

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
July 17, 2024**

Newberry County Council met on Wednesday, June 17, 2024, at 6:07 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Courthouse Annex, 1309 College Street, Newberry, SC, for a regular scheduled meeting.

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

**PRESENT:** Robert Shealy, Vice-Chairman  
Leon Fulmer Jr., Council Member  
Les Hipp, Council Member  
Travis Reeder, Council Member  
Johnny Mack Scurry, Council Member  
Karl Sease, Council Member  
Jeff Shacker, County Administrator  
Joanie Winters, County Attorney  
Mac Bartley, Facilities Management Director  
Captain Daniel Floyd, NCSO  
Eric Nieto, I.T. Director  
Andrew Wigger, Clerk to Council/PIO

**MEDIA:** Kelly Duncan, The Newberry Observer

**ABSENT:** Todd Johnson, Chairman

Mr. Shealy called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

Mr. Hipp led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

**1. Adoption of Consent Agenda:**

- a. Newberry County Council Work Session – June 19, 2024.

- b. Newberry County Council Meeting – June 19, 2024.
- c. Newberry County Public Safety & Courts Committee – July 8, 2024.

- Mr. Fulmer made a motion to accept the minutes as presented; Mr. Sease provided the second and the motion was approved 6-0.

## 2. Additions, Deletions & Adoption of the Agenda.

- Mr. Hipp made a motion to accept the agenda as presented; Mr. Reeder provided the second and the motion was approved 6-0.

## 3. Recognitions:

### a. Employee Service:

- |                    |         |              |
|--------------------|---------|--------------|
| • Samuel Greenberg | 5 years | Public Works |
| • David Lawson     | 5 years | NCSO         |

- Mr. Shacker recognized the employees listed above for their service to Newberry County, highlighting their accomplishments and pivotal moments while working for Newberry County.

## 4. Public Appearance:

- a. Anne Pinckney Smith – Executive Director, Newberry Opera House.

- Ms. Smith came before council to thank them for their support over the last year and to provide an update on what is happening with the Newberry Opera House. She said the Newberry Opera House has been operating for 25 consecutive seasons and it was time for a refresh – including redoing the elevator, fire alarm system, seating, fresh coat of paint, bathrooms, etc. Ms. Smith said last year, the county gave funding to help with this renovation and Senator Ronnie Cromer and Rep. Joe White were instrumental in helping secure funding. They also received grant funding, raised funding and put in funding for the renovations. Ms. Smith also announced that they are working to put in an accessible door and will have accessible ambassadors and accessible seating.
- Ms. Smith also invited the council to their Sneak Peek during the week of Sept. 9.
- Mr. Hipp asked if they are changing the number of seats with the refresh, to which Ms. Smith said no, the footprint is the same.
- Mr. Hipp thanked Ms. Smith for all she is doing, and all the Newberry Opera House has done to make Newberry different from surrounding municipalities and counties. He said for clarification, the money allotted to the Newberry Opera House does not come out of property tax, but rather hospitality tax and what is funded from Newberry County Council to the Newberry Opera House is much less to what the Newberry Opera House is putting into.
- Mr. Hipp added that the staff at the Newberry Opera House deserves so much credit for making it through COVID-19 Pandemic as many historic theaters across the nation never opened again.

5. Ordinance No. 06-02-2024. An Ordinance establishing a Building, Fire and Nuisance Codes Board of Appeals for the County of Newberry, S.C.

a. Public Hearing

- Mr. Shealy declared the Public Hearing open. With no one signing up or standing to speak, Mr. Shealy declared the Public Hearing closed.

b. Second Reading

- Mr. Sease made a motion to approve the second reading; Mr. Reeder provided the second and the motion was approved 6-0.

6. Consideration and Approval of a Bid for the Sale of Newberry County Property (TMS #290-11, 45.96 acres) on S.C. Hwy 121 (Bid Number 2024-4).

- Mr. Shacker said this is close to a 46-acre tract the county has owned for a number of years off Highway 121, and located on a gravel road that leads to the CND Landfill. As instructed by council, staff solicited bids, which was advertised locally and on Gov Deals, and four bids were received. The high bid was submitted by Wilson West Industries in the amount of \$229,800 and met all requirements in the solicitation. Staff recommended their bid.
- Mr. Reeder made a motion to approve the sale to the high bidder; Mr. Sease provided the second.

- Mr. Hipp asked if this bid went out through all the standard posting channels, to which Mr. Shacker answered in the affirmative.
- The motion was approved 6-0.

7. Consideration and Approval of a Bid for Landscape Maintenance for County Properties (Bid Number 2024-5).

- Mr. Bartley said in the past, the county had three separate agreements for lawn care, but this year they decided to bring it to one contract. He said the low bid was from Superior Lawn and Yard Maintenance at the base bid of \$109,500 and two alternates priced at \$2,600 for Mid-Carolina Commerce Park 1 and \$1,300 for Mid-Carolina Commerce Park 2.
- Mr. Bartley said staff met with the owner of Superior Lawn and Yard Maintenance, who assured staff that they have equipment and staff to take care of the properties. With that, staff recommended the low bidder of Superior Lawn and Yard Maintenance, which is within the budgeted amount of funds.
- Mr. Hipp asked if there are provisions in the contract that protect the county should the contract fail to meet agreed upon performance requirements and standards. Mr. Bartley responded in the affirmative and also indicated that the contractor was required to provide a performance and payment bond, which provides additional protection, should the contractor fail to perform.
- Mr. Bartley added that staff looked at ways to do this in-house, but they could not make it work with the up-front capital. Mr. Hipp said he thinks that contracting the work out appears to be the most cost-effective approach, at present.

- Mr. Hipp made the motion to accept the low bid from Superior Lawn and Yard Maintenance; Mr. Fulmer provided the second and the motion was approved 6-0.

8. County Council may take action(s) on matters discussed during the 5:00 pm meeting.

- No action was taken.

9. Appointments.

- a. Board of Zoning Appeals – District 6.
  - An appointment will be made at a later council meeting.
- b. Joint Planning Commission – District 5.
  - An appointment will be made at a later council meeting.
- c. Newberry County First Steps Board.
  - Mr. Reeder made a motion to appoint Ms. Abigail Fuller; Mr. Hipp provided the second and the motion was approved 6-0.
- d. Accommodations Tax Advisory Board.
  - Mr. Sease made a motion to accept the recommended members as a slate; Mr. Fulmer provided the second and the motion was approved 6-0. The appointments and reappointments were as follows: Cindy Long (Hospitality Industry), Tammy Kitchens (Public), Scott Bellows (Public), Joe McDonald (Lodging Industry), Debra Blizzard (Lodging Industry), Sharon Graham (Cultural Industry).

## 10. Public Comments.

- There were no public comments.

## 11. Comments/Requests from County Administrator.

- Mr. Shacker indicated that, if council had no objection, staff would like to discuss a couple of funding sources that the county may want to consider pursuing to support the amphitheater project at the August council meeting.

## 12. Comments/Requests from Council.

- Mr. Reeder thanked everyone who came out to the dedication of the intersection named after his father (Henry Reeder).
- Mr. Sease thanked everyone for attending the meeting.
- Mr. Fulmer thanked everyone for coming. He said they have hurdles to overcome within the county and hopefully they are moving in the right direction.
- Mr. Shealy thanked everyone for coming out and they missed Chairman Johnson as he is attending the ceremony where Sheriff Lee Foster was receiving Sheriff of the Year award.

## 13. Future meetings:

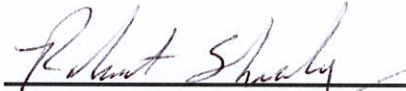
- a. Newberry County Economic Development Committee – July 22 (moved from July 29).
- b. S.C. Association of Counties Annual Conference – July 29-31.
- c. Newberry County Council Work Session – August 7 at 5 p.m.

- d. Newberry County Council – August 7 at 6 p.m.
- e. Newberry County Council Work Session – August 21 at 5 p.m.
- f. Newberry County Council – August 21 at 6 p.m.

14. Adjournment.

- Mr. Sease made a motion to adjourn; Mr. Reeder provided the second and the motion was approved 6-0 at 6:55 p.m.

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL**



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**Robert Shealy, Vice Chairman**



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**Andrew Wigger, Clerk to Council**

Minutes Approved: 08-07-2024