

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 6, 2023**

The Newberry County Council Public Safety Committee met on Monday, February 6, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Courthouse Annex, 1309 College Street, Newberry, SC, for a regular meeting.

Notice of the meeting was duly advertised, as required by law.

PRESENT: Todd Johnson, Chair
Mary Arrowood, Committee Member
Johnny Mack Scurry, Committee Member
Robert N. Shealy, Council Member
Karen Brehmer, Acting County Administrator
Debbie S. Cromer, Finance Director

1. Call to Order – Todd Johnson, Chairman

Mr. Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and determined a quorum to be present. He welcomed Mr. Shealy to the committee meeting.

2. Election of Committee Chair for 2023

Mr. Johnson opened the floor for nominations for Committee Chair.

Mrs. Arrowood nominated Todd Johnson; seconded by Mr. Scurry. There being no further nominations, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

3. Additions, Deletions and Adoption of Agenda

Mrs. Arrowood moved to adopt the Agenda, as presented; seconded by Mr. Scurry. There being no discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

4. Discussion of Fire Department Grant Reimbursement – Brandon Wicker, Emergency Services Coordinator

Mr. Wicker appeared regarding the Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant, which grant is designed for purchasing equipment and supplies to meet forest fire needs. He requested approval of the County's match in the amount of \$26,983.45.

Mr. Johnson suggested that the \$26,983.45 come out of the One Time Capital account.

Mrs. Arrowood moved to forward this request to full Council at its next meeting to consider approving the \$26,983.45 from the One Time Capital account; seconded by Mr. Scurry. There being no discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

5. Public Comments

Robert Dennis reserved until next time because the Committee will be seeing a lot of us since equipment is out of date.

Chris Johnson with the Board of Rescue Squads requested that the \$50,000 in their budget for Hurst Hydraulic Battery Tool be redirected to purchase 7 point of care ultra sound machines to go in ambulances. The cost for 7 ultra sound machines would be \$46,552.87, which is under budget.

Mr. Johnson advised the committee could not take action but directed that this be placed on the agenda for February 15th.

Nick Huffstetler with Little Mountain Fire Department said their primary engine will not make another two years.

Mr. Johnson, Tommy Long and a couple of fire chiefs met with the fire truck manufacturer. There is a need and we plan to use some covid funding. We were told that if a truck is ordered today, it would be three years before it arrived. The covid funding will be addressed during this budget season.

Mr. Johnson requested that Tommy Long address the committee regarding the fairgrounds. Mr. Long was concerned about the parking lot area at the fairgrounds. They are in the process of installing underground tanks in the left field. The burn building is in the back as well as the car shed, which houses DHEC trailers. Driver training pads will be to the right. Also, a lot of water comes down through the field and it is impossible to park right now because it is too wet. He is not sure this is the proper place for the upcoming fair.

Mr. Johnson requested Mrs. Brehmer arrange for Mr. Long to get with the Newberry County Soil and Water Conservation District to discuss this matter.

6. Comments/Requests from Committee

Mr. Scurry had no comments.

Mrs. Arrowood expressed appreciation to both the fire and rescue squads for everything they do. We wouldn't have safety in the county without you. She wished we had deeper pockets to spend money for equipment and supplies as needed. We will keep working on it and do the best we can.

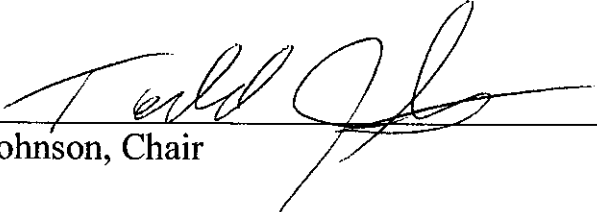
Mr. Johnson was also grateful and stated what they do does not go unnoticed. We will do what we can to get the equipment you need.

7. Adjournment

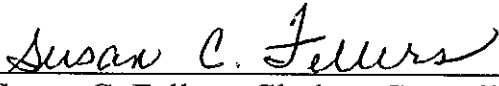
There being no further business, Mr. Scurry moved to adjourn; seconded by Mrs. Arrowood. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE



Todd Johnson, Chair



Susan C. Fellers, Clerk to Council

Minutes Approved: 2-15-2023