

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL  
FINANCE COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
APRIL 5, 2021**

The Newberry County Council Finance Committee met on April 5, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Courthouse Annex, 1309 College Street, Newberry, SC, for a regularly scheduled meeting.

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

**PRESENT:** Henry H. Livingston, III, Council Chairman  
Mary Arrowood, Council Member  
Todd Johnson, Council Member  
Les Hipp, Council Member  
A.J. Tothacer, Jr., County Attorney  
Karen Brehmer, Deputy County Administrator  
Debbie S. Cromer, Finance Director  
Susan C. Fellers, Clerk to Council  
Taylor Davenport, Assistant to the County Administrator

Mr. Livingston, as Council Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.. He then turned the meeting over to Mr. Tothacer for the election of the Committee Chair for 2021.

**1. Election of Committee Chairman for 2021 - Jay Tothacer, County Attorney.**

Mr. Tothacer declared the floor open for nominations. Mr. Hipp nominated Todd Johnson as Chair; seconded by Mr. Livingston. There being no further nominations, Mr. Tothacer declared Mr. Johnson Chairman by acclamation.

Meeting was turned over to Mr. Johnson.

**2. Approval of Minutes of December 15, 2020**

Mr. Livingston moved to approve the Minutes as presented; seconded by Mrs. Arrowood. Vote was unanimous.

**3. Discussion of proposed operating budget FY 21-22**

Mrs. Brehmer and Mrs. Cromer presented Council with a balanced operating budget for FY 21-22 with totals for revenues and expenditures of \$27,589,571. The proposed operating budget for FY 21-22 represents an increase of \$928,005 (3,5%).

The revenue data, along with recommended spending levels for the upcoming year, indicate that FY 21-22 revenue requirements will be met without an increase in millage levy for county operations.

(A copy of the proposed budget is on file in the Finance Director's Office)

The Federal government will send \$3.5 Million to Newberry County by May 10. Mrs. Cromer advised that no guidelines as to how to use it have been received; however, the Treasurer will set up a separate account for this money.

Mr. Hipp felt the county growth should be limited to no more than the CPI or the Social Security COLA.

Mrs. Brehmer said we are waiting on the CPI and millage cap.

**4. Discussion of proposed community services budget FY 21-22**

The entities included in community services are Newberry County Disabilities and Special Needs, Newberry County Library, and Piedmont Technical College. For FY 21-22, staff recommends this levy be maintained at 6.9 mills. At 6.9 mills the growth in the mill value will produce additional funds of \$34,576 to be distributed in the same proportions as FY 20-21.

(A copy of the proposed budget is on file in Finance Director's Office)

**5. Discussion of proposed debt service budget FY 21-22**

As of June 30, 2020, Newberry County 's debt limit was estimated at \$11,912,281, with \$2,930,118 in outstanding debt, leaving \$8,982,163 debt capacity.

The debt service levy for FY20-21 was 7.7 mills. The debt service levy for 21-22 will increase 0.09 of a mill.

(A copy of the Debt Service Budget for FY 21-22 is on file in the Finance Office)

**6. Questions/Comments from Committee Members**

Mr. Hipp restated his request as to limitation of growth of the budget. He has gotten numbers and figures from Ervin West regarding a larger meeting area for Council, when needed, of approximately \$20,000-\$25,000 to get the exact same set up as in Council Chambers.

Mrs. Arrowood thanked Mrs. Cromer and Mrs. Brehmer for working on the budget, along with all others who helped.

Mr. Livingston thanked Mrs. Cromer and Mrs. Brehmer for taking the brunt of some cutting of the budgets. He also mentioned the possibility of moving the Council's meeting place to a larger venue.

Mrs. Cromer advised that outside agencies are the only ones who have not been contacted about cuts in their budget. That letter will go out this week.

Mr. Johnson thanked Mrs. Cromer and Mrs. Brehmer for their work and suggested looking into a county wide financial system.

Mrs. Cromer advised that the general ledger has been on since 2004 but is not the best system.

Mr. Hipp asked how long the County has been using the same outside auditors? Mrs. Cromer said this was out for proposals now.

Mr. Johnson asked about setting up a county wide work order system. Mrs. Cromer advised the person out front in the administration office works with Ervin West on the work orders.

**7. Public Comments**

No comments from the public.

**8. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the committee, Mr. Hipp moved to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Livingston.

Mr. Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL  
FINANCE COMMITTEE**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Todd Johnson, Chairman

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

Minutes Approved: June 6, 2022