



**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL  
CAPITAL PROJECT SALES TAX  
WORK SESSION  
MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 23, 2016  
7:00 P.M.**

Newberry County Council met on Wednesday, February 23, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Courthouse Annex, 1309 College Street, Newberry, SC, for a Capital Project Sales Tax Work Session.

**PRESENT:** Henry H. Livingston, III, Chairman (arrived at 7:10 p.m.)  
Scott Cain, Vice Chairman  
Bill Waldrop, Councilman  
Leslie (Les) Hipp, Councilman  
Kirksey Koon, Councilman  
Travis Reeder, Councilman  
Wayne Adams, County Administrator  
Laurie Renwick, Clerk to Council

**ABSENT:** Steve Stockman, Councilman

**MEDIA:** Andrew Wigger, Newberry Observer

The meeting was duly advertised as required by law.

Vice Chairman Cain called the meeting to order.

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

**1. Additions, Deletions and Adoption of Agenda**

Having received no additions or deletions, the agenda was adopted as presented.

**2. Discussion of Jail Renovation Project**

Captain Shane Kitchen presented a PowerPoint presentation of the proposed jail renovations.

Mr. Blake Taylor with the State Department of Corrections confirmed that these proposed renovations will solve the county's deficiencies and will have to be done if the county wishes to continue using the building. He said in 2002, they helped the county acquire some federal funding to do significant renovations that kept the life of it going but that has been 12-14 years ago. The building is 40 years old and worn out. He said if the county is not going to build a new jail these renovations need to be done to the existing building.

Mr. Adams asked Mr. Taylor if we would get 7-10 more years out of the building if the county proceeded with these renovations.

Mr. Taylor responded that with the proposal given tonight, the county could get that many more years but he would have to confer with the engineers to see if the structure itself will last that long.

Chairman Livingston asked Sheriff Foster if he wished to comment since the Detention Center is under his jurisdiction.

Sheriff Foster said that it will last 7-10 years with the renovations but will not in its present condition. It is unfortunate that we have to have this in society; a place where everybody wants to put people; however, so difficult to fund. He said public buildings take a beating on wear and tear but at a jail you have people that have no concern for the upkeep and well being of it. He said there are a lot of projects that need money but this one needs it too because band-aids have been put on this for as long as he can remember.

### **3. *Discussion of Fire Service Training Center Project***

Tommy Long, Emergency Services Coordinator, gave an update on the revised scope and pricing for the three proposed locations; Hwy. 34, Heritage Dr. and Riley Rd. (Attached and part of the official minutes). He also gave the pricing for the proposed administrative and burn building option on the Riley Rd. site.

Theo DuBose and Mr. Adams explained that the administrative/burn building option would have to have a continued administrative purpose such as a training officer which may require some ongoing staffing costs by the county after completion. We would not have that requirement with the fire house but we would with the administrative building.

Mr. Minick stated that there will be three entities going into the proposed fire station; Hazmat, Friendly Fire Department and the City of Newberry. The administrative facility will provide for the enhancement of staff for training purposes and the fire department will enhance the capability of fire service in the future by increasing response.

Mr. Hipp asked if this could be jointly sponsored by both the city and the county and presented to the CPST since it is a collaborative effort and the cost split between the two entities.

Mr. Cain commented that Council was presented with new proposals and different layouts and we need to decide on the location. He questioned if the new sq. ft. price on the administrative building would be adequate and meet their requirements.

Jamil Ibreak with Alliance Consulting Engineers responded that he had talked with a design builder who built a similar station in Greenville County and the new estimates are based on the construction methods they used which reduced the sq. ft. costs.

Mr. Koon stated that the recurring costs associated with this project can be worked out between the city and county through an agreement at a later date.

Mr. Adams said that there are three projects being presented tonight which total 20 million dollars. He said there are 18 other projects being submitted to the CPST for consideration and asked which part of the other projects will be taken out so the fire training center can have everything they are requesting included. He said this is about limited resources, prioritizing, and compromising and asked if it was all or nothing with this project.

Mr. Keith Minick responded that in all fairness to our constituents of the fire/rescue service, if we cut the project down then maybe we should take the administrative building off the table and do a station and burn building somewhere.

Chairman Livingston commented that all three of these projects are needed and puts Council in a dilemma of trying to figure out how these and the remainder of the projects will get funded. He asked everyone to bear with Council as they try to do the most with the money that they possibly can.

#### **4. *Discussion of 800 MHz Radio Project***

Mr. Boland stated he was tasked with looking to see if there was any way to reduce the cost of the radio project. There were questions about the towers and the recurring contract costs. He reviewed the tower locations and the areas of coverage and stated that this project will consolidate 5 different radio systems; the City of Newberry Police Department, the City of Newberry Fire Department, Newberry County EMS, Newberry Sheriff's Office, Newberry Fire and Rescue and Hazmat. It will give us the ability to talk to surrounding counties expect for Union and Saluda and the current radios we have will stay in place to respond there. He said it is costly and there is no room for waste; however, building new towers will save us \$200,000.00 up front and will reduce

the continued cost of the system for as long as we contract with Palmetto 800. They are taking off the tower lease payments for fire service fees. We can also make money for Newberry County for the life of the towers by leasing to phone entities and others; possibly \$90,000.00 of income per year from tower rental fees. Our public safety responders are passionate about this project because our lives and the lives of those we protect depend on the radio system.

Mr. Adams stated that he had conferred with Mr. DuBose and the operating cost associated with this project could not be included in the CPST ballot cost. He asked Mr. Boland if the recurring annual cost was \$320,000.00 less any tower rental lease.

Mr. Boland responded that the user fee for the 10 year contract is 2.5 million.

Mr. Adams said he would like to me with Mr. DuBose, Major Boland and the Sheriff about this project to nail down some of the answers to these questions.

**5. *Discussion of Scoring and Prioritization***

Council decided to add discussion, scoring, and prioritizing of county sponsored CPST projects on the upcoming County Council agenda on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**6. *Comments/Request from Council Members***

No comments.

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

No comments.

**8. *Adjournment***

Chairman Livingston adjourned the meeting at 8:31 p.m.

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL**

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**Henry H. Livingston, Chairman**

**APPROVED:**

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