

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES
DECEMBER 7, 2022**

The Newberry County Council met on Wednesday, December 7, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Courthouse Annex, 1309 College Street, Newberry, SC, for a regular scheduled meeting.

PRESENT: 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)
Karen Brehmer, Acting County Administrator
Joanie Winters, Interim County Attorney
Debbie S. Cromer, Finance Director
Susan C. Fellers, Clerk to Council

ABSENT: Todd Johnson, Chairman (District 1)

MEDIA: Andrew Wigger, Newberry Observer

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

Mr. Hipp called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and determined a quorum to be present.

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

1. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA

a. Newberry County Council Minutes of November 16, 2022

Mr. Shealy moved to adopt the November 16, 2022 Minutes as presented; seconded by Mr. Scurry. There being no discussion, Mr. Hipp called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

2. ADDITIONS, DELETIONS AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

3. Resolution #14-22: A Resolution honoring Henry H. (Buddy) Livingston, III

Upon unanimous consent of Council, Mr. Hipp read the Resolution into the record, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein.

4. RESOLUTION #15-22: A RESOLUTION TO DECLARE THE RESULTS OF A REFERENDUM HELD IN NEWBERRY COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA ON NOVEMBER 8, 2022.

Mr. Reeder moved to adopt the Resolution; seconded by Mrs. Arrowood.

Mr. Hipp summarized the Resolution, a copy of which is on file in the office of the Clerk to Council.

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

5. Ordinance #11-25-22: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE TO PERMIT SOLAR FARMS AS A SPECIAL EXCEPTION IN THE RURAL (R2) ZONING DISTRICT.

a. Public Hearing

Mr. Hipp declared this to be the public hearing.

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

b. Third and Final Reading

Mrs. Arrowood moved to approve third reading; seconded by Mr. Shealy. There being no discussion, Mr. Hipp called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

6. CONSIDERATION OF 2023 COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE.

Mr. Reeder moved to adopt the 2023 County Council meeting schedule as presented; seconded by Mrs. Arrowood. There being no discussion, Mr. Hipp called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

7. CONSIDERATION OF 2023 COUNTY COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE.

Mr. Shealy moved to adopt the 2023 County Council Committee meeting schedule as presented; seconded by Mr. Reeder. There being no discussion, Mr. Hipp called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

8. CONSIDERATION OF FY 2023/2024 BUDGET CALENDAR

Mrs. Arrowood moved to adopt the FY 2023/2024 Budget Calendar as presented; seconded by Mr. Shealy. There being no discussion, Mr. Hipp called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

9. APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Hipp moved that Karen Brehmer serve as the Acting County Administrator until such time as either an interim or permanent County Administrator is appointed; seconded by Mr. Reeder. There being no objection, Mr. Hipp stated Mrs. Brehmer would serve as the Acting County Administrator.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments from the public.

11. COMMENTS/REQUESTS FROM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Karen Brehmer reported as follows:

- Refunds from building permits have been calculated, checks prepared and are in the envelopes for mailing. She thanked Brenda McCracken with the Treasurer's Office and Virginia Atkins with the Building Department for their assistance in this matter. There were 35 refunds totaling approximately \$33,000.00.
- Christmas gifts to the employees were given on December 2 through checks for \$50. Because of a past misunderstanding with Retirement, the County only had to absorb both sides of Social Security and Medicare. No retirement was deducted from the incentive.

12. COMMENTS/REQUESTS FROM COUNCIL

Mr. Reeder thanked Karen, Debbie and the staff for their work during these trying times we are going through. This team keeps it rolling. Mr. Reeder has enjoyed working with Mr. Livingston and expressed appreciation for all Mr. Livingston has done on Council and for the County of Newberry.

Mrs. Arrowood thanked the staff for getting the checks out to the employees for Christmas and for the work getting out the refunds on the building permits. She also thanked everyone who voted for the Referendum because it helps to build Newberry County, and she looks forward to the next 7 years getting these projects going. She thanked Buddy for his years of expertise and wished him the very best.

Mr. Shealy also thanked the staff for their hard work and thanked everyone for coming to the meeting tonight. Mr. Shealy thanked Mr. Livingston's family for coming out tonight and thanked Buddy for all he has done for the County. He told Mr. Livingston to enjoy his family and grandbaby.

Mr. Scurry thanked everyone from the Peak and Chappells area for their support of Newberry County. He thanked the Livingston family for allowing the County to borrow their husband and father.

Mr. Livingston thanked God for the opportunity to serve this County for so many years. He thanked his family, constituents, the county volunteers and employees, Keith Avery for his support of economic development, and DePaul with Alliance Engineering. Economic Development has always been a priority to him.

The County has come a long way with the budget presentations over the years he has been on Council. Wayne Adams came on as County Administrator when the County's budget was almost broke. Mr. Adams was also phenomenal with economic development.

Jimmy Coggins has always promoted and supported Newberry County.

He thanked all former and current Council members. He said Bill Waldrop taught him what to do and what not to do in some cases.

The SCAC family has been phenomenal and they are one of the best things for promoting and working with the County. He couldn't say enough positive things about them.

He has served on the Central Alliance Board and helped select the new president for this organization.

He thanked the Newberry Observer employees for promoting the County and for all they do for Council.

He has served on the board of Lake Murray Country, and they do a phenomenal job.

Mr. Livingston was opposed to the Opera House at first but now regrets the fact that he voted against it.

Mr. Livingston listed numerous companies/industries now located in Newberry County, all of which he had something to do with getting them to locate here. These industries have brought a lot of jobs to Newberry County. Over the past several years these industries have brought 2,000 jobs and over \$700 million to Newberry County.

He thanked Rick Farmer for the great job he does in bringing economic development growth to Newberry County.

He recognized Karl Sease, newly elected County Council District 3 member. He thanked Mr. Sease for running a clean race and congratulated him on a successful race.

Mr. Livingston said he ran on the Democratic ticket but feels he is actually more Republican based on his voting record. He has been pro rights for guns and landowners. When he started running, there was no Republican party. This country has gotten so far from "In God we Trust" and "United we stand. Divided we fall". Partisan politics will be the downfall of this country. If you run for

County Council, you need the backbone to support the citizens of the County and not the party you run with.

Mr. Livingston said it had been an honor to serve the citizens of the County and an honor to work with the people in attendance tonight. It has been a great honor for his children to have grown up watching government. We have got to get this country back to our forefathers findings of “In God we trust” and “United we stand. Divided we fall”.

Mr. Hipp thanked Buddy for his many years of devoted service and echoed what everyone else said tonight. He wished Mr. Livingston the best going forward.

13. FUTURE MEETINGS

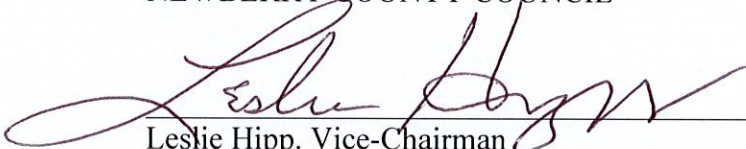
- a. Newberry County Council – January 4, 2023
- b. Newberry County Council Work Session – January 18, 2023
- c. Newberry County Council – January 18, 2023
- d. Public Safety Committee – January 30, 2023

14. ADJOURNMENT

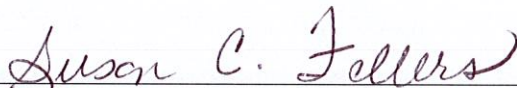
Mr. Livingston moved to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Reeder. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Hipp declared the meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL



Leslie Hipp, Vice-Chairman



Susan C. Fellers, Clerk to Council

Minutes Approved: 1-4-2023

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF NEWBERRY)

RESOLUTION ~~81~~ 14-22
HONORING
HENRY H. (BUDDY) LIVINGSTON, III

WHEREAS, Buddy Livingston was elected to Newberry County Council for District 3 in January, 1995 and served the County until 2003. Buddy was elected again in January, 2006 and has served District 3 and Newberry County until December 31, 2022. Buddy served as County Council Chairman for 13 years.

WHEREAS, Buddy has served on a number of County Council committees during his tenure: Economic Development, Public Safety and Finance.

WHEREAS, Buddy was Chairman of County Council and Chairman of the Economic Development Committee when we successfully brought Samsung to Newberry County 2017. Samsung has invested \$500 million dollars and brought 1,500 jobs. Newberry County also has Samsung suppliers that have invested \$86 million and 525 jobs. He was instrumental in the Mid-Carolina Commerce Park of Newberry County and securing MM Technics, our first BMW supplier.

WHEREAS, during his career, Buddy was elected to the South Carolina Association of Counties Board of Directors in 2013 and currently holds this position.

WHEREAS, Buddy was elected as South Carolina Association of Counties President for 2017-2018.

WHEREAS, during his career, Buddy was elected to the South Carolina Association of Counties Insurance Board of Trustees in 2017 and currently holds this position.

WHEREAS, Buddy served on the South Carolina Association of Counties Legislative Committee 2009-2022 and the Revenue, Finance and Economic Development Policy Steering Committee 2009-2022 and is currently serving on both committees.

WHEREAS, Buddy also served on the South Carolina Association of Counties Nominating Committee in 2019 and 2020. He also served on the South Carolina Association of Counties Scholarship Committee in 2017.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL HEREBY RECOGNIZES HENRY H. (BUDDY) LIVINGSTON, III FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE, OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS, AND FOR BEING A POSITIVE REFLECTION ON NEWBERRY COUNTY.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall be published in the official minutes of the Newberry County Council and a framed copy of this Resolution shall be presented to Henry H. (Buddy) Livingston, III.

AND IT IS SO RESOLVED this 7th day of December 2022.

(SEAL)

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

BY: Todd Johnson

Todd Johnson, Chairman

Attest:

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