



**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
MAY 03, 2017**

Newberry County Council met on Wednesday, May 3, 2017, 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  
Scott Cain, Councilman  
Steve Stockman, Councilman  
Travis Reeder, Councilman  
Dr. Harriett Rucker, Councilwoman  
Wayne Adams, County Administrator  
A.J. Tothacer, County Attorney  
Laurie Renwick, Clerk to Council  
Debbie Cromer, Finance Director

**ABSENT:** Bill Waldrop, Councilman

**MEDIA:** Andrew Wigger, Newberry Observer

The meeting was duly advertised as required by law.

Chairman Livingston called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

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

***1. Adoption of Consent Agenda***

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

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

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

3. ***Ordinance #03-10-17: An Ordinance to provide appropriations for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017, and ending June 30, 2018, for the Newberry County budget for county ordinary purposes and for other county purposes for which the county may levy a tax and receive revenues; to provide for the levy of taxes on all taxable personal and real property in Newberry County for all county purposes, including sufficient tax to pay the principal and interest on outstanding indebtedness of Newberry County payable during said fiscal year; to provide for matters relating to Newberry County; and to provide for the expenditure of said taxes and other revenues received by the county during said fiscal year, and to provide for borrowing in anticipation of tax collections by the issuance of one or more tax anticipation notes, if necessary.***

Mr. Cain motioned to approve second reading of Ordinance #03-10-17; seconded by Vice Chairman Koon.

Mr. Adams reported that the operating budget is balanced at \$23,911,852.00; approximately a \$6,000.00 increase over the current year's budget. The budget was developed with the idea of not having a tax increase and also preserving 6 months of operating expenses in the county's fund balance. He said there are several items Council would like to discuss at the work session on May 15th pertaining to equipment for emergency services and an amendment for payment for poll workers; however, he and the Chairman have business out of town on the 15<sup>th</sup>. If agreeable, he would recommend moving the work session to the 8th

Having received no discussion, the motion passed unanimously to approve second reading of Ordinance #03-10-17.

4. ***Ordinance #03-11-17: An Ordinance to provide appropriations for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2018, for Newberry County Library, Piedmont Technical College and the Newberry Agency for Disabilities and Special Needs; to provide for the levy of taxes on all taxable personal and real estate properties in Newberry County for said purposes; to provide for the expenditure of said taxes and other revenues received by the county during said fiscal year for said purposes.***

Dr. Rucker motioned to approve second reading of Ordinance #03-11-17; seconded by Mr. Reeder.

Mr. Adams reported that the community services budget is raised \$21,931.00; a 2.5% increase over the current year's budget of \$877,262.00 putting the total budget at \$899,193.00.

Having received no discussion, the motion passed unanimously to approve second reading of Ordinance #03-11-17.

5. **Ordinance #05-13-17: An Ordinance acting on a request to amend the Official Zoning Map established pursuant to Zoning Ordinance No. 12-24-01, as revised and amended by Zoning Ordinance No. 6-11-16, to be codified in Chapter 153 of the Newberry County Code of Ordinances establishing zoning classifications and districts, so as to rezone a three (3.0) acres real estate parcel designated as TMS Parcel No. 450-8 from Rural (R2) to General Commercial (GC).**

Mr. Cain motioned to approve first reading of Ordinance #05-13-17; seconded by Mr. Reeder.

Mrs. Peters, Zoning Administrator, identified the parcel for members of Council and noted that this request and the following request were filed together and were approved by both staff and the Joint Planning Commission.

The vote was unanimous to approve first reading of Ordinance #05-13-17.

6. *Ordinance #05-14-17: An Ordinance acting on a request to amend the Official Zoning Map established pursuant to Zoning Ordinance No. 12-24-01, as revised and amended by Zoning Ordinance No. 6-11-16, to be codified in Chapter 153 of the Newberry County Code of Ordinances establishing zoning classifications and districts, so as to rezone a ten (10.0) acres portion of a real estate parcel totaling one hundred and forty eight and eight tenths (148.8) acres designated as TMS Parcel No. 450-13 from Rural (R2) to General Commercial (GC).*

Mr. Koon motioned to approve first reading of Ordinance #05-14-17; seconded by Mr. Reeder. The vote was unanimous to approve first reading of Ordinance #05-14-17.

7. *Consideration of Request for Proposals for Mid-Carolina Commerce Park Grassing Project.*

Crystal Waldrop, Purchasing Director, reported that staff received two responses to this solicitation; Sanders Landscaping and Martin and Sons Contracting. The evaluation committee ranked Martin and Sons the highest firm and recommends them for consideration.

Mr. Reeder shared his concerns about there being only two bids.

Mrs. Waldrop responded that she advertised the solicitation as required; in the Newberry Observer, SCIBO, and on the county's website.

Mr. Reeder thought this needed to be rebid because there are a lot of people that do this type of work and he thought we could get more bids.

Mr. Koon noted that Sanders Landscaping did not submit a bid bond which was required and Martin and Sons had the lowest cost proposal, submitted all requirements and was ranked highest by the committee; therefore, he has to go with the recommendation of staff.

Mr. Reeder motioned that the project be rebid; seconded by Mr. Cain.

Chairman Livingston was concerned that Council would set a precedence if we rebid because there are many times we only have two responses at times only one. It was advertised and people know where to look; we cannot make them bid.

Mrs. Waldrop went over the scoring criteria the committee used to evaluate the firms.

Mr. Stockman shared that rebidding will only put off the work that we need done. If we rebid, we may not get two bids next time so he felt we should move forward with Martin and Sons.

Having received no further discussion, the motion to rebid the project failed by vote of 2-4; Koon, Stockman, Cain and Rucker opposed.

Mr. Stockman motioned to accept Martin and Sons for the Mid-Carolina Grassing Project; seconded by Mr. Koon. The motion passed by vote of 4-2; Reeder and Cain opposed.

**8. *Consideration to Relocate Medic 4 from Whitmire Emergency Complex (26350 SC Hwy. 121 to Indian Creek Substation (19324 US Hwy. 176).***

Tommy Long, Emergency Services Director, reported the need to relocate Medic 4 to the new Indian Creek Substation; a more centralized location for that call area which will provide faster response times.

Mr. Cain commended Mr. Long for the work they have done on this project which has been in the planning process for a long time.

Dr. Rucker stated that Mr. Long presented this to the committee and did an excellent job.

Mr. Cain motioned to approve moving Medic 4 to Indian Creek Substation; seconded by Mr. Koon. The vote was unanimous.

**9. Consideration to Purchase Body Cameras for Sheriff's Office.**

Chief Deputy Todd Johnson reported on the state mandated body cameras and the process to date. They researched a number of body camera companies and narrowed it down to three vendors. Those vendors allowed them to do a test and evaluation of their cameras. After that testing, they were able to eliminate one camera and resumed testing on the remaining two. They ended up liking the Motorola camera due to its interfacing with the new radios which will mean one less piece of equipment on the officers' uniform. The initial upfront cost will be \$79,000.00 for the cameras and equipment to make them run; thereafter, it will be \$40,500.00 per year. He said they have secured the funding for the first-year initial cost and the second year of continuing cost from a \$118,000.00 grant acquired from the state. There is no guarantee after year two for additional state funding but every effort will be made to seek additional funding and apply for grants. If the funding cannot be secured it will fall on the county to fund the \$40,500.00 yearly cost thereafter which will include camera replacement every 2 1/2 years.

Mr. Cain motioned to approve purchase of body cameras for Sheriff's Office; seconded by Mr. Koon. The vote was unanimous.

**10. Consideration of Annual Indexing Wage Increase for Countywide Elected Officials.**

Mr. Adams reported that Ordinance #01-01-17 states that Council can determine at its first meeting in May the salary increase if any will be granted to county-wide elected officials for the coming fiscal year.

Dr. Rucker motioned that elected officials receive the same increase that county employees receive; seconded by Mr. Reeder.

Mr. Koon stated that our elected officials deserve a raise as all our employees do and until we know that the money is there (LGF) to give our employees a cost of living, he agreed with Dr. Rucker.

Sheriff Foster agreed that this was proper and fair.

Having received no further discussion, the vote was unanimous.

**11. Consideration of Staffing for Enforcement of Regulations Concerning Temporary Accommodations for Workers in Recreational Vehicles (RV/s).**

Mr. Adams reported the Public Works and Planning Committee recommended that Council discuss the method of funding for increased enforcement requirements for RV's that are used as temporary accommodations. He suggested transferring up to \$5,000.00 to be handled through overtime with existing staff to implement these regulations until

we see what it is we actually need. We can start on the 40 or so complaints that have been made and randomly choose the order in which they are enforced to avoid any charges of favoritism.

Mr. Cain motioned to proceed with funding through internal staff overtime; seconded by Vice Chairman Koon.

Mr. Stockman stated that when Council put together these ordinances he felt it was the best thing for Newberry County at the time and he still feels that way. He asked that administration work with these folks and give them an opportunity to become compliant.

Having received no further discussion, the vote was unanimous to approve funding for RV enforcement.

## **12. Committee Reports**

### **a. Public Works and Planning 5/1/17**

Mr. Pisano reported that the Public Works and Planning Committee met on May, 1, 2017, and Mr. Cain was nominated as chairman of the committee. The committee was updated on the Public Works salt shed, concrete pads for Broad River site recycling containers, Jollystreet Bridge, centralized location for recyclable commodities, and the funding for RV enforcement.

## **13. Appointments**

No appointments.

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

Mr. Tom Crooks informed Council of his displeasure with his ISO rating (10) and the county's placement of a fire substation.

Mr. Bobby Shirey agreed with prequalifying bids stating that a little work on the front end shouldn't be an issue. He spoke about raising the wages of county and city employees to stabilize the turnover in our community and maintain its quality. He commended Council on their decision today and said it was good that they stick together.

Mr. Brent Chitwood shared his thoughts on RV's being placed in a general commercial site and not have to change the zoning; under the theory that it's like a motel, renting the sites by the day and no longer than a week. He asked for consideration of the interpretation of general commercial land use to include RV's.

## **15. Executive Session**

No Executive Session.

**16. *Comments/Request from Administrator***

Mr. Adams stated that Mr. Waldrop was unable to attend tonight due to a long-standing commitment.

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

Vice Chairman Koon asked that Bo Hamm and his family be remembered as he passed away this morning.

Chairman Livingston commented that this Council was not on when the salary increases were made and the statement floating around is false. He thanked everyone for coming out and participating in county government. He also commented on what a true gentleman Mr. Bo Hamm was

**18. *Future Meetings***

- a. Budget Work Session 5/8/17 @ 7:00 p.m.
- b. County Council 5/17/17 @ 7:00 p.m.

**19. *Adjournment***

Chairman Livingston declared the meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL**

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**Henry H. Livingston, Chairman**

**APPROVED:**

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