



**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES
MAY 21, 2014
7:00 P.M.**

Newberry County Council met on Wednesday, May 21, 2014, 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
John E. Caldwell, Councilman
Bill Waldrop, Councilman
Leslie (Les) Hipp, Councilman
Steven C. Stockman, Councilman
Scott Cain, Councilman
Wayne Adams, County Administrator
Laurie Renwick, Clerk to Council
Debbie Cromer, Finance Director

ABSENT: A.J. Tothacer, County Attorney

PRESS: Kevin Boozer, Newberry Observer
Tammy Kitchen, WKDK

The meeting was duly advertised as required by law.

Chairman Livingston called the meeting to order and determined a quorum present.

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

Chairman Livingston noted that Council would like to include a Proclamation (agenda item 4a) for Foster Care Awareness Month.

1. Adoption of Consent Agenda

Mr. Caldwell motioned to adopt the consent agenda; seconded by Mr. Hipp. The vote was unanimous.

2. Newberry County Service Awards.

Chairman Livingston recognized the following employees for their years of service. Virginia Atkins, Building and Zoning – 5 years; Donald Leitzsey, Public Works – 10 years; Roy Long, Public Works – 10 years; Andrew Stout, Sheriff's Office – 10 years; Robert Dennis, Sheriff's Office – 15 years; and Todd Johnson, Sheriff's Office – 20 years.

3. Ordinance #05-09-14: To amend the Code of Ordinances of the County of Newberry to include the offense, exceptions, definitions, and penalties of distracted driving.

Mr. Adams reported that this ordinance pertains to banning the use of hand held electronic devices for texting and talking while driving. The General Assembly is in the process of dealing with this in some fashion and the county will pick up some other piece of it once a decision has been made at the state level. The Public Safety and Courts Committee has recommended that Council go ahead with the reading process so that we will be poised to act on whatever is left to be done when the General Assembly adjourns.

Mr. Koon motioned to approve second reading of Ordinance #05-09-14; seconded by Mr. Hipp. The vote was unanimous.

4. Consideration of Request for Proposals for Website Development and Implementation

Mr. Dylan Snyder, IT Director, reported that we had 15 vendors respond to this Request for Proposal which was advertised in SCIBO, the Newberry County website, and the Newberry Observer. The proposals ranged from \$14,000.00 - \$55,000.00 to redesign the county's website. The main reasons for the redesign are for security purposes, age of the current website, to increase mobile presence and browser compatibility, make ADA compliant, increase calendar offerings, and to improve content and placement. The ultimate benefits for the redesign are for ease of use, ease of navigation, and ease of information finding.

Mr. Hipp asked if this was within our budget.

Mr. Adams responded that the county has \$44,000.00 budgeted for this redesign.

Mr. Hipp commented that our website is not the easiest to navigate and needs updating. There is a lot of effort involved in changing things within our system.

Mr. Snyder reported that after evaluating the vendors, staff would like to recommend Vision Internet in the amount of \$23,975.00. This company has designed over 1,000 county and local government websites to include Rock Hill, Dorchester, and Kershaw Counties in South Carolina. He said this is what they do and they do it very well.

Mr. Koon motioned to approve the RFP from Vision Internet for website development and implementation; seconded by Mr. Hipp. The vote was unanimous.

4a. Proclamation declaring May 2014 Foster Care Awareness Month.

Mr. Adams read the Proclamation into the record.

WHEREAS, the family, serving as the primary source of love, identity, self-esteem and support, is the very foundation of our communities and our State, and

WHEREAS, in Newberry County, South Carolina there are 44 children and youth in foster care being provided with a safe, secure and stable home along with the compassion and nurture of a foster family, and

WHEREAS, all young people in foster care need a meaningful connection to a caring adult who becomes a supportive and lasting presence in their lives, and

WHEREAS, foster, kinship and adoptive families, who open their homes and hearts and support children whose families are in crisis, play a vital role in helping children and families heal and reconnect thereby launching young people into successful adulthood, and

WHEREAS, dedicated resource foster families frequently adopt foster children, resulting in a greater need for more resource foster families, and

WHEREAS, there are numerous individuals, public and private organizations who work to increase public awareness of the needs of children in and leaving foster care as well as the enduring and valuable contribution of resource foster parents, and the foster care “system” is only as good as those who choose to be part of it,

NOW, THEREFORE, Newberry County Council hereby proclaims May as **FOSTER CARE AWARENESS MONTH** in Newberry County and urges all citizens to come forward and do something positive that will help *change a lifetime* for children and youth in foster care.

Mr. Hipp motioned to approve the Proclamation declaring May 2014 as Foster Care Awareness Month; seconded by Mr. Waldrop. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Livingston thanked all those who work with foster care and those who serve as foster care parents because they are a valuable source and greatly needed in our community.

5. Appointments

No appointments.

6. Committee Reports

a. Public Works and Planning on 5/12/14

Mr. Mike Pisano reported that the committee met on 5/12/14 and the following items were discussed.

- Berley Road Bridge has been completed with a couple punch list items remaining.
- The Maybinton ball field has been completed and in use. The county purchased a drag for the infield and a chalk line machine and has installed several port-a-johns.
- The airport apron project will be going out for bid later this month.
- There are several petitions for road paving (Crescent Street and Hawkins Street). Staff is in the process of gathering all the information from the land owners.
- Discussion of Single Stream Recycling.
- Mr. Gernie Stuck, citizen, came before the committee to discuss maintenance on a portion of Buzhardt Road. Mr. Pisano said the county is responsible for 1854 ft. of maintenance on Buzhardt Road; however, this maintenance ends at the private property of Mr. Tom Abraham to which Mr. Stuck has an easement in order to access his property. The county does not have any record that it ever maintained this portion of Buzhardt Road; it is still on private property.

Mr. Cain commented that the committee heard all of the discussions and our hands are tied because it is private property.

Mr. Koon stated that Mr. Abraham contacted staff by email and reiterated what the county had found about the easement and that it was indeed private property owned by Mr. Abraham. He said if Mr. Stuck wished to have it maintained, he was free to do whatever maintenance he needed to access his property.

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

No comments.

8. Executive Session

Chairman Livingston stated that staff requests an Executive Session pursuant to SC Code §30-4-70(a)(2) for discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale or purchase of property, the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to a pending, threatened, or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege, settlement of legal claims, or the position of the public agency in other adversary situations involving the assertion against the agency of a claim.

Mr. Hipp motioned to go into Executive Session; seconded by Mr. Cain. The vote was unanimous.

EXECUTIVE SESSION [7:25 p.m. – 8:22 p.m.]

Mr. Hipp motioned to return to Open Session; seconded by Mr. Waldrop. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Adams reported that Council met in Executive Session for the stated purpose and no action was taken in that session.

9. Comments/Request from County Administrator

No comments.

10. Comments/Request from Council Members

Mr. Hipp wished everyone an enjoyable Memorial Day weekend.

Mr. Koon added “God Bless America”.

11. Future Meetings

- a. Personnel and Intergovernmental Relations Committee 6/2/14 @ 6:00 p.m.
- b. County Council 6/4/14 @ 7:00 p.m.
- c. “On the Move with Margaret” 6/09/14 @ 9:30 a.m.
- d. County Council 6/18/14 @ 7:00 p.m.
- e. Economic Development Committee 6/23/14 @ 6:00 p.m.

412. Adjournment

Chairman Livingston declared the meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

Henry H. Livingston, III, Chairman

APPROVED:

Laurie N. Renwick, Clerk to Council