

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
August 7, 2024**

Newberry County Council met on Wednesday, August 7, 2024, 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:** Todd Johnson, Chairman  
Robert Shealy, Vice-Chairman  
Leon Fulmer Jr., Council Member  
Les Hipp, Council Member  
Johnny Mack Scurry, Council Member  
Karl Sease, Council Member  
Jeff Shacker, County Administrator  
Karen Brehmer, Deputy County Administrator  
Captain Ben Chapman, NCSO  
Debbie Cromer, Finance Director  
Eric Nieto, I.T. Director  
Scott Sawyer, Special Projects Coordinator

**ABSENT:** Travis Reeder, Council Member

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

Mr. Johnson led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance for Mr. Reeder who was out sick.

1. Adoption of Consent Agenda:

- a. Newberry County Council Work Session – July 17, 2024.
- b. Newberry County Council Meeting – July 17, 2024.
- c. Newberry County Economic Development Committee – July 22, 2024.

- Mr. Hipp made a motion to accept the minutes as presented; Mr. Fulmer provided the second and the motion carried 6-0.

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

- Mr. Sease made a motion to accept the agenda as published; Mr. Scurry provided the second and the motion carried 6-0.

## 3. Public Appearance:

- a. Lorie Graham, Newberry Area Business Consultant, S.C. Small Business Development Centers

- Ms. Graham said their mission is to advance South Carolina economic development by helping small businesses to succeed. One of the ways they do that is by offering tools that small business owners may not otherwise be available to get, such as Vertical IQ. They also help with business plans and helping businesses with lenders and getting with banks and attorney referrals. She said the services they offer help businesses with areas such as marketing, web design, HR operations, etc. They also have specialists that can assist small business owners.
- Mr. Sease asked if there is a limit to the number of employees; Ms. Graham said no, there is no minimum number, and they help businesses that have up to 500 employees.
- Mr. Hipp asked if Ms. Graham knows Mr. Rick Farmer, Newberry County Economic Development director. Ms. Graham said she does, and he recommended she come before Newberry County Council. Mr. Hipp said he thinks that is good as she looks at helping small businesses and Mr. Farmer works to take care of large industries,

but sometimes small businesses support large businesses. Mr. Hipp said it would be good for them to continue to work together.

4. 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. Third Reading

- Mr. Johnson said once ratified, at the next meeting (August 21, 2024) they will make their appointments to the newly established board.
- Mr. Hipp made a motion to accept third reading; Mr. Sease provided the second and the motion carried 6-0.

5. Ordinance No. 08-01-2024. An Ordinance authorizing the County of Newberry to sell real property identified as TMS 290-11 and described in Invitation for Bid No. 2024-4.

a. First Reading

- Mr. Shealy made the motion to approve first reading; Mr. Hipp provided the second and the motion carried 6-0.

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

- There was no action taken.

7. Appointments.

a. Board of Zoning Appeals – District 6.



- Mr. Scurry will make an appointment at the next meeting.
- b. Joint Planning Commission – District 5
- Mr. Hipp made a motion to appoint Mr. Jack Shields; Mr. Shealy provided the second and the motion was approved 6-0.

#### 8. Public Comments.

- There were no public comments.

#### 9. Comments/Requests from County Administrator.

- Mr. Shacker said the county's CPST projects are well underway, and they've been having meetings with project architects.
- Mr. Shacker said they have a number of grant funded projects, including three in Lynch's Woods, and the CDBG project in Whitmire for sidewalks.

#### 10. Comments/Requests from Council.

- Mr. Sease thanked everyone for coming out and appreciates everyone for attending the meetings.
- Mr. Hipp recognized Mr. Stuart Smith, who is running unopposed to fill his seat once he retires at the end of the year and he is sure he will leave it in ample hands. Mr. Hipp then asked Mr. Shacker for an update on the emergency services vehicles that were out of service because they were getting worked on.
  - Mr. Shacker said there was a good bit of step-up work by the company the county contracts with for vehicle maintenance and he knows they have made headway, and he knows the ambulances are back on the road.
  - Mr. Hipp would also like to know an update on getting backup services for repairs. Mr. Shacker said they have met with those they contract with to establish a plan.

- Mr. Fulmer thanked everyone for coming out and taking part in county government. Mr. Fulmer said they had a firetruck they were in the process of getting purchased and asked Mr. Shacker where they were with that.
  - Mr. Shacker said they have issued the purchase order, and confirmed the deal has been sealed. He added they have a tanker that needs to be replaced and they have the amount of the insurance claim in, and they will keep council posted but the cost of the truck will exceed the insurance claim.
  - Mr. Sease said he went to a meeting last night and they have a couple of trucks coming down the line that they will be able to order instead of waiting a few years.
- Mr. Shealy thanked everyone for coming out and told Mr. Shacker excellent job going out and finding opportunities and his vision he has for the county is excellent and they appreciate all he is doing and will do.
- Mr. Johnson said happy birthday to Mr. Wigger, who they let have the evening off. He told Mr. Stuart Smith it was a blessing to have him with them tonight and he has some huge shoes to fill, and he looks forward to working with him. Mr. Johnson commended Mr. Shacker for the vision and balancing of those projects and not losing focus on one project for another and that is a blessing for Newberry County.

#### 11. Future meetings:

- a. Newberry County Council Work Session – August 21 at 5 p.m.
- b. Newberry County Council – August 21 at 6 p.m.
- c. Newberry County Finance Committee – August 26 at 6 p.m.
- d. Labor Day – September 2 – Offices Closed
- e. Newberry County Council Work Session – September 4 at 5 p.m.
- f. Newberry County Council – September 4 at 6 p.m.

12. Adjournment

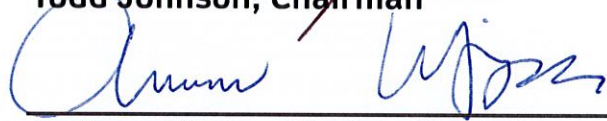
- Mr. Shealy made a motion to adjourn; Mr. Fulmer provided the second and the motion carried 6-0 at 6:19 p.m.

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL**



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**Todd Johnson, Chairman**



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**Andrew Wigger, Clerk to Council**

Minutes Approved: 8-21-24