

**Newberry County Council  
Public Safety and Courts Committee  
Agenda  
Monday, April 19, 2021– 6:00 p.m.  
Courthouse Annex Council Chambers  
1309 College Street - Newberry, SC**

**The Newberry County Council Public Safety and Courts Committee met on Monday, January 25, 2021, at 6:00pm for a regular scheduled meeting in Council Chambers at the Courthouse Annex, 1309 College Street, Newberry, SC.**

**Present: Todd Johnson, Committee Chairman**

**Mary Arrowood, Council Member**

**Johnny Mack Scurry, Council Member**

**Jay Tothacer, County Attorney**

**Tommy Long, Emergency Services Coordinator**

**Taylor Davenport, Assistant to the Administrator**

**1. Call to Order – Todd Johnson, Chairman**

Todd Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

Motion by Mrs. Arrowood to adopt the agenda as presented; seconded by Mr. Scurry. Vote was unanimous.

**3. Approval of January 25, 2021 Minutes**

Motion by Mr. Scurry to approve the January 25, 2021 Minutes as presented; seconded by Mrs. Arrowood. Vote was unanimous.

**4. Department Updates – Tommy Long, Emergency Services Coordinator**

- a. Board of Rural Fire Control - Chairman Aubrey Horne
- b. Board of Rescue Squad - Chairman Chris Johnson

Tommy Long, Emergency Services Coordinator announced that three of the County's Fire Stations would be receiving a \$30,000 Grant. The City of Newberry Fire Department would also be receiving this grant.

Mr. Long wanted to let the Committee know that the Ladder Truck that the County has is reaching 20 years old. It is jointly used by the County and the City. It is the only ladder truck in the County, and staff is working on a replacement plan for a new ladder truck.

Chief Aubrey Horne, wanted to discuss the fire equipment that the County currently owned and what the departments need. Mr. Horne stated that a lot of the trucks owned have a lot of age on them. He is requesting that the Committee to consider adding two Pumper-Tankers back into the 21/22 Budget. The County is growing with homes and industries and there is a need to have the equipment to serve the needs of the County.

Mr. Horne also mentioned that the recruitment program inside the schools is helping to bring in new volunteers.

Chairman Johnson asked Tommy what was the cost of a pumper tanker?

Tommy said that he previously was able to purchase two demo pumper tankers for around \$300,000. He will try to look for demo trucks again if they are approved for the budget.

Chris Johnson, Chairman of the Board of Rescue Squads wanted to speak to the Committee in regard to equipment needed. He stated the there are currently two ambulances that are on the verge of failing. The current ambulances are too old and do not meet the safety requirements to up-fit them. A lot of the trucks are having several different maintenance issues, and most of them are older trucks that were moved from the Hospital EMS system. Mr. Johnson mentioned that the department has been applying for grants for the replacement of an ambulance but at this time they have not been awarded anything.

Chris Johnson, is asking the Committee to consider placing two new ambulances in the FY 21/22 Budget.

Chairman Todd Johnson, asked that Mr. Johnson and Horne attend the Budget Work Session to address full Council on the request they have.

Nat Birochak, wanted to update Council on the work that the rescue squads have been doing. Currently 4 of the Rescue squads have joined together to create NCESA and have cut down the cost of fees and permits. The Rescue Squads with the help of Administrative Staff have also been able to replace all 7 of the Heart Monitors in the County Trucks.

Mr. Birochak, is requesting that the Committee consider the possibility of Compassionate Billing. This would help to incentive those volunteers who respond to the calls and preform the necessary care. He said that will continue to do research and see what possibilities they have.

Chairman Johnson asked that if Nat and the squads work with Tommy Long and the County Attorney on this. He would also like this information brought back to the Committee before any decision are made.

**5. Discussion of a proposed ordinance in support of designating Newberry County a 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Sanctuary County.**

Chairman Johnson said that he has been studying the proposed ordinance and looking at a similar Ordinance that was adopted by Horry County. He stated that the wording offered in the Horry County Ordinance was something that he was more comfortable with.

Mr. James Wimmer stated that the draft ordinance that he presented did not go against the US Constitution in any way and wanted to know where the process was to get the Ordinance in front of full Council.

Chairman Johnson said that he is a strong supporter of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment and wants to put together an ordinance that supports what Mr. Wimmer would like but also supports federal law. He will send the information over to Mr. Wimmer for review and they can discuss it with full council in two weeks.

Mr. Scurry expressed concern for our law enforcement officers having to enforce a County Ordinance that could possibly go against federal law.

**6. Public Comments**

No public comments.

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

No comments from the Committee Members.

**8. Executive Session (if needed)**

No executive session needed.

**9. Adjournment**

Motion by Mrs. Arrowood to adjourn; second by Mr. Scurry. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

**Approved:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Todd Johnson, Chairman**

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**Taylor Davenport, Asst. to the Administrator**

