

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES
September 18, 2024**

Newberry County Council met on Wednesday, September 18, 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
Travis Reeder, Council Member
Karl Sease, Council Member
Johnny Mack Scurry, Council Member
Jeff Shacker, County Administrator
Joanie Winters, County Attorney
Karen Brehmer, Deputy County Administrator
Captain Ben Chapman, NCSO
Debbie Cromer, Finance Director
Tommy Long, Emergency Services Director
Eric Nieto, I.T. Director
Andrew Wigger, Clerk to Council/PIO

MEDIA: Kelly Duncan, The Newberry Observer

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

Mr. Shealy led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Adoption of Consent Agenda:

- a. Newberry County Council Work Session – September 4, 2024.
- b. Newberry County Council Meeting – September 4, 2024.

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

2. Additions, Deletions & Adoption of the Agenda.

- Mr. Scurry made a motion to accept the agenda as published; Mr. Shealy provided the second and the motion carried 7-0.

3. Recognitions:

a. Employee Service:

Caleb Kierstead	5 years	NCSO
Joseph Kingsmore	5 years	NCSO
Jackie Greenwood	15 years	Public Works
Tammy Kinard	20 years	Corrections
Larry Graham	20 years	NCSO
Zenda McClurkin	25 years	Public Safety

- 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. A Proclamation recognizing the Towns in Tune event in Newberry County and Bay Bulls, Newfoundland.

- Mr. Shealy made a motion to accept the Proclamation; Mr. Hipp provided the second and the motion carried 7-0.
- Ms. Michelle Long, Executive Director of the Newberry County Chamber of Commerce, accepted a copy of the Proclamation and members of the Bay Bulls Town Government were on Zoom for the presentation, as introduced by Ms. Long.

5. A Proclamation recognizing September 15-October 15, 2024, and Hispanic Heritage Month in Newberry County.

- Mr. Sease made a motion to accept the Proclamation; Mr. Reeder provided the second and the motion carried 7-0.
- Ms. Liz Rivera accepted a copy of the Proclamation along with Ms. Rubi Flores and Mr. Oswaldo Tapia. She also invited everyone to attend the Hispanic Heritage Month Festival at Newberry College on Monday, September 23, 2024.

6. Resolution 08-24. A Resolution to Recognize and Honor the Members of the South Carolina State Guard, to commend their all-volunteer force who embody the spirit of National Preparedness Month, and to declare September as “South Carolina State Guard Month” in Newberry County.

- Mr. Shealy made a motion to accept the Resolution; Mr. Fulmer provided the second and the motion carried 7-0.
- Local members of the South Carolina State Guard accepted a copy of the Resolution.

7. Ordinance 09-01-2024. An Ordinance Approving the Terms of an Intergovernmental Agreement Between Newberry County and the Newberry County Water and Sewer Authority.

a. First Reading

- Mr. Shacker explained that this ordinance agrees to terms with the Newberry County Water and Sewer Authority, who have acted by Resolution already, on the cost overruns for the wastewater treatment plant, one of the projects approved on the 2022 Capital Project Sales Tax referendum. He said due to impact of inflation of the cost of the projects, to a degree it began to bring in the question of the viability of the projects.
- He said a different approach is being taken, instead of funding cost overruns on the back end of the projects, they are proposing to cover the cost of the overruns on the front end and that would make the projects viable.
- He said they are looking at an estimated \$8.8 million overrun above the balloted amounts. They are now looking at close to \$46 million in projects. He said one of the things about inflation that is not necessarily negative, it has also increased collections which is allowing them to cover the costs on the front end.
- He said the reason they are recommending an ordinance for this project, and not the others, is because the increase to construct the wastewater treatment project is considerably more than the others. He said the balloted amount was a little over \$5.1 million and they are looking at a \$4.4 million increase. He said this will agree to fund that overrun now, and states if there are additional overruns the NCWSA will pay for those overruns.

- Mr. Sease said he was at the COG meeting the other week and he said they were supposed to be getting \$5.6 million from state and federal funds to build that project and if that was additional funds.
 - Mr. Shacker said he thinks they are using that to pursue what is outside of the scope of the CPST project.
- Mr. Hipp asked where this project ranked in the CPST project. Ms. Brehmer said it ranked fifth. Mr. Hipp said this is not an insignificant percentage wise increase over what was projected and if all of their projects were to be this kind of overrun, they would not have enough funding. He said if they did this, without bonding, they would have had to complete the first four projects first.
- Mr. Hipp said this is the first reading of an ordinance and he won't vote against it, and he is not happy that they have a project on CPST that is double what they predicted, and they have 12 projects.
- Mr. Reeder if anything changed from the original plans; Mr. Shacker said no it was the cost of inflation.
- Mr. Shacker said they have had increases with all of the projects, except for two that will be the museum and the IT/security upgrades at the courthouse.
- Mr. Hipp said once they approve this, it is the law and there is a difference between that and seeing their projects as they go. He says he feels uneasy about approving this ordinance.
- Mr. Reeder made a motion to accept first reading; Mr. Shealy provided the second.
- Mr. Johnson said he'd like to know, before they commit, if some of that is going to this project or other projects (NCWSA). He said if they lock in to fund this overage, what do they do about the other projects. He said without significant explanation and more details he would be hesitant to vote again.

- Mr. Shacker said there were commitments made with the other projects along these lines, and they used letters of understanding, but they went this route for this project due to the amount.
- Mr. Johnson said he doesn't think between the ballot and now they didn't think it would be over and \$8.8 million is shocking and he thinks they need to be wise to what they commit themselves to in the future.
- The motion carried 7-0.

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

- There was no action taken.

9. Appointments.

- There were no appointments.

10. Public Comments.

- There were no public comments.

11. Comments/Requests from County Administrator.

- Mr. Shacker said they have a lot of projects in the air, and they are all moving forward.

12. Comments/Requests from Council.

- Mr. Fulmer thanked everyone for coming out and he thanked residents of Newberry County for the pleasure of representing them. He further said that he enjoys the

discussions with his fellow councilmembers over issues and it is a pleasure to work with them.

- Mr. Hipp said he appreciates everyone coming out and the thoughtful comments they get from residents, and he thinks it impacts their decisions and thought process.
- Mr. Johnson said the working relationship is really great and they can talk to each other, communicate and share opinions and not get upset.
- Mr. Sease thanked everyone for coming out and participating in their form of government and giving them insight and ideas when they are doing these ordinances.
- Mr. Reeder said it is a pleasure to see everyone's smiling faces. He said it was good to have all the proclamations and resolutions.
- Mr. Scurry said it was a pleasure to see everyone come out, especially the employees who were recognized.

13. Future meetings:

- a. Newberry County Executive Committee – September 23 at 6 p.m.
- b. Newberry County Council Work Session – October 2 at 5 p.m.
- c. Newberry County Council Meeting – October 2 at 6 p.m.
- d. Newberry County Public Safety Committee – October 7 at 6 p.m.
- e. Newberry County Council Work Session – October 16 at 5 p.m.
- f. Newberry County Council – October 16 at 6 p.m.

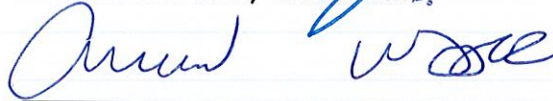
14. Adjournment.

- Mr. Shealy made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Hipp provided the second and the motion carried 7-0 at 6:37 p.m.

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL



Todd Johnson, Chairman



Andrew Wigger, Clerk to Council

Minutes Approved: 10-07-24