

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES
January 8, 2025**

Newberry County Council met on Wednesday, January 8, 2025, at 6:00 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, Chairman
 Karl Sease, Vice-Chairman
 Leon Fulmer Jr., Council Member
 Todd Johnson, Council Member (virtual)
 Travis Reeder, Council Member
 Johnny Mack Scurry, Council Member
 Stuart Smith, Council Member
 Jeff Shacker, County Administrator
 Joanie Winters, County Attorney
 Beverly Brehmer, Deputy Clerk to Court
 Captain Ben Chapman, NCSO
 Elizabeth Folk, Clerk to Court
 Sheriff Lee Foster, NCSO
 Eric Nieto, I.T. Director
 Andrew Wigger, Clerk to Council/PIO

Mr. Shealy called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Fulmer led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Oath of Office:

- a. Todd Johnson – District 1; Leon Fulmer Jr. – District 2; Robert “Nick” Shealy – District 4; Stuart Smith – District 5.

- Judge Eugene Griffith Jr. administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Fulmer, Mr. Shealy and Mr. Smith. Mr. Johnson announced he took the Oath of Office the day before since he had to attend virtually, due to a meeting in Columbia.

(Meeting turned over to Joanie Winters, County Attorney, to preside over the election of officers for calendar year 2025)

2. Election of Chair for 2025.

- After explaining the procedure for the election of the 2025 Chair, Ms. Winters asked for a motion to open the floor for nominations.
- Mr. Scurry made a motion to open nominations; Mr. Johnson provided the second; the motion carried 7-0.
- Mr. Johnson said it has been a pleasure to serve as Newberry County Council Chair, and he has enjoyed it, and it has been an honor. He said his wife's condition took a turn for the worse in October and they are looking at a long recovery process. While he feels like he can still serve on council, he does not feel he can carry out the duties of chair as it should be. With that, he nominated Mr. Shealy for the position of Chair.
- Mr. Reeder made a motion that nominations come to a close; Mr. Sease provided the second and the motion carried 7-0.
- Ms. Winters called for a vote for Mr. Shealy to be the Newberry County Council chair for 2025 and the vote was approved 7-0.

3. Election of Vice-Chair for 2025.

- Ms. Winters asked for a motion to open the floor for nominations for 2025 Vice-Chair. Mr. Scurry made a motion

to open nominations; Mr. Reeder provided the second and the motion carried 7-0.

- Mr. Shealy nominated Mr. Sease and Mr. Scurry nominated Mr. Reeder.
- Mr. Fulmer, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Sease, Mr. Shealy, and Mr. Smith voted for Mr. Sease to serve as Vice-Chair. Mr. Reeder and Mr. Scurry voted for Mr. Reeder to serve as Vice-Chair.
- With a vote of 5-2, Mr. Sease was elected as Vice-Chair.

4. Adoption of Consent Agenda:

a. Newberry County Council Meeting Minutes – December 04, 2024.

- Mr. Fulmer made a motion to adopt the minutes as presented; Mr. Scurry provided the second and the motion carried 7-0.

5. Additions, Deletions & Adoption of the Agenda.

- Mr. Scurry made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented; Mr. Fulmer provided the second and the motion carried 7-0.

6. Ordinance No. 11-01-2024. An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 91 of the Code of Ordinances of the County of Newberry to Adopt Road and Development Design Standards and Specifications.

a. Third Reading.

- Mr. Sease made a motion to approve third reading; Mr. Reeder provided the second and the motion carried 7-0.

7. Ordinance No. 12-01-2024. An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 152 of the Code of Ordinances of the County of Newberry to Adopt Updated Standards for the Reduction of Flood Hazards.

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 second reading; Mr. Reeder provided the second and the motion carried 7-0.

8. Consideration of a motion to adopt the proposed 2025 County Council Committee Meeting Schedule.

- Mr. Fulmer made a motion to adopt the proposed 2025 County Council Committee meeting schedule; Mr. Scurry provided the second and the motion carried 7-0.

9. Consideration of a motion to adopt the proposed 2025 Newberry County Budget Calendar.

- Mr. Sease made a motion to adopt the proposed 2025 Newberry County Budget Calendar; Mr. Reeder provided the second and the motion carried 7-0.

10. Appointments.

- Mr. Sease made a motion to re-appoint Patrick Meetze to the Board of Zoning Appeals; Mr. Scurry provided the second and the motion carried 7-0.
- Mr. Shealy made a motion to re-appoint Doug Hipp to the Board of Zoning Appeals; Mr. Sease provided the second and the motion carried 7-0.

11. Public Comments.

- Ms. Lillie Hunter said although she lives in the city, her concern is over her neighborhood becoming dangerous, which she said concerns everyone. She said on the last Sunday in December she said there was a shooting in her neighborhood. She said there are young people with automatic guns in Newberry neighborhoods going to jail and then back to the neighborhoods. She said she is not criticizing the police chief, the sheriff or anyone, but just wants to ask for help. She said maybe they need security cameras, maybe they need more investigators, but most importantly when they catch these criminals, they need to stay in jail.
 - Mr. Reeder said they have had several meetings on that subject, with law enforcement and several others. He said they need to do something especially with the same individuals going to jail, pay a fine and then get out to do it all over again. He said our young people live by a different rule and that is not the rule they have here in Newberry County.

12. Comments/Requests from County Administrator.

- Mr. Shacker welcomed Mr. Smith to Newberry County Council and said he looks forward to working with him.

- Mr. Shacker said they are monitoring winter weather that is approaching South Carolina.
- Regarding the Energy Efficiency Block Grant, Mr. Shacker said most of the HVAC units are in and the core of the project will be funded with the state energy office, allowing the county to address even more units.
- Mr. Shacker said they were also notified for a \$750,000 grant for Whitmire, and staff has identified a source of matching funds allowing them not to make an impact on the General Fund. The county was also awarded a grant from the Rural Infrastructure Authority, \$650,000 to extend water and sewer lines to the Mid-Carolina Industrial Park and staff has identified matching funds, as well.

13. Comments/Requests from Council.

- Mr. Fulmer extended a welcome to Mr. Smith. He also thanked his constituents for re-electing him for an official full term and it has been a pleasure this past year, adding that he has learned a lot.
- Mr. Smith thanked everyone for their support, he also thanked his Lord and Savior for his blessings, he also thanked his family and friends for their support. He also thanked residents for the trust they gave into him for this journey, adding that Newberry is truly a special place, and he is looking forward to working hard for Newberry and only wanting the very best for Newberry.
- Mr. Scurry thanked everyone for attending the meeting and thanked Ms. Winters for helping with the election of the Chair and Vice-Chair. He congratulated Mr. Smith as the new councilman and Mr. Shealy on being elected Chair. Mr. Scurry also thanked staff for the sidewalk that was put in the Helena community.
- Mr. Reeder congratulated Mr. Smith for being elected and everyone else being re-elected. He thanked staff for getting

all the grants helping Newberry County and he looks forward to the results.

- Mr. Johnson welcomed Mr. Smith to council, he said he looks forward to Mr. Shealy's leadership in the days ahead. He also congratulated Mr. Sease and looks forward to his leadership. Mr. Johnson thanked everyone for the calls and prayers for his family.
- Mr. Sease congratulated Mr. Smith for being elected and said they have a great team that has been working well together, and he knows they will continue to do so. Mr. Sease also thanked the county attorney and administrator for working together. Mr. Sease also thanked Mr. Wigger for his hard work over the last couple years and supporting council and staff.
- Mr. Shealy also thanked everyone attending the meeting. He told Mr. Smith they grew up together and now they are here together. He told Mr. Johnson that he appreciated his leadership in the past and he is looking forward to still working together.

14. Future meetings:

- a. Newberry County Council Work Session – January 15 at 5 p.m.
- b. Newberry County Council – January 15 at 6 p.m.
- c. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday – Offices Closed – January 20.
- d. Public Safety and Courts Committee – January 27 at 5 p.m.

15. Adjournment.

- Mr. Scurry made a motion to adjourn; Mr. Fulmer provided the second and the motion carried 7-0. Newberry County Council adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL



Robert Shealy, Chairman



Andrew Wigger, Clerk to Council

Minutes Approved: 2/05/25