

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MINUTES
October 7, 2024**

Newberry County Council met on Monday, October 7, 2024, at 5:02 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Courthouse Annex, 1309 College Street, Newberry, SC, for a Work Session.

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

PRESENT: Todd Johnson, Chairman
Leon Fulmer, Council Member
Travis Reeder, Council Member
Karl Sease, Council Member
Johnny Mack Scurry, Council Member
Jeff Shacker, County Administrator
Karen Brehmer, Deputy County Administrator
Sheriff Lee Foster, NCSO
Brian Kelly, GIS
Tommy Long, Emergency Services Director
Liz McDonald, Assessor
Eric Nieto, I.T. Director
Josh Rowe, Public Works Director
Kenny Shealy, Assessor's Office
Brandon Wicker, Emergency Services Coordinator
Andrew Wigger, Clerk to Council/PIO

ABSENT: Robert Shealy, Vice-Chairman
Les Hipp, Council Member
Joanie Winters, County Attorney

Mr. Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

1. Discussion and consideration of the purchase of a fire tanker truck for Bush River Fire Department.

- Mr. Shacker said there was an accident over the summer and a tanker was lost. Mr. Long said the price for the new tanker came in at \$565,106, from Spartan Fire and Emergency Apparatus.
- Mr. Long said they received insurance payments on the wrecked tanker in the amount of \$170,800 and \$24,885 for the equipment. He said the difference comes out to \$369,424.
- Mr. Long said they have money in the budget to buy a new ambulance this year, but it won't be delivered until next year and after looking at the budget with Mr. Shacker, there are funds to cover the truck. He said they hope to have the new tanker delivered by February.
- Mr. Johnson asked if this is to replace the tanker lost in the accident a few months prior. Mr. Long said that is correct.
- Mr. Long said he got a comparative bid, but it was about \$20,000 more than the bid presented to council.
- Mr. Johnson asked if this was a new truck or a used truck. Mr. Long said this is a brand-new truck and is a pumper tanker and has a bigger pump than the previous truck, and that will benefit the county on ISO.
- Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Shacker how the non-appropriation clause affects the determination they buy the ambulance next year. Mr. Shacker said they would have the option to not appropriate.
- Mr. Shacker then showed a spreadsheet showing the purchase of the tanker and ambulance. Mr. Shacker said what is not in the budget this year (on the revenue side), are the insurance claims from the tanker that was totaled and the sale of property on SC 121, which resulted in \$229,800. They also made the change where they are diverting FILOT revenue to capital items. All of this combined gives a total revenue of a little over a million dollars.

- After the cost of the new tanker, the county will be left with a balance of \$449,973.
- Mr. Long said what they were asking for tonight was to get the purchase order for the tanker and the ambulance.

2. Discussion and consideration of the purchase of an ambulance for EMS.

- Mr. Shacker said they need to start looking at purchasing an ambulance every year.
- Mr. Long said they would be looking at getting the new ambulance delivered in July and the price came in at \$437,232.
- Mr. Long said they would like to lock in two ambulances and the other would come in the November timeframe, but he thinks they can lock in the same price for both.
- Mr. Johnson asked for the turnaround time on ambulances. Mr. Long said they are promising this ambulance by July so they will probably start working on it in November.
- Mr. Long said most of their ambulances have over 100,000 miles.
- Mr. Sease asked if they defer getting the ambulance until next fiscal year, will they have the same price or will it increase. Mr. Shacker said what they are asking is the county commit to the ambulance purchase now, and they would take delivery during the next fiscal year. He said ideally, it would be nice to lock in two ambulances now at today's price.
- Mr. Johnson said usually if they get \$100,000 for a truck, they aren't going to be able to turn around and buy another half million dollar truck off of insurance. He added he doesn't have a problem doing the truck and the two ambulances, but he would like to wait until the next meeting. He said he does not want to spend that much money of the taxpayers' money without having it on the agenda and the residents to have the opportunity to come and speak.
 - Mr. Fulmer added he would prefer to do it when the other council members are present, as well.

- Mr. Fulmer asked if that would be enough time. Mr. Long said he only hopes they will not get sold prior to the next meeting.
- The purchase of the tanker and the two ambulances will be presented to council during the October 16, 2024, meeting.

3. Update on the status of Newberry County following Hurricane Helene and on Newberry County's storm recovery efforts.

- Mr. Shacker echoed the words of council and acknowledged the exceptional job everyone did responding to this event. Mr. Shacker quoted Mr. Long as saying that he has not encountered an event like this where it was countywide. Mr. Shacker said there is nothing like being on a team and he was impressed with Mr. Long, Mr. Wicker, the Newberry County Sheriff's Office, Newberry County Public Works and then what the Newberry County Assessor's Office is doing with damage assessment. He then recognized Newberry County Administration giving out water and staffing the offices when they were short-handed. He mentioned the Newberry County Auditor and Treasurer Office working through internet issues, Mr. Nieto resolving the issues. GIS being critical. He said everyone contributed and he was so impressed and proud to be part of it.
- Mr. Long said he worked in the grocery business for 24 years and he dealt with the aftermath of disasters, including people going crazy wanting milk, bread and eggs. However, what he witnessed in the dispatch room at 5 a.m. on September 27, 2024, will forever be sketched in his head. He said it was the most organized chaos he has ever witnessed, and everyone in that room did everything in their power to make sure all residents were safe. He said once he saw what was going on, he went into EOC to immediately activate everyone to ensure the safety of residents. He said they started getting the PODs (Points of Distribution) set up to provide supplies to the community. Mr. Long said they had county staff, city staff, volunteers from all over, the S.C. National Guard and they don't

know how valuable it was for everyone to come out without begin asked.

- Mr. Long said they were able to set up FEMA disaster assistance for that day (October 7) and in the coming weeks they will have a DRC (Disaster Recovery Center) at the Newberry County Sheriff's Office, as well.
- Mr. Long said they also need to recognize the utility workers, water and sewer; all of them went above and beyond the call of duty. He said even the fuel companies brought fuel to the EOC, as did the Newberry County School District. He said all the support from the county was tremendous.
- Sheriff Foster said at the beginning, the dispatchers – who he said are the lowest paid public safety employees on the county payroll – did a stellar job. He said it started at about 2 a.m. then got worse at 5 a.m. He said council would not believe the number of calls that came in, calls ranging from trees being down, power lines being down, etc. He said dispatch handled the situation with grace and dignity. Sheriff Foster said Chief Deputy Wesley Boland, who handles NCSO communications, designed the county's communications system and the county never lost that, and the county helped other counties get their communications back up. Sheriff Foster said Mr. Boland opened up the backup EOC (located at the Newberry County Detention Center) and found out when they wired the generator for that section, the backup center wasn't completely done, meaning they were on battery backup. However, Mr. Boland and John Curley were able to get power to get a second set of dispatchers out there.
- Sheriff Foster said the total 911 calls during that period were 631, less than 100 seconds was the duration of most calls, calls were answered within 40 seconds. On the 803-321-2222 number, they answered 435 calls, doing so in the same amount of time. Dispatch made 364 outbound calls. Sheriff Foster said dispatchers rarely get complimented and he wanted to do so.

He added several of the dispatchers had to drive through the storm to get there.

- Sheriff Foster mentioned a story of getting help to a gentleman with a head injury and they sent deputies out, and with the help of others, were able to clear a path to get the man to the hospital.
- Sheriff Foster, in talking to their counterparts across the state, said Newberry County did better clearing roads and getting help. He also said in setting up the PODs, the NCSO staffed most of those locations, along with the S.C. National Guard at some places, and that they Newberry County Administration staff came and passed out water, and college and high school students showed up to help as well. At those PODs, 10,080 cases of water were distributed, and 2,064 Meals-Ready-to-Eat cases were distributed. They then took supplies to locations where the heavy damage occurred, like Chappells and Silverstreet.
- Sheriff Foster added that it was hectic, and they were trying to answer calls, answer people, and while they were out there working, people fed staff several times, restaurants from Columbia, Newberry, Prosperity, fed them to make sure they could keep going. He said every first responder left their houses, their families, to come and help others and it says a lot about the employees of Newberry County.
 - Mr. Johnson added that he saw deputies helping to keep lineman safe as they worked to get the power back up.
- Sheriff Foster added that they had a lot of residents arrive with their equipment to help clear fallen trees and it was a great effort by a lot of people.
- Mr. Rowe said as far as county-maintained roads, they had roughly 150 roads blocked and within two to three days, they had that number cut in half. He said that speaks volumes. He said during the course of this storm, Newberry County Public Works (made up of 12 people) cut 413 trees that were blocking roads. He said they had several roads with excess of 30 trees

on them, and two that had 60 trees on them. On average, there were 108 hours worked and to date, there are 5-10 roads that are still partially blocked.

- Mr. Johnson thanked Mr. Rowe and said, “an excellent job by all of their team.”
- Ms. McDonald presented a PowerPoint (included with these minutes) regarding damage assessment. She said three businesses were impacted by the storm and 137 residences. She added that they have \$8.8 million in estimated damages.
- Mr. Kelly showed a dashboard from data taken from the Palmetto Portal to look at county-wide totals, showing data relative to the storm.
- Mr. Shacker once again complimented everyone for the hard work they put in, including communication. Mr. Shacker said the company the county contracts with for debris maintenance had to de-mobilize, but the county will be able to work with SCDOT to get debris removed from local roads.
- Mr. Sease asked if the county is planning on doing a post-critique to see what they did well, what they can improve on, etc. Sheriff Foster said Mr. Long already held one last week.
- Mr. Johnson said that he speaks for all of council when he said they commend everyone that was a part of this and Newberry County residents who helped during this. He said he thanks God for the spirit that exist in Newberry County and the people of Newberry County.
- Sheriff Foster added that you hear a lot of people say not being prepared, he said this was a once and a lifetime situation (Category 2 Hurricane this far inland). He said this may never happen in our lifetimes again. He said we had plans, like buying from local gas stations, but they were out of power, and the backup didn't work, but working together, the county was able to find an alternative.

4. Adjournment.

- Mr. Sease made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Reeder provided the second and the motion carried 5-0 at 6:04 p.m.

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL



Todd Johnson, Chairman



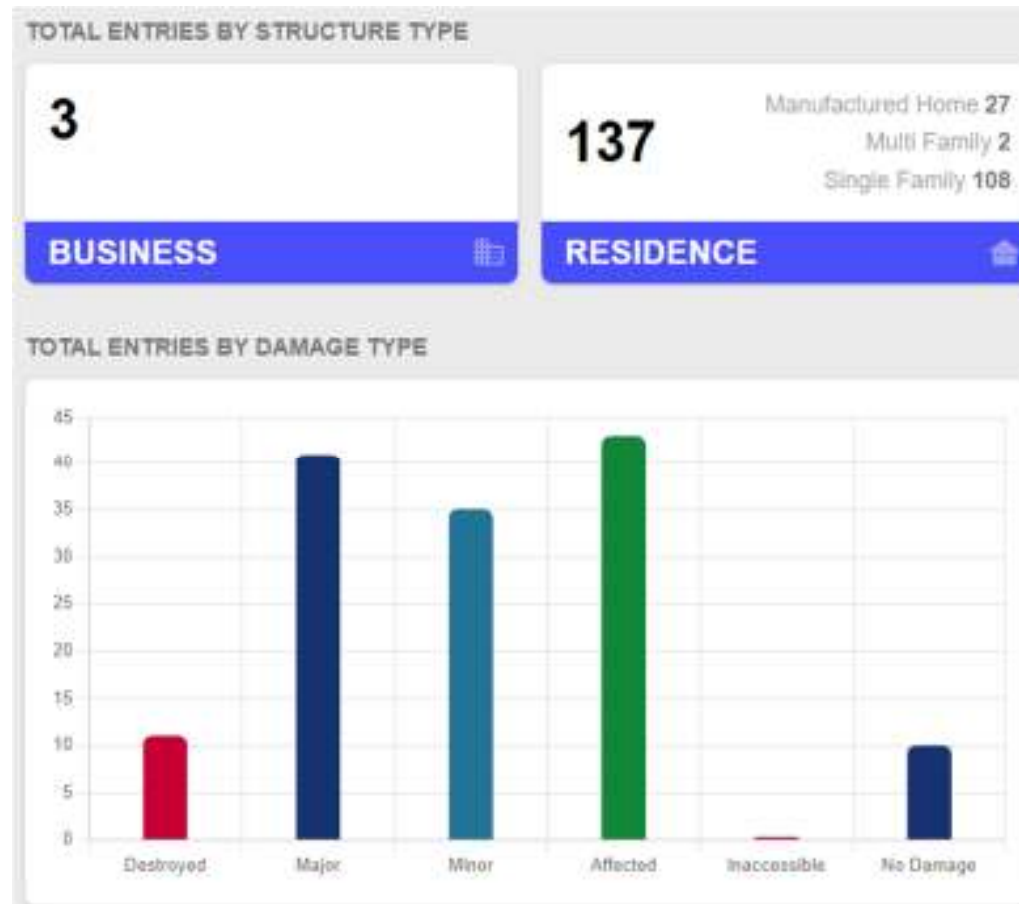
Andrew Wigger, Clerk to Council

Minutes Approved: 10-16-24

Hurricane Helen Damage Assessment

Newberry County
September 27, 2024

Hurricane Helen Damage Assessment



Hurricane Helen Damage Assessment

Damage Assessment Team:

- Kenny Shealy, Chief Appraiser & Team Lead
- Brian Kelly, GIS Analyst II
- Brandon Granville, Appraiser
- Chris Monson, Appraiser
- Makenzie Nichols, Appraiser

Hurricane Helen Damage Assessment

Levels of Damage:

- Affected
- Minor
- Major
- Destroyed

Hurricane Helen Damage Assessment

Affected:



Hurricane Helen Damage Assessment

Minor:



Hurricane Helen Damage Assessment

Major:



Hurricane Helen Damage Assessment

Destroyed:



Hurricane Helen Damage Assessment Palmetto Portal

The screenshot displays the Palmetto Portal dashboard. At the top, there is a blue navigation bar with a hamburger menu icon, the text "Home", and the user name "Newberry". Below the navigation bar, there are two tabs: "ALL SITES" and "MY SITES", with "MY SITES" being the active tab. The main content area is a grid of seven cards, each featuring a red diamond icon with a white house inside. Each card has a title, a brief description, and a blue "ENTER" button at the bottom.

| Card Title | Description |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Palmetto EOC | South Carolina's Common Operating Picture, the system of record for real-world events |
| Palmetto Training | Replica of the Palmetto site, available to anyone with a Palmetto user account |
| Main Damage Assessment | Gathers IA and PA entries, displays entries on a map, and produces FEMA reports |
| Mobile Damage Assessment | For use by anyone going out in the field to gather IA and PA data after a real world disaster |
| Radiological Emergency Preparedness | Tracks equipment calibration due dates, shift overruns, annual letter of certification workflow |
| Virtual EOC | A site-to-field facilitate communication between EOC team members that are working in various locations |
| Hurricane Hub | The Hurricane Hub serves as a one-stop shop for hurricane preparedness information and coordination. Certain pages will only be visible. |

Hurricane Helen Damage Assessment

Brian Kelly presented a
GIS Dashboard of Damage by Council District

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/bdabd41098ec4b40b8ea343027ff7c01>

