



**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES
NOVEMBER 2, 2016**

Newberry County Council met on Wednesday, November 2, 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
 Kirksey Koon, Councilman
 Steve Stockman, Councilman
 Travis Reeder, Councilman
 Wayne Adams, County Administrator
 A.J. Tothacer, County Attorney
 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.

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

1. *Additions, Deletions and Adoption of Agenda*

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

2. *Personal Appearances*

- a. Michelle Long, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director

Mrs. Long thanked Council for its continued support of the Chamber and the Visitors Center housed on the first floor of Historic Community Hall. She gave an update on membership/partnerships, sponsored events, and new endeavors planned for the upcoming year.

Chairman Livingston stated that Mrs. Long has done a tremendous job since she came onboard and said he was very much in favor of promoting young professional development in our county and commended her on this endeavor.

Mr. Hipp commended Mrs. Long and staff on the contributions and good things they are accomplishing and providing on behalf of Newberry County.

Mr. Reeder complimented Mrs. Long on the good job she is doing and noted that everywhere he goes, Michelle is there.

Vice Chairman Cain thanked Mrs. Long, staff, and the Chamber Board of Directors for everything they do. He said Rick Farmer and Wayne Adams spearhead the county's industrial recruitment and the Chamber is at the heart of our small businesses and companies. Newberry County is represented very well and he hopes we can continue our involved partnership together.

3. Resolution #16-16: A Resolution to approve Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement for Catastrophic Disaster Response and Recovery.

Mr. Waldrop motioned to approve Resolution #16-16; seconded by Mr. Hipp. The vote was unanimous.

4. Consideration of Disbursement of FY15/16 Funding as recommended by the Accommodations Tax Committee.

Ernest Shealy, Committee Chairman, reported that the committee met on August 11, 2016, reviewed the applications for tourism related funds, weighed the requested funding versus available funding and would like to offer the following disbursements:

Little Mountain Reunion	\$ 4,199.00
Party in the Pines	1,449.00
Halloween Carnival Whitmire Jaycees	699.00
Prosperity's Hoppin'	1,699.00
Newberry Community Players	624.00
Newberry Co. Historical & Museum Society	1,299.00
Newberry Co. Law Enforcement Assoc.	2,699.00
Newberry Opera House	12,199.44
Newberry Visitors Center	8,199.00
SC Bottle & Whitmire Museum	4,199.00
TOTAL	\$37,265.44

Mr. Shealy also said applications were also reviewed for promotional related funds and the committee offers the following disbursements:

Capital City/Lake Murray	45%
Prosperity Business Association	15%
Newberry County Chamber of Commerce	40%

Mr. Hipp thanked Mr. Shealy and the committee for their time and understood fully the dilemma and process of dividing these funds.

Mr. Reeder thanked Mr. Shealy and his renewed commitment to always be of service.

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

5. *Consideration of Central SC Alliance 2nd Quarter Invoice (FY16/17) in the amount of \$18,000.00.*

Rick Farmer, Economic Development Director, reported on the quality and professional assistance provided by the Central SC Alliance and both he and the Economic Development Committee recommend approval of this invoice.

Mr. Waldrop motioned to approve Central SC Alliance invoice; seconded by Mr. Hipp. The motion passed by vote of 6-1; with Mr. Koon opposed.

6. *Appointments*

No appointments.

7. *Committee Reports*

a. Economic Development Committee

Mr. Farmer presented a review and update on the increasing activity among interested prospects, existing industry expansions and product development. He shared a short clip of activity going on at the Mid-Carolina Commerce Park of the two newly developed 15 acre pad ready sites, the chipping operation underway to remove all vegetative material and stumps and the county's plans to flatten and compact the front acreage in the park. He thanked Council and the Administrator for kicking this into action. He gave an update on the Mega-Site and refining efforts to identify the most favorable and developable areas while disturbing the least amount of wetlands. He noted that the Dept. of Commerce funded this study and it is currently being reviewed.

Mr. Adams shared that there are three people who spearheaded the efforts to get funding to make this 30 acres pad ready. It cost 1.25 million and the only thing the county has in

it is the sale of the timber; around \$170,000.00. He applauded Mr. Hipp and Mr. Farmer for getting the funding from the Dept. of Commerce and Keith Avery, Newberry Electric Coop, who helped with the SC Power Team. He said the prospects the county is seeing are demanding ready to build on sites; all being done at no cost to the taxpayer and the increased activity the county is drawing due to County Council investing in product and product readiness.

Mr. Farmers reported on his attendance at the Swedish Automotive Suppliers Conference in Sweden and his involvement in seven company meetings: four of those having made commitments and started their site selection process in America.

Mr. Hipp said the county was very fortunate to have Rick and Kara in Economic Development and as Mr. Cain noted, we are more actively in control of our own destiny. He said our industry and corporate citizens' financial backing and support is allowing us the opportunity for industrial expansion. He applauded them all.

Chairman Livingston noted that he had visited the site yesterday and there is a lot of activity at the park. He said it is pretty amazing seeing the number of personnel and machinery on site to have it ready by December. He said we have a wonderful team behind all this and he complimented Newberry County citizens, the workforce behind us

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

No comments.

9. *Executive Session*

No executive session.

10. *Comments/Request from County Administrator*

No comments.

11. *Comments/Request from Council Members*

Vice Chairman Cain reminded everyone about Veterans Day and invited folks to Whitmire High School and the Rotary meeting to hear Jim Lechener, speaker of these meetings, sharing his experiences as a ranger from Black Hawk Down.

12. *Future Meetings*

- a. County Council 11/16/16 @ 7:00 p.m.
- b. Finance Committee 11/7/16 * **Rescheduled for 12/5/16 @ 6:00 p.m.***
- c. County Council 11/16/16 @ 7:00 p.m.
- d. Personnel and Intergovernmental Relations Committee 11/21/16 @ 6:00 p.m.

13. *Adjournment*

Chairman Livingston declared the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

Henry H. Livingston, Chairman

APPROVED:

Laurie N. Renwick, Clerk to Council