

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

JUNE 6, 2022

The Newberry County Council Finance Committee met on Monday, June 6, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chamber 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: Mary Arrowood, Council Committee Member
Henry H. Livingston, III, Council Committee Member
Christopher Inglese, County Administrator
Karen Brehmer, Deputy County Administrator
Jacquelyn R. Lawrence, Clerk to Council

ABSENT : Debbie S. Cromer, Finance Director
Les Hipp, Vice-Chair (District 5)

Mrs. Arrowood called the meeting to order and determined a quorum to be present.

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

Additions, Deletions & Adoption of the Agenda

Mrs. Arrowood stated that number seven (7) on the Agenda needed to be made number two A (2a). Without objection the proposed change was accepted, and the amended Agenda was adopted.

2 a. \$88,000 change order request – Alliance Engineering/Lindler Construction

Kyle Clampitt, Alliance Engineering spoke regarding a change order request for an additional \$88,894 for MCCPI road extension and unforeseen retaining wall repairs. The current budget has \$304,000 remaining. The requested funds will come from that amount. Mr. Clampitt also stated that construction is currently on hold until this matter can be resolved. Committee members stated that is proposal should go before the full Council on June 15, 2022.

An Ordinance establishing and implementing a program to charge mitigation rates for the development of emergency and non-emergency services by the fire or rescue department for services provided/rendered for the Newberry County Emergency Services.

Mr. Long explained the proposed ordinance to allow for fire and/or rescue to bill an insurance company for reimbursement for services rendered to incidents occurring in Newberry County. It

is believed that this will not impact the Newberry County taxpayers. Laurens County is currently implementing this billing system as well as HAZMAT. To manage this system a billing service vendor will need to be acquired. The billing service would be an RFP. This matter should be heard before the Public Safety Committee June 13, 2022.

Discussion of Public Information Campaign for CPST

Christopher Inglese stated that the County has an option regarding engaging in a Public Information Campaign for CPST. The County is not able to spend county resources to advocate for a referendum or any vote that appears on the ballot. However, counties can engage in factual, public information. There are companies that will provide materials that can be used for press releases, brochures, social media content, or letter writing campaigns. The companies would put together information that is compliant with the South Carolina Code of Ethics on this issue of advocating verses educating. Getting the materials together would be less than \$10,000. This would allow for a comfortable distribution of material.

Mrs. Arrowood stated that she would like to see plaques placed on all the passed projects that have been paid for by the CPST funds. The Committee would like more information regarding this matter.

Karen Brehmer added that the County had a link to the electronic booklet published on the website at one time.

Mr. Livingston suggested it be taken to full Council.

MCIP/FILOT revenue diverted to Capital Purchases

Christopher Inglese informed the Committee of possible ways to divert some of the revenues from a new MCP so that they can be allocated to specific areas in need. This would have to be decided at the start of a new MCP with percentages named as to where they would be going. These amounts would be able to be amended as needed later.

Mrs. Livingston stated that it would not be allowed to be reoccurring funds. The funds that are out there now would be frozen. Only the new projects would be available for this possible change.

Mr. Inglese stated that since the revenues from the current MCCPII has not come out that the diversion plan can still be amended. That would allow for a significant source for seeding a capital fund.

Mr. Livingston asked for the percentage amount.

Mr. Inglese state that the recommendation would be 75% to the capital fund.

Mr. Livingston would like a more detailed report of what the FILOTs are currently, when they fall off, etc.

Mr. Inglese and Mr. Farmer will prepare the information and have a possible work session with the committee regarding this matter to educate everyone with more information and see what the best plan will be.

Discussion of Grant Writer Consultant Services

Mr. Inglese updated the committee regarding the possibility of hiring a full-time grant writer. Two different consulting firms have been contacted as possibilities. One firm is out of Washington DC. They have an office in Charleston, so they are familiar with South Carolina law. One firm currently works with Greenwood. The firms do not work on commission as it is not legal for them to do so. One fee schedule requires an \$8000.00 a month retainer where they would be always working to find grant monies from their DC contacts. The other fee schedule is based off how many hours their team has worked to get the possible grants. An example would be \$119.00 per hour for a 16-hour work week. Both offers come out to roughly \$96,000.00 per year. This amount is what is already in the works for the coming years budget. The firms also offer compliance review. The specific details of the contracts would still need to be worked out during the bidding process. The budgeted amount would have to be the amount worked with. There should not be any additional funds requested.

Executive Session

Code Section §30-4-70 (a) of the Code of Laws of SC, as amended, 1976

- (1) 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) Discussion of matters relating to the proposed location, expansion, or provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body.**

Mrs. Arrowood moved to go into Executive Session to discuss the matters as set forth above; seconded by Mr. Livingston. Vote was unanimous.

Executive Session

7:02 P.M. -7:56 P.M.

The committee returned from Executive Session stating no action was taken.

Adoption of Consent Agenda

a. Finance Committee Minutes

4-5-2021

Mr. Livingston moved to adopt the consent agenda, seconded by Mrs. Arrowood.

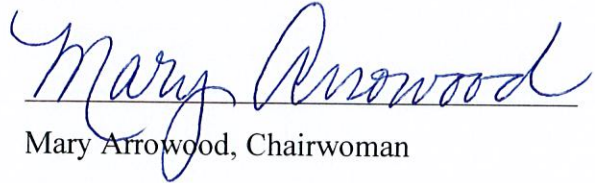
Public Comments

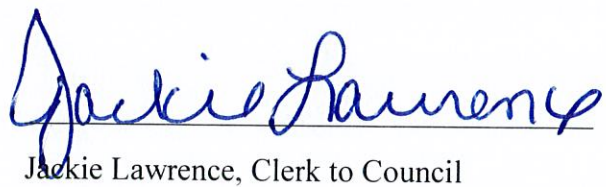
No Public Comments were made.

Adjournment

Mr. Livingston moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Arrowood.

Newberry County Council


Mary Arrowood, Chairwoman


Jackie Lawrence, Clerk to Council

Minutes approved: July 6, 2022