

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES
APRIL 20, 2011**

Newberry County Council met on Wednesday, April 20, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Courthouse Annex, 1309 College Street, Newberry, SC, for a regular scheduled meeting.

PRESENT: Henry H. Livingston, III, Chairman
Kirksey Koon, Vice Chairman
William D. Waldrop, Councilman
John E. Caldwell, Councilman
Edgar Baker, Councilman
Steven C. Stockman, Councilman
Leslie (Les) Hipp, Councilman
Wayne Adams, County Administrator
Laurie Renwick, Clerk to Council
Debbie Cromer, Finance Director

PRESS: Heather Hawkins, WKDK
Cindy Pitts, Newberry Observer

The meeting was duly advertised as required by law.

Chairman Livingston called the meeting to order and determined a quorum present.

Mr. Stockman led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Adoption of Consent Agenda

Mr. Baker motioned to adopt the consent agenda; seconded by Mr. Stockman. The vote was unanimous.

2. Additions, Deletions, and Adoption of Agenda

Chairman Livingston added agenda item 8b for a request for funding from Ms. Hall and Mr. Hope for the Hope Station Community Center.

Mr. Adams stated that staff would like to request the addition of agenda item 14b for an additional executive session in accordance with §30-4-70(a)(5) of the SC Code of Laws

for discussion of matters relating to the proposed location, expansion, or the provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body.

Mr. Baker motioned to adopt the agenda as amended; seconded by Mr. Stockman. The vote was unanimous.

3. Newberry County Service Award Presentations

Chairman Livingston stated that it was a great privilege to recognize our employees for service awards. He made presentations to the following: Brandon Granville, Assessor's Office – 5 years (absent); Janeen Toby, Clerk of Court's Office – 5 years; and Beverly Brehmer, Clerk of Court's Office – 20 years.

Chairman Livingston thanked them for the many years of dedication and service they have provide to the citizens of Newberry County.

4. Personal Appearances

a. Mr. Bennie Bennett, Superintendent of Newberry Co. School District

Mr. Bennett thanked Chairman Livingston and members of Council and said it has been his privilege to share his State of the District presentation on the road to members of the community over the past several months. Mr. Bennett proceeded with a power point presentation and briefing of the following: Newberry Co. School District Mission; Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP); Exit Exam (ASAP); Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (PASS); student, staff and school recognition and achievements; building program; budget; and National Accreditation.

Mr. Bennett concluded his presentation by saying that the school district was available to help support and work with County Council.

b. Mrs. Edith Greisser

Mrs. Greisser reported that there are three box-like tombs that are in terrible repair at the Village Cemetery. If the County will approve funding in the amount of \$600.00, we will be able to get this cleaned up; get the tops of the tombs repaired and cleaned before the dedication on Sunday, May 15, 2011.

Mr. Waldrop motioned to approve the funding request of \$600.00 to help with the cemetery; seconded by Mr. Hipp.

Chairman Livingston asked if there was any discussion.

Mr. Baker shared that he was out at the cemetery and said the clean up and new fence around the area really looks great.

Having received no further discussion, the vote was unanimous to approve the \$600.00 funding request for the clean-up of the tombs at Village Cemetery.

Chairman thanked Edith Greisser, Tucky Taylor, James Clamp, Margaret Schumpert, Earnest Shealy and Sue Summer for all they have done on behalf of the Village Cemetery and the County.

5. Ordinance #03-06-11: An Ordinance amending the revised Solid Waste Management Plan Pursuant to §44-96-80 of the 1976 S.C. Code of Laws.

Mr. Adams stated that the County will no longer accept green glass at recycling centers because there is no market for that commodity.

Mr. Hipp motioned to approve third reading of Ordinance #03-06-11; seconded by Mr. Koon. The vote was unanimous.

6. Ordinance #03-07-11: An Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 06-11-01 relating to the membership of the Newberry Hospital Board.

Mr. Caldwell motioned to approve second reading of Ordinance #03-07-11; seconded by Mr. Koon. The vote was unanimous.

7. Ordinance #04-08-11: An Ordinance enacting and adopting the 2011 S-8 Supplement to the Code of Ordinances for the County of Newberry, South Carolina.

Mr. Hipp motioned to approve second reading of Ordinance #04-08-11; seconded by Mr. Stockman. The vote was unanimous.

8. Ordinance #04-09-11: An Ordinance to provide appropriations for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011, and ending June 30, 2012, for the Newberry County Budget for County ordinary purposes and for other County purposes for which the County may levy a tax and receive revenues; to provide for the levy of taxes on all taxable personal and real property in Newberry County for all County purposes, including sufficient tax to pay the principal and interest on outstanding indebtedness of Newberry County payable during said fiscal year; to provide for matters relating to Newberry County; and to provide for the expenditure of said taxes and other revenues coming to the County during said fiscal year, and to

provide for borrowing in anticipation of tax collections by the issuance of one or more tax anticipation notes.

Mr. Adams reported that expenditures and revenues recommended for FY 11-12 for operating purposes are balanced at \$20,856,855.00. That is \$100,000.00 or ½ of 1 percent greater than the current fiscal year's budget.

Mr. Waldrop motioned to approve first reading of Ordinance #04-09-11; seconded by Mr. Baker.

Chairman Livingston asked if there was any discussion.

Mr. Hipp asked if any of the capital projects listed in the budget were on the CPST.

Mr. Adams stated that the Capital Sales Tax Projects are budgeted separately; they are not part of the operating budget.

Mr. Hipp said that under Grants and Special Source Revenues we show VC Summer Nuclear Station Revenue of \$35,000.00. It was his understanding that it was agreed that they would provide \$75,950.00 this year.

Mr. Adams stated that was correct to which Mr. Hipp responded that we will need to adjust the revenue figure on that.

Having received no further discussion, the vote was unanimous to approve first reading of Ordinance #04-09-11 with the revenue correction noted by Mr. Hipp.

8b. Tenetha Hall and Ron Hope – Hope School Community Center

Mr. Hope thanked members of Council and shared his views on the need for recreation in the rural communities to get children outside and motivated. We are asking for 9,000.00 in funding to build a basketball court next to the Hope School for the area kids to come and play. We already have the land but need some heavy equipment to come in and do some leveling, bring in more soil, add crush and run, have it packed down and have the 85 x 50 court asphalted. We have goal posts and volunteers who are willing to erect them. Mr. Hope stated that his family and Ms. Hall's family have been instrumental in bringing the school back up to standard as a community center and they were hoping that Council would see a way for them to be able to get the basketball court done.

Ms. Hall said they were blessed to receive the grant to restore the school and they plan to keep it going and asked Council if they would help them out with this project.

Chairman Livingston commented that about five years ago they were working on this project by having multiple fundraisers. The building was an eyesore to the area at that time and it is now an asset to the community. A lot of hours, time, dedication, and commitment went into it and it looks great. He wanted to thank both Ms. Hall and Mr. Hope for all the efforts that they have made.

Mr. Hipp said that this community has pulled together to do so much to improve that school. He asked if they had received any County funding for the restoration of the school.

Mr. Hope stated that they have not received any County funding but have received grant funding.

Mr. Hipp commented that they are requesting \$9,000.00 for this basketball court but there are other costs associated that they plan on taking care of themselves and asked Mr. Hope what he thought the estimated total cost of the project would be.

Mr. Hall said they have gotten bids from the asphalt contractor and the heavy equipment operator. He said he owns the land adjacent to the school where they have cleared an area where they can remove soil and bring it to the court where it is needed and compact it. The main thing they need money for is the asphalt and heavy equipment contractors.

Mr. Hipp said the point to his questions was that throughout the whole restoration effort of this historical school, the community has done a lot on their own to get where they are without coming to Council numerous times asking for funding. It speaks highly of the community that they have done so much on their own.

Mr. Koon commended Ms. Hall and Mr. Hope on this project and the fact that the community has paid for the majority of it. He motioned that this be brought before Council at the Budget Work Session next Tuesday for consideration; seconded by Mr. Baker. The vote was unanimous.

9. Ordinance #04-10-11: An Ordinance to provide appropriations for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011, and ending June 30, 2012, for the Newberry County Library, Piedmont Technical College and the Newberry Agency for the Developmentally Disabled; to provide for the levy of taxes on all taxable personal and real estate properties in Newberry County for said purposes; to provide for the expenditure of said taxes and other revenues coming to the County during said fiscal year for said purposes.

Mr. Adams reported that expenditures and revenues for these combined budgets are balanced at \$721,505.00; the same amount as the current fiscal year.

Mr. Waldrop motioned to approve first reading of Ordinance #04-10-11; seconded by Mr. Hipp. The vote was unanimous.

10. Committee Reports

a. Public Safety and Courts Committee – 4/18/11

Mr. Adams reported that the Public Safety and Courts Committee had a lengthy agenda and the following was discussed.

- The committee recommended making monthly compensation to the Town of Silverstreet in the amount of \$40.00 to offset water usage by EMS personnel.
- Major Todd Johnson provided a preliminary drawing of plans to convert the current Piedmont Tech location to a building for the Sheriff's Department along with a rough estimate of 1.6 million dollars.
- A report of plans to improve radio services for fire, rescue, EMS, and law enforcement was presented with an estimated cost of \$400,000.00 for purchasing new radio frequencies in replacement of repeater systems at various locations in the County meeting FCC narrow-banding requirements with a deadline of January 2013.
- The committee recommended the expenditure of \$38,242.00 for a pick-up truck for Pomaria Rescue Squad.
- The committee voted to recommend that the County construct a building to house a pick-up, trailer, and boat at the Pomaria Rescue Squad with an estimated cost of \$42,000.00.
- The committee recommended construction of a sub-station for the Bush River Fire Department for an estimated cost of \$30,000.00.
- The committee voted to recommend a budget of approximately \$500,000.00 to renovate the Old Armory in Whitmire for use as headquarters for Whitmire Rescue Squad and a substation for EMS which would replace the capital budget contained in first reading of the budget. The committee's recommendation is contingent upon the Town of Whitmire expressing consent to convey the Old Armory building to the County.

Mr. Koon commented as Chairman of the Public Safety and Courts Committee that the committee recommended that these items be brought before full Council for review before making a decision.

11. Appointments

No appointments.

12. Public Comments

No comments.

13. Vote for Executive Session, When Necessary

Mr. Baker motioned to go into Executive Session; seconded by Mr. Hipp. The vote was unanimous.

14. Executive Session

Executive Session [7:50 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.]

15. Necessary Action on Matters Discussed in Executive Session

Mr. Adams reported that Council met in Executive Session and discussed matters related to the purpose for which they went into Executive Session and no action taken in that session.

16. Comments from County Administrator

Mr. Adams updated Council on the Maybinton Ball field Project and reported that to date the County has spent \$103,907.00. To complete the current phase will involve expending \$26,500.00 for fencing, \$5,000.00 for grassing, and \$4,500.00 for other miscellaneous items. At that point, we will have \$140,907.00 in it. Approximately \$15,000.00 of this total will be County fund balance money with the rest coming from CPST, grant money, and the sale of timber. Council is waiting to hear from DHEC the magnitude of the cost for the sanitary sewer before we move forward. Mr. Adams also reported that all of the bonded CPST Projects were funded yesterday. Piedmont Tech is moving forward with their plans to prepare bid documents. They have as part of these documents a bid alternate to tear down the Old Winn-Dixie building if that is what Council wants to do. These are some things to think about between now and the budget work session.

17. Comments from Council Members

No comments

18. Future Meetings

- a. Public Works and Planning Committee – 4/25/11 @ 6:00 p.m.
- b. Budget Work Session & Appeals – 4/26/11 @ 6:00 p.m.
- c. Special Called Work Session – 5/04/ 2011 @ 5:30 p.m.
- d. County Council – 5/04/11 @ 7:00 p.m.
- e. Economic Development Committee – 5/09/11 @ 6:00 p.m.
- f. “On the Move with Margaret – 05/16/11 @ 9:30 a.m.
- g. County Council – 5/18/11 @ 7:00 p.m.

19. Vote to Adjourn

Mr. Baker motioned to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Waldrop. The vote was unanimous.

20. Adjournment

Chairman Livingston declared the meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

Henry H. Livingston, III, Chairman

APPROVED:

Laurie N. Renwick, Clerk to Council