

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 6, 2013**

Newberry County Council met on Wednesday, February 6, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Courthouse Annex, 1309 College Street, Newberry, SC, for a regular scheduled meeting.

**PRESENT:**   **Henry H. Livingston, III, Chairman**  
                  **Kirksey Koon, Vice Chairman**  
                  **John E. Caldwell, Councilman**  
                  **Bill Waldrop, Councilman**  
                  **Leslie (Les) Hipp, Councilman**  
                  **Steven C. Stockman, Councilman**  
                  **Scott Cain, Councilman**  
                  **Wayne Adams, County Administrator**  
                  **A.J. Tothacer, County Attorney**  
                  **Laurie Renwick, Clerk to Council**  
                  **Debbie Cromer, Finance Director**

**PRESS:**       **Cindy Pitts, Newberry Observer**  
                  **Tammy Kitchen, WKDK**

Chairman Livingston called the meeting to order and determined a quorum present.

Chairman Livingston led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1.       Adoption of Consent Agenda**

Mr. Koon motioned to adopt the consent agenda; seconded by Mr. Stockman. The vote was unanimous.

**2.       Personal Appearances:**

**a.   Leslie Jenkins, Animal Control Manager**

Ms. Jenkins distributed comparison charts to members of Council and gave an update on the improved sterilization and adoption numbers at the shelter for the 2012 calendar year.

Mr. Koon commented that he has personally used the spay/neuter program and said it is a great program. They took good care of my animals, brought their shots up to date, and when returned had been freshly shampooed.

Mr. Pisano gave an update on the progress of the new animal shelter. He said blocks are being laid for the kennels and the inside of the building is taking shape. They are making good progress and we are hoping for a late spring opening and are excited about moving in.

Chairman Livingston invited folks to go out and see the new shelter. He said he went by last week and it is looking really nice.

**b. Anne Peters, Zoning Administrator**

Mrs. Peters reported that the Comprehensive Plan was adopted in December of 2012 and she referred Council to Chapter 11, the Implementation Element of the plan. She said they are in the process of distributing the plan to the various agencies. There are 322 strategies with the county involved in 90% of them. Of the 322 strategies, 178 are ongoing; 74 are short-term; 57 are mid-term; and 13 are long-term. Implementing these strategies will be a collaborative effort over the next ten years.

Mr. Hipp commented that Mrs. Peters presented an excellent break down by year and by strategy. It will be great for Newberry to accomplish those identified areas. He thanked Mrs. Peters for her report and said he will look forward to next year's report having accomplished a lot on the list.

- 3. Resolution #02-13:** A Resolution to Commission Code Enforcement Officers for County pursuant to the authority granted in Section 4-9-145 of the code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976 as amended.

Mr. Koon motioned to approve Resolution #02-13; seconded by Cain. The vote was unanimous.

- 4. Consideration of approve purchase of Protective Clothing for Fire Departments in the amount of \$34,991.62 from Poseidon Supplies and Equipment.**

Mr. Long reported that this was a budgeted item and has been recommended by the Public Safety and Courts Committee. He said he received three (3) quotes with Poseidon submitting the lowest in the amount of \$34,991.62.

Mr. Waldrop motioned to approve; seconded by Mr. Hipp. The vote was unanimous.

- 5. Consideration to proceed with Spec Building Engineering and Design Services.**

Ms. Powers reported that plans for the spec building were discussed at a work session several weeks ago and the question was raised whether we should proceed with the design services that Alliance is providing. Council approved moving forward with the

engineering and design in early fall of last year. Work stopped in late fall when some of the financing was not proceeding so we have been on hold with the design. Third reading of the financing will be presented at the next two Council meetings and she asked if Alliance needed to wait until we get through those readings or could they possible move forward.

Mr. Frost commented that the design phase is roughly 80% complete at this point and approval now will get us one month ahead of the game.

Mr. Waldrop said this is probably a good idea in a lot of ways but we already have around six (6) million in the property and have yet to have any takers. He said the odds of us finding somebody after constructing a building is going to be high too. He asked Ms. Powers what her thoughts were and commented that she would have to work 24 hours a day to find somebody who would want this building.

Ms. Powers responded that this was pursued to increase the looks the county was getting for projects that were interested in the state of South Carolina. The recent S.C. Dept. of Commerce numbers have revealed that 77% of projects coming through the state were initially looking for a building. At this point we are missing out because we don't have anything to show. Having this building will not put us in the mix on all of those projects because of the range in size but it will help generate traffic and marketing to ultimately get somebody in there.

Mr. Waldrop asked if any private developers had responded to our marketing efforts to build out there without the taxpayers doing it.

Ms. Powers commented that private sector investment was more common before the recession when lending was a lot freer but since lending has tightened up you are not going to get a bank to loan you money on a speculative project. It is a different environment than it was back in 2006 and 2007 when you saw a lot more private sector folks engaged.

Mr. Waldrop asked if the Department of Commerce was involved with this project.

Ms. Powers said they are not directly involved or have any funds in this project but they have contacted us and would like renderings of the spec building for marketing. The SC Power Team and Santee Cooper have economic development newsletters that go out to a wide audience and they would like to feature the building. With Central Alliance and others it will be on all the websites and we will be doing some e-blasting.

Mr. Hipp commented that we are not taking a vote tonight on the ordinance to finance this project but he would like to ask Council members who are reluctant about supporting the project to certainly vote against the continued funding of the engineering. We need to make sure we don't waste money. If we have a majority that is not going to approve

continuation of the project then we don't need to spend money on the engineering services.

Mr. Koon agreed with Mr. Hipp and said we do not need to vote on this if we are not in favor of building the spec building. He said he is not against building the spec building but is against using taxpayer funds to do it at this time.

Mr. Cain motioned to approve proceeding with the spec building engineering and design services; seconded by Mr. Stockman. The motion passed with a vote of 5-2 with Mr. Waldrop and Mr. Koon opposed.

## **6. Appointments**

Mr. Waldrop motioned to appoint Mr. Craig Kesler to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a four year term representing District 6; seconded by Mr. Koon. The vote was unanimous.

## **7. Committee Reports**

### **a. Public Safety and Courts Committee – 1/14/13**

Mr. Long reported that the Public Safety and Courts Committee met on January 14, 2013 and Mr. Waldrop was elected as the committee chairman. The three items discussed on the agenda were:

- Protective gear that was voted on tonight
- Sheriff's Office building update
- Update on Whitmire Armory renovations for EMS/Rescue Squad

## **8. Public Comments (by those who signed up at the meeting)**

No comments.

## **9. Executive Session**

No executive session.

## **10. Comments from County Administrator**

Mr. Adams congratulated Council on the success of the spay/neuter program and the new animal shelter and said these are two of the biggest advancements for animal welfare in this county's history.

## **11. Comments/Request from Council Members**

Mr. Koon commented that our Public Works and Public Safety personnel along with the Sheriff's Office did a tremendous job during the recent fire at one of our churches. He thanked them for the great job they did.

## **12. Future Meetings**

- a. Economic Development Committee – 2/11/13 @ 6:00 p.m.
- b. County Council – 2/20/13 @ 7:00 p.m.
- c. Personnel and Intergovernmental Relations Committee – 2/25/13 @ 6:00 p.m.

## **13. Adjournment**

Chairman Livingston adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL**

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**Henry H. Livingston, III, Chairman**

**APPROVED:**

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**Laurie N. Renwick, Clerk to Council**