

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES
November 6, 2024**

Newberry County Council met on Wednesday, November 6, 2024, at 6:02 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
Captain Daniel Floyd, NCSO
Eric Nieto, I.T. Director
Andrew Wigger, Clerk to Council/PIO

Mr. Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Mr. Johnson led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Adoption of Consent Agenda:

- a. Newberry County Council Work Session – October 16, 2024.
- b. Newberry County Council Meeting – October 16, 2024.

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

2. Additions, Deletions & Adoption of the Agenda.

- Mr. Sease made a motion to adopt the agenda as published; Mr. Reeder provided the second and the motion carried 7-0.

3. A Proclamation Supporting Operation Green Light for Veterans in Newberry County.

- Mr. Shealy made a motion to accept the Proclamation; Mr. Sease provided the second and the motion carried 7-0.
- The Proclamation was presented to two veterans, Henry Brooks, Commander of American Legion Post 24, and Tim Erskine, Adjutant of American Legion Post 24. Mr. Brooks also accepted the Proclamation on behalf of American Legion Post 219, Commander Eugene Wilson, Jr., who was unable to be in attendance.

4. 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. Public Hearing.

- Mr. Brent Richardson, manager of the Newberry County Water and Sewer Authority, said the NCWSA Board approved a revision to their resolution concerning this agreement, which pulls \$1.4 million out of their request for funding. He said the NCWSA Board is dedicated to seeing the CPST successful. He said they will fund that \$1.4 million through a bond issue.

- Mr. Steve McKean said it seems there is an agreement worked out that is amicable to everyone, but he wanted to remind everyone that in 34 years since he came to Newberry County, NCWSA has never come down his road. He said while they take a look at the money they are about to give them; he wanted to stand up and speak for the 2/3 of Newberry County that do not have the opportunity to be on the NCWSA. He said in a roundabout way, there will be a lot of them paying for this who will not have an opportunity to be on the NCWSA.

b. Third Reading.

- Mr. Shacker said they started with a balloted amount for projects at a little over \$37 million; but unfortunately, the estimates were pre-inflation and now the county is tasked with building projects in a post-inflation environment. He further explained that these are estimates and they will know on bid day where the county stands. He said they had about \$10 million in cost overruns for the projects. Mr. Shacker said they also saw an increase in revenue coming in for CPST. To address cost overruns, they had the owners of the projects commit in writing to waive their right to the expense above the current estimates, but with the NCWSA, the amount of money was more significant, which prompted the agreement. This will allow the funding of all cost overruns.
- Mr. Hipp made an amendment to incorporate the offer made by the NCWSA with the reduction in the requested amount down to \$8.2 million, with the understanding the NCWSA will not seek any additional funds until any and all other projects are funded and even at that time, the county is not obligated. Mr. Sease provided the second.

- Mr. Hipp said he totally supports this, but they have a history where they had projects come up short and they had to be funded through property tax money. He further said these projects were voted on with the criteria of, if they had maximum merit and anticipated cost of the project. He said when he voted as a councilmember, for the order of projects, it was based on what he thought was the cost. He said he knew all the projects would go up, and they have. He said he appreciates what the NCWSA Board has done, by coming back to them with a willingness to mutually fund the cost overruns and make sure the cost overruns for other projects are funded. He thanked the NCWSA Board for their actions.

- The motion for the amendment carried 7-0.
- Mr. Shealy made a motion to adopt the ordinance, as amended; Mr. Fulmer provided the second and the motion carried 7-0.

5. County Council may take action on matters discussed during the 5 p.m. Work Session.

- There was no action taken.

6. Appointments.

- There were no appointments.

7. Public Comments.

- Mr. Michael Tumm said on the proposed chicken ordinances, it does not state where they must be placed on the property. He said all the other counties that have a chicken ordinance

specifically state back-yard chickens and he requests the ordinance be re-written to include that.

8. Comments/Requests from County Administrator.

- Mr. Shacker thanked council for the action on the ordinance and with that staff anticipates having the bonds for CPST done by December. He said the county received an AA rating and they should get a good rate. He further stated they are working on the designs of the projects, and they should start awarding contracts in January.
- Mr. Shacker said Lynch's Woods Park received a lot of damage from Hurricane Helene and they have been working to clean up the park to get it re-opened to the public.

9. Comments/Requests from Council.

- Mr. Fulmer thanked everyone for coming out and thanked the NCWSA Board for their resolution and that is beneficial for Newberry County as a whole. He also thanked the American Legion members in attendance. He said it is a great pleasure to serve Newberry County and serve with his fellow councilmembers.
- Mr. Hipp said he only has two meetings left but took the opportunity to congratulate the recently re-elected council members (Mr. Fulmer, Mr. Shealy, Mr. Johnson) and Mr. Stuart Smith, who was elected to fill his seat. He said he knows they will continue to do a great job. He said they just went through a national election where he thinks the country at the national level has been polarized, a lot of division, and there are going to be some happy people and people not so happy. However, he said we live in a country where we actually had an election, and we could choose,

and we did choose. He said now is the time to work together and eliminate some of this polarization and division. Mr. Hipp said he has spent 12 years on council, he has never seen partisan politics be the deciding factor for any issue that came before Newberry County Council. He said on the national level could exercise the same concern for the residents that he has observed locally, they'd all be better off.

- Mr. Johnson said there is a spirit of comradery on council and hats off to Mr. Hipp and the NCWSA Board and everyone who worked together to come to this resolution.
- Mr. Sease thanked the American Legion for stopping by and their service to our country. He also thanked the NCWSA Board and staff for working with them.
- Mr. Reeder said he appreciates everything Mr. Hipp said because they always work it out and in order to have a great council to work with a great county they all have to at some point agree on everything. He thanked all the veterans for their service.
- Mr. Scurry said Mr. Hipp is a kind-hearted young man, with a great family and he has been good to work with over the years.

10. Future meetings:

- a. Veterans Day – Offices Closed - November 11.
- b. Newberry County Executive Committee – November 12 at 6 p.m.
- c. Newberry County Council Work Session – November 20 at 5 p.m.
- d. Newberry County Council – November 20 at 6 p.m.
- e. Newberry County Economic Development Committee – November 25 at 6 p.m.


11. Adjournment.

- Mr. Shealy made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Sease provided the second and the motion carried 7-0 at 6:41 p.m.

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL



Todd Johnson, Chairman



Andrew Wigger, Clerk to Council

Minutes Approved: 11-20-2024