20-22