



**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES
JULY 15, 2015**

Newberry County Council met on Wednesday, July 15, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Courthouse Annex, 1309 College Street, Newberry, SC, for a regular scheduled meeting.

PRESENT: Kirksey Koon, Vice Chairman
Bill Waldrop, Councilman
Leslie (Les) Hipp, Councilman
Steve Stockman, Councilman
Scott Cain, Councilman
Travis Reeder, Councilman
Wayne Adams, County Administrator
A.J. Tothacer, County Attorney
Laurie Renwick, Clerk to Council
Debbie Cromer, Finance Director

ABSENT: Henry H. Livingston, III, Chairman

MEDIA: Andrew Wigger, Newberry Observer

The meeting was duly advertised as required by law.

Vice Chairman Koon called the meeting to order.

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

Vice Chairman Koon noted that Chairman Livingston would not be in attendance tonight and he was filling in.

1. Adoption of Consent Agenda

Mr. Hipp motioned to adopt consent agenda; seconded by Mr. Cain.

Mr. Adams reviewed the line item transfers that were included in the consent agenda.

Having received no discussion, the vote was unanimous to adopt the consent agenda as presented.

2. Additions, Deletions and Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Cain motioned to postpone second reading of agenda item #3 (Ordinance #07-13-15) so that it could be held in conjunction with the public hearing on August 19th; seconded by Mr. Reeder.

Mr. Hipp suggested that if anyone here tonight wanted to comment on this item that they do so under public comments if they will be unable to attend the public hearing on August 19th.

Having received no further comments, the vote was unanimous to adopt the agenda as amended.

3. Ordinance #07-13-15: An Ordinance acting on a request to amend the Official Zoning Map established pursuant to Zoning Ordinance No. 12-24-01, codified in Chapter 153 of the Newberry County Code of Ordinances, so as to rezone a two (2.0) acres portion of a real estate parcel totaling twenty-one and sixty-six hundredths (21.66) acres designated as TMS Parcel No. 588-11 from Rural (R2) to General Commercial (GC).

Postponed to August 19, 2015 meeting.

4. Consideration of Disbursement of FT14/15 Funding as recommended by Accommodations Tax Committee.

Mr. Ernest Shealy, Chairman of the Accommodations Tax Committee, reported that we had another year where the available promotional funding (\$17,373.30) was greatly outweighed by the amount requested (\$40,807.00). The committee recommends that the promotional funding be distributed by the percentages below to the following entities:

Capital City Lake Murray	45%	\$ 7,817.99
Newberry Chamber	40%	6,949.32
Prosperity Business Assoc.	15%	<u>2,606.00</u>
TOTAL PROMOTIONAL FUNDING		\$17,373.30

Mr. Shealy reported that there was \$64,509.00 requested for tourism related funding with only \$37,907.98 available for distribution. The committee recommends that the tourism funding be distributed as follows.

Little Mountain Reunion	\$ 4,000.00
Party in the Pines	2,000.00
Halloween Carnival Whitmire Jaycees	900.00
Prosperity's Hoppin	1,000.00
Newberry Community Players	500.00
Newberry Co. Historical & Museum Society	2,000.00
Newberry Co. Law Enforcement Assoc.	4,000.00
Newberry Opera House	12,000.00
Newberry County Visitors Center	8,507.98
SC Bottle & Whitmire Museum	<u>3,000.00</u>
TOTAL TOURISM FUNDING	<u>\$37,907.98</u>

Mr. Waldrop motioned to approve the recommendation of the Accommodations Tax Committee; seconded by Mr. Cain. The vote was unanimous.

5. Consideration of Central SC Alliance (FY15/16) 1st Quarter Invoice in the amount of \$18,000.00.

Mr. Hipp motioned to approve the invoice; seconded by Mr. Cain.

Vice Chairman Koon asked if there was any discussion.

Mr. Hipp commented that Mr. Briggs with Central SC Alliance came to the Economic Development Committee meeting and provided them with information relative to their activity in support of Newberry County during the past quarter. The committee considered the information and based on what Central Alliance provided, made a recommendation to full Council for approval.

Vice-Chairman Koon stated that he has not voted to fund Central Alliance in the last three quarters and he will not be voting to approve tonight. He commented that he has attended some of these meetings and they talk to us about what they have done in the past by providing charts and graphs on what they have done and what they will do. They have told us about the clients they have shown our properties to and how they have talked to those clients on our behalf. He said he understood and realized this; however, over the past 6 ½ years that he has been on Council, Central has received approximately \$450-460,000.00 from us and he is not aware of any property that has been sold. We have had several industries to expand and he did not believe that our partnership with Alliance had any or little influence on those expansions. Having said this, he can't support the quarterly request and thanked members of Council for listening to his concerns.

Mr. Cain shared that he agreed 100% with Vice-Chairman Koon; however, the reason he is voting to approve tonight is the Department of Commerce encourages all counties to be in an Alliance of some type. He said if Council is at the point of not paying this, we need a viable alternative for our county and not be on our own. We need to have a game plan for using that money to attack our economic development issue. He challenged Council to make some of these tough decisions to move things along and stated that if he had any kind of alternate, he would vote no like Mr. Koon in a heartbeat; but because there is no alternative tonight, he will be voting in favor of the invoice.

Vice-Chairman Koon stated that he understood what Mr. Cain was saying and his hope is that with by his last three votes and the one tonight this will get Central's attention in some way shape or form that they can do a better job for us than they have done in the past. He said they need a strong message sent to them.

Mr. Hipp commented that he agreed with everything that has been said. He said we have checked other available options and the Upstate Alliance was not open to including Newberry in that area. We have a new Economic Development Director who needs some assistance while he is getting started in Newberry and he has made it clear that he needs the Alliance and plans to use them. Mr. Hipp stated that he has met with Mr. Briggs and he understands our continued concerns and he is assuring him that the Alliance will help Mr. Farmer and Newberry in anyway within their ability. Mr. Farmer will need to be the one to tell us if he is getting what he is asking for from the Alliance; especially in the near term.

Having received no further discussion, the vote to approve Central SC Alliance 1st Quarter Invoice in the amount of \$18,000.00 passed 5-1; with Koon opposed and Livingston absent.

6. *Appointments*

Mr. Stockman nominated Mr. Donald Stockman, Jr. for reappointment to the Newberry County Water and Sewer Authority Board; seconded by Mr. Waldrop. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Hipp nominated Mr. David Wiseman for an appointment to the Newberry County Water and Sewer Authority Board; seconded by Mr. Cain. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Waldrop nominated Mr. Harold Hunter to the Joint Planning Commission; seconded by Mr. Hipp. The vote was unanimous.

7. *Public Comments (by those who signed up at meeting)*

No comments.

8. *Executive Session*

No Executive Session.

9. *Comments/Request from County Administrator*

Mr. Adams commented that it was good to be back in the United States.

10. *Comments/Request from Council Members*

No comments.

11. *Future Meetings*

- a. **NO COUNCIL MEETING ON AUGUST 5, 2015** (SCAC Annual Meeting)
- b. Public Safety and Courts Committee – 8/10/15 @ 6:00 p.m.
- c. County Council 8/19/15 @ 7:00 p.m.
- d. Public Works and Planning Committee – 8/24/15 @ 6:00 p.m.

12. *Adjournment*

Chairman Livingston declared the meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

Henry H. Livingston, Chairman

APPROVED:

Laurie N. Renwick, Clerk to Council