



**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
BUDGET WORK SESSION
MINUTES
JUNE 8, 2015**

Newberry County Council met on Monday, June 8, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. in the Courthouse Annex Conference Room, 1309 College Street, Newberry, SC, for a budget work session.

PRESENT: Buddy Livingston, Chairman
Kirksey Koon, Vice Chairman
Les Hipp, Councilman
Steve Stockman, Councilman
Travis Reeder, Councilman

ABSENT: Bill Waldrop, Councilman
Scott Cain, Councilman

MEDIA: No media present

The meeting was duly advertised as required by law.

1. Call to order

Chairman Livingston called the meeting to order.

2. Consideration of an Amendment for Revenue Increases

Mr. Adams noted the following revenue increases for a total \$153,412.00. He said this will go into council contingency and some will be spent on the amendments presented tonight.

- Increase Homestead Exemption revenue (010-004-00040-00406) by \$6,069 from \$953,326 to \$959,395

- Increase MCIL revenue (010-004-00040-00414) by \$8,031 from \$101,000 to \$109,031
- Increase Vehicle Taxes (010-004-00040-00416) by \$71,592 from \$1,790,000 to \$1,861,592
- Increase Fee In Lieu (010-004-00040-00424) by \$67,720 from \$968,980 to \$1,036,720

3. Consideration of an Amendment for the Board of Rural Fire Control

Mr. Adams reported that items 3, 4 & 5 go together in that qualifying volunteer responders would receive a nominal \$250.00 annual reimbursement as an incentive based on their participation in fire, rescue, and hazmat services. They will get this the same way they get the income tax credit from the state for the same purpose. Item 3 differs in that it includes training and contracted maintenance appropriations that will benefit fire, rescue and hazmat services.

- Decrease Contingency Expenditures (010-005-15000-02011) by **\$63,279.**
- Decrease Shared Revenue to Municipalities expenditure (010-005-07500-02030) by \$36,721 from \$156,721 to \$120,000, and increase the following expenditure line items
 - Increase Fire Training appropriation (010-005-07500-02370) by \$8,000, from \$2,000 to \$10,000.
 - Increase Contracted Maintenance appropriation (010-005-07500-02050) by \$47,000, from \$5,500 to \$32,500.
 - Increase Nominal Reimbursement – Volunteers appropriation (010-005-07500-02104) by \$45,000, from \$ -0- to \$45,000.

4. Consideration of Amendment for the Board of Rescue Squads

- Decrease Contingency Expenditures (010-005-15000-02011) by **\$17,500.**
 - Increase Nominal Reimbursement – Volunteers appropriation (010-005-07300-02104) by \$17,500, from \$ -0- to \$17,500.

5. Consideration of an Amendment for Hazmat

- Decrease Contingency Expenditures (010-005-15000-02011) by **\$2,250**.
 - Increase Nominal Reimbursement – Volunteers appropriation (010-005-07400-02104) by \$2,250, from \$ -0- to \$2,250.

Chairman Livingston noted that this totals \$83,029.00 and will come out of contingency.

6. Consideration of an Amendment for the Recreation Department

Mr. Adams reported that most of the money from this amendment comes from within the department. For the past three years, we have averaged over \$13,000.00 in under expended funds. Our Recreation Director accumulates excessive comp time due to added programs and camps and this will fund a 20 hour a week position at \$12.50 per hour.

- Decrease Miscellaneous Recreation Expenditures (010-005-14300-02020) by \$10,000 from \$90,000 to \$80,000.
- Decrease Contingency Expenditures (010-005-15000-02011) by **\$6,121**.
 - Increase – Part Time Personnel appropriation (010-005-14300-1024) by \$16,121 from \$ -0- to \$16,121.

7. Consideration of an Amendment for the Public Works Department

Mr. Adams and Mr. Pisano reported on this amendment as it pertains to our landfill gas extraction system.

- Decrease Contingency Expenditures (010-005-15000-02011) by **\$27,500**.
 - Increase Public Works Contracted Maintenance appropriation (010-005-08100-02050) by \$16,000 from \$42,000 to \$58,000.
 - Increase Public Works Utilities appropriation (010-005-08100-02100) by \$10,000 from \$17,031 to \$27,031.
 - Increase Public Works Telephone appropriation (010-005-08100-02360) by \$1,500 from \$3,600 to \$5,100.

Mr. Hipp proposed that before third reading we look at the contact to see if there was failure on their part to identify these charges up front.

8. Consideration of an Amendment to Lease Purchase Acquisitions

Mr. Adams reported that this amendment will defer the purchase of a fire truck in the amount of \$280,000.00 included in the \$700,000.00 Lease Purchase Agreement. Instead, it will be used for a fire radio simulcast system. There is a separate Ordinance to address the Lease Purchase Agreement that will have to be amended to reflect this change.

Council on May 20, 2015 had the public hearing on a Lease Purchase Agreement not exceeding \$700,000 for equipment. Currently this includes one modular ambulance (\$140,000), one fire truck (\$280,000), one rescue truck (\$200,000), and one generator (\$80,000).

9. Consideration of Bids for Construction of Transfer Station Scale House

Cannon Associates	\$47,800
WE Baker & Son	\$54,997

Mr. West shared with Council the poor condition of the scale house and provided options and pricing on leasing/buying another used trailer, purchasing a new trailer, or constructing a new scale house (bids provided on new construction). He provided a detailed description of the proposed new construction and offered avenues where savings could be realized to bring the cost down.

After extensive discussion on the options presented and the cost, it was decided that staff would contact smaller home contractors to see if we could get better pricing. Chairman Livingston added that for budget purposes let set a \$45,000.00 marker to which all of Council agreed.

10. Discussion of Fees and Fines for FY15-16

Mr. Adams reported that there are only two changes to fees and fines for this budget year. The Probate Office will no longer perform marriage ceremonies so there will be no need for fees and the low cost spay/neuter cost of \$30.00 was added.

11. Discussion of Provisos for FY15-16

Mr. Adams noted that there are only two changes to the Provisos as well. One is for meal reimbursement for employees; from a daily maximum of \$35.00 to \$50.00. The other addresses not charging contractors working for the county for making copies on our machines.

12. Consideration of an Amendment to Capital Budgets

Mr. Adams stated that these are Capital Projects already in the budget but have not been paid out and staff needs authority to continue paying into the next year. He noted that staff will change the scale house marker to \$45,000.00 as discussed tonight.

Project	Amount
Old Landfill Gas Extraction System	\$ 244,446
Public Works Storage Facility	\$ 122,824
Transfer Station Scale House	\$ 50,000
Opera House	\$ 62,999
Whitmire Town Hall Annex	\$ 52,119
Council On Aging	\$1,189,633
Sub Station Indian Creek	\$ 570,286
Sub Station Belfast	\$ 216,142
Sub Station Leitzsey	\$ 255,142

13. Consideration of an Amendment for the Economic Development Department

Mr. Adams noted that the new Economic Director, Rick Farmer, reviewed the ED budget and made the following recommendations which will increase Council Contingency by \$22,522.00.

- Decrease Personnel Expenditures (010-005-09310-01010) by \$25,145.
- Decrease Social Security Expenditure (010-005-09310-01110) by \$1,924.
- Decrease Retirement Expenditure (010-005-09310-01120) by \$2,781.
- Decrease Workers Compensation Expenditure (010-005-09310-01200) by \$916.
- Increase Insurance appropriation (010-005-09310-01010) by \$6,394 from \$10,742 to \$17,136
- Increase Memberships and Dues appropriation (010-005-09310-0224) by \$450 from \$800 to \$1,250
- Increase Telephone appropriation (010-005-09310-02360) by \$1,400 from \$1,600 to \$3,000
- Increase Council Contingency appropriation (010-005-15000-02011) by \$ 22,522

14. Other Proposed Amendments

None offered.

15. Questions/Comments from Council Members

Mr. Hipp enquired about the request from the hospital and if it was addressed in the budget.

Mr. Adams stated that the request from the hospital was between \$50-75,000.00; however, they would not have that number confirmed until late-July so Council can entertain at that time whether to include in the budget or not.

Chairman Livingston said that we have budgeted for merit increases but he would like to add a 1% cost of living increase to that.

Mr. Adams reported that we currently have 1% cost of living, 1% merit, and ½% reclassification included in the budget for a total of 2.5%. He noted that Chairman Livingston's recommendation would increase that to 2% for cost of living and everyone would receive it regardless of their merit score.

Chairman Livingston mentioned that we can take the \$70,000.00 from forestry funds and \$25,000.00 from contingency and would not have a millage rate increase. He shared his concerns about keeping our law enforcement officers salaries moving at a decent pace or potentially lose them to another agency.

Mr. Hipp commented that if we are not at the mid-point range with salaries within any department compared to neighboring counties we need to look at that.

Mr. Stockman said to make that decision he would like to see some numbers and make a comparison.

It was decided that the money would be set aside with the decision of how to disperse it later after further study and making it retroactive.

16. Public Comments

No comments.

17. Adjournment

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

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

Henry H. Livingston, Chairman

APPROVED:

Laurie N. Renwick, Clerk to Council