



**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES
JANUARY 20, 2016**

Newberry County Council met on Wednesday, January 20, 2016, 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**
 Scott Cain, Vice Chairman
 Bill Waldrop, Councilman
 Leslie (Les) Hipp, Councilman
 Steve Stockman, Councilman
 Kirksey Koon, Councilman
 Travis Reeder, Councilman
 Wayne Adams, County Administrator
 A.J. Tothacer, County Attorney
 Laurie Renwick, Clerk to Council
 Debbie Cromer, Finance Director

MEDIA: **Andrew Wigger, Newberry Observer**

The meeting was duly advertised as required by law.

Chairman Livingston called the meeting to order.

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

1. *Adoption of Consent Agenda*

Mr. Waldrop motioned to adopt the consent agenda; seconded by Mr. Reeder. The vote was unanimous.

2. *Additions, Deletions and Adoption of Agenda*

Mr. Hipp motioned to adopt the agenda as presented; seconded by Mr. Cain. The vote was unanimous.

3. *Personal Appearances*

- a. Anne Peters, Planning and Zoning Administrator –
Comprehensive Plan Yearly Review

Mrs. Peters distributed the 2015 yearly progress report to members of Council. She also included the 2013 and 2014 yearly reports for Council to use as comparisons. She noted that the report was broken down by element, strategy reference number, and the status of each to date. Mrs. Peters said much of the progress is ongoing; however, Newberry County is not alone in implementing these strategies. There is input needed from outside agencies which makes it more complicated to achieve the desired results. She briefed Council on those areas that have made improvements.

Mr. Cain stated that he noticed a lot of these strategies are ongoing, still working, and under consideration. He asked Ms. Peters how many of the strategies have been completed.

Mrs. Peters responded that the ones she just briefed them on at the bottom of the page were making progress. It is a lengthy process and we are not achieving them in the timeframe we thought; we are running behind.

Mr. Cain noted that Newberry County becoming a Work Ready Community is pretty outstanding and asked which strategy reference was this element.

Mrs. Peters responded that she would have to check and report back.

Mr. Hipp asked Mrs. Peters if she could supply the written strategies in advance so Council can have the information in front of them; this will make it easier for us to know whether to question them or not. He felt having this information would help him understand and recommended that she give the report again at the next Council meeting.

Chairman Livingston and Mr. Koon agreed that having this information in advance of the next meeting would be good.

Mrs. Peters responded that she will provide them with an electronic copy which will include the assigned due dates of the strategies.

4. ***Ordinance #01-01-16: An Ordinance authorizing the acceptance of the transfer of the authority for conducting municipal elections in the City of Newberry to the Newberry County Registration and Elections Commission; to define the powers, duties and responsibilities assumed by the Newberry County Registration and Elections Commission for the conduct of municipal elections in the City of Newberry; to provide for reimbursement of all costs and expenses incurred by the Newberry County Registration and Elections Commission in the conduct of such municipal elections; and to provide for other matters relating thereto.***

Mr. Cain motioned to approve first reading of Ordinance #01-01-16; seconded by Mr. Koon.

Chairman Livingston asked if there was any discussion.

Mr. Koon said as he understands it, the City of Newberry will reimburse the county for all cost and this agreement can be cancelled at any time with reasonable notice given.

Mr. Tothacer responded that City of Newberry has elections in September; not with the general elections. The agreement does make it clear that the County Election Commission will take the filing fees set by the City of Newberry and if there is cost over and above the filing fees collected, the city will reimburse to that extent. He said in fairness to both sides, we would want to offer a transition period so the city will have time to ramp up to a position of having their own election commission.

Mr. Koon wanted to make sure that our Election Commission was in favor of doing this and willing to take on the responsibility.

Mr. Tothacer said it was his understanding that representatives from the city had talked with the Election Commission and the Director, Ms. Shanna Proctor. She was given a copy of the agreement to see if it complies with her expectations and she had no objections. She also provided a cost of the last election to the city's attorney so they will have an estimate of what the cost could be.

Mr. Reeder asked if there was a possibility the city could change their election cycle.

Mr. Tothacer said he did not ask them but historically that has been when they have always had their elections. This question would be best proposed to the city.

Chairman Livingston noted that this is only the first reading so these questions can be answered. He suggested that there be a clause in the agreement to specify an amount of time if the city needs to take it back over.

Mr. Tothacer responded that the agreement does state that it may be terminated by either party providing written notice 365 days prior to the next election. This should give them ample time to recreate their commission.

Mr. Hipp agreed with Mr. Reeder and asked that staff check to see if there was a municipal requirement that forces the city to have their elections when they do.

Mr. Koon noted that if the city were to change, this should be run by our Election Commission to see if it would be better for them. It may be better left as it is.

Having received no further discussion, the vote was unanimous to approve first reading of Ordinance #01-01-16.

5. ***Ordinance #11-25-15: An Ordinance amending Ordinance Number 04-08-15, the Budget Ordinance for Fiscal Year 15-16, to appropriate additional funding for Facilities Maintenance personnel and related purposes.***

Mr. Cain motioned to approve third reading of Ordinance #11-25-15; seconded by Mr. Waldrop. The vote was unanimous.

6. ***Consideration to forward Revised Draft Zoning Ordinance to Joint Planning Commission for Review and Approval.***

Mr. Cain motioned to forward draft Zoning Ordinance to Planning Commission; seconded by Mr. Reeder. The vote was unanimous.

7. ***Consideration of Request for Proposal for Debris Monitoring and Management Removal Services.***

Crystal Waldrop, Purchasing Director, reported that staff received proposals for debris monitoring services on October 27, 2015 and two (2) companies responded; Volkert and HDR/ICA Engineering. The evaluation committee would like to recommend the highest ranked firm HDR/ICA for these services.

Mr. Cain motioned to approve RFP from HDR/ICA Engineering for debris monitoring services; seconded by Mr. Hipp. The vote was unanimous.

8. Consideration to purchase Two (2) 2016 Ford Police Package Explorers for Sheriff's Office and Three (3) Vans for Detention Center.

Lieutenant Ben Chapman reported that the Sheriff's Office would like to purchase two 2016 Ford Police Package Explorers for the Civil Process Unit with funding coming from 4D funds or DSS money; each costing \$26,983.00 for a total of \$53,966.00. He said the Sheriff's Office would also like to purchase two extended length 15 passenger vans along with the cells to transport prisoners; each costing \$26,010.00 for a total of \$52,020.00 with the cells costing \$8,385 for a total of \$16,790.00; and a camera monitoring system in the back of the vans costing \$1,869.00 per camera; funding coming from jail user funds. An additional 7-8 passenger van is needed for transporting Public Works inmates to work sites at a cost of \$26,931.00. These all include state tax and are under state contract pricing.

Mr. Koon motioned to approve the purchase of these vehicles for the Sheriff's Office; seconded by Mr. Cain.

Chairman Livingston asked if there was any discussion.

Mr. Koon noted that the new vehicles will be replacing older ones to which Lieutenant Chapman agreed and stated that they will be sold on GovDeals with the proceeds going to the general fund.

Having received no further discussion, the vote was unanimous to approve the Sheriff's Office vehicle purchases.

9. Consideration of Request for Proposal for Fire and Rescue Management System Software.

Tommy Long, Emergency Services Coordinator, reported that staff only received one response to this proposal at a cost of \$51,535.00. He briefed Council on the benefits of this software system.

Mr. Koon motioned to approve the RFP in the amount of \$51,535.00 for fire and rescue software; seconded by Mr. Waldrop.

Chairman Livingston asked if there was any discussion.

Mr. Cain asked if this had been presented to the Fire and Rescue Boards.

Mr. Long said all fire, rescue, and hazmat team members and chiefs were invited to the webinars they had with several companies and the chairman of both boards were present at these presentations.

Mr. Cain shared his concerns about only receiving one proposal. He said we waited six months to send out an RFP which occurred over the holidays and he would like to see it re-bid. He would like for the boards to help decide what would be best for the county so he would like to recommend that this be tabled until such time and re-bid; taking off the EMS part and having the fire and rescue stand alone.

Mr. Long said they were trying to get a system that could handle everything we needed and to accommodate how we are set up in the county and merge with our CAD system. We would like to have a vendor that can handle all these in one shot instead of having two different systems; one that will handle EMS, fire, rescue, and hazmat. This software will encompass everything.

Mr. Cain said he understood what Mr. Long was saying but this purchase is one that will have to last a long time. We need to look at how our whole EMS infrastructure is with all of our truck so can better serve all of our constituents. That should be the end goal for all of us and he did not believe we were structured that way now. He said this software does not sync with the City of Newberry or the hospital. Again he felt we needed to postpone reading on this and go back and study to determine what we really need.

Mr. Waldrop asked what the county was currently using now.

Mr. Long responded that we are not currently using a system to submit on the fire side; that is why we are trying to get this system in place so we can do our different reporting. We are mostly still using paper forms right now.

Mr. Koon recognized Mr. Chris Johnson, Chairman of the Board of Rescue Squads, who worked on this along with Mr. Long. He said it came before the Public Safety and Courts Committee and we asked that it be brought before Council so they could explain why this system needs to be put into place and why we shouldn't wait. He would like for them to explain how it works and could work in the future if we decide to do this.

Mr. Johnson briefed Council on the vendors that they looked at. ESO, the hospital's software program, does not have the fire side capability and did not bid because they could not offer the entire program; they would have to contract out the fire side. We looked at Firehouse and their estimate was \$60,000.00 for the software; Emergency Reporting did not bid because they cannot capture signatures and this was important to us for liability purposes. For these reasons, we went back to Image Trend. Image Trend's quote was more for the first year than Emergency Reporting but they can do everything we want them to. Image Trend is also \$10,000.00 cheaper each year going forward in maintenance costs. The yearly contract will include any changes that we would like to make.

Mr. Johnson said separating EMS as a stand alone is a discussion for another day. The Rescue Squads supply the ambulances for football games and if the ambulances are not there the kids do not play ball. A 911 truck from the hospital would have to leave a game to catch a call and the referees have the ability to stop the game. He said the ambulance at his squad was called out over 200 times last year and that did not include the other 6 rescue squads in the county. He noted that to try and duplicate the level of services the rescue squads offer will cost the county ½ -1 million dollars. His recommendation is that Council move forward with this as we are looking at a 3-5 month timeframe just to get it ready to use.

Mr. Waldrop asked if this system will be able to merge and adapt to future changes in fire, rescue and ambulance services.

Mr. Johnson stated that this software system will allow us to delete any feature and just as easily add new features.

Mr. Hipp asked if Dylan Snyder, our IT Director, was actively involved in writing the RFP and assessing the portability of the information and how these programs will integrate with one another.

Mr. Long stated that Dylan was contacted and suggested that the vendors contact our CAD vendor to make sure they were compatible and would interact with our software. This was his only concern.

Mr. Koon addressed members of Council and stated that until we can find a better way of providing fire, rescue, and EMS services that he will have to support what that have asked for here tonight. This information was given to four different vendors and they knew what we were asking for and only one vendor gave us a bid.

Chairman Livingston noted that under the three year contract, if we accept this tonight we can change the format later. He mentioned that he did not think the county is anywhere near close to funding paid firefighters, EMS, etc.

Having no further discussion, the vote was unanimous to approve the Fire and Rescue Records Management System Software in the amount of \$51,535.00.

10. Resolution #01-06:

Mr. Adams read the Resolution #01-06 into the record.

“**WHEREAS**, Mr. Ted Smith served as Executive Director of the Newberry County Chamber of Commerce from January of 2010 until his retirement from that position at the end of 2015; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith's contributions to the Chamber's growth and standing during his six-year tenure were significant; and

WHEREAS, Ted was instrumental in increasing organizational membership, renovating and modernizing the Chamber's offices, and improving the sense of community among business and industry in Newberry County; and

WHEREAS, his leadership in promoting approval of the 2010 Capital Project Sales Tax was critical to that ballot measure's success; and

WHEREAS, the Newberry County Chamber of Commerce has been elevated in its effectiveness and purpose by Mr. Smith's service; and

WHEREAS, Newberry County Council desires to show its appreciation for the considerable efforts of Mr. Ted Smith in his capacity as Executive Director of the Newberry County Chamber of Commerce;

NOW, THEREFORE, the County of Newberry does acknowledge and offer its thanks for Mr. Ted Smith's organizational improvements to the Newberry County Chamber of Commerce, and for the sound footing on which he has left this important institution.

RESOLVED by Newberry County Council duly assembled this 20th day of January 2016."

Mr. Cain motioned to approve Resolution #01-06; seconded by Mr. Hipp. The vote was unanimous.

11. *Appointments*

No appointments.

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

No public comments.

13. *Executive Session (if needed)*

No Executive Session.

14. *Comments/Request from County Administrator*

Mr. Adams confirmed with Mr. Larry Dehart that the Farm Bureau meeting will be held on February 1, 2016 @ 7:00 p.m.

15. *Comments/Request from Council Members*

Mr. Koon shared that he and Rhonda added a new grandson to their family last night bringing their total to six.

16. Future Meetings

- a. County Council 2/3/16 @ 7:00 p.m.
- b. Capital Project Sales Tax Presentations 2/16/16
- c. County Council 2/17/16 @ 7:00 p.m.
- d. Public Works and Planning Committee 2/22/16 @ 7:00 p.m.
- e. Capital Project Sales Tax Presentations 2/23/16 (if needed)
- f. Finance Committee 2/29/16 @ 7:00 p.m.

17. Adjournment

Chairman Livingston declared the meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

Henry H. Livingston, Chairman

APPROVED:

Laurie N. Renwick, Clerk to Council