

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
DECEMBER 17, 2008**

**PRESENT:** Henry B. Summer, Chairman  
William D. Waldrop, Vice-Chairman  
John E. Caldwell, Councilman  
Henry H. Livingston, III, Councilman  
Edgar Baker, Councilman  
John David Dawkins, Councilman  
Mike Hawkins, Councilman  
Wayne Adams, County Administrator  
A.J. Tothacer, County Attorney  
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.

Mr. Summer called the meeting to order and determined a quorum present.

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

**1. Additions, Deletions, and Adoption of Agenda.**

Mr. Livingston asked that we make an addition to talk about the Discount Prescription Card. Mr. Summer stated the addition would be Agenda Item 3b.

Mr. Summer stated that he had some presentations and awards to be added as Agenda Item 3c.

Mr. Summer said his understanding from Mr. Adams was the Executive Session could be deleted from tonight's Agenda.

Mr. Livingston moved to approve the Agenda as amended; second by Mr. Baker. Vote was unanimous

**2. Ordinance #11-34-08: Ordinance acting on a request to amend the Official Zoning Map established pursuant to Zoning Ordinance No. 12-24-01, Codified in Chapter 153 of the Newberry County Code of Ordinances, so as to rezone 2 parcels containing a total of two and twenty-three hundredths (2.23) acres and designated as TMS Parcel Nos. 289-8 and 289-14, from Rural (R2) to Limited Commercial (LC).**

Mr. Hawkins moved to approve third reading; second by Mr. Baker. Vote was unanimous.

- 3. Ordinance #11-35-08: An Ordinance acting on a request to amend the Official Zoning Map established pursuant to Zoning Ordinance No. 12-24-01, Codified in Chapter 153 of the Newberry County Code of Ordinances, so as to rezone a thirty-two hundredths (0.32) acre tract designated as TMS Parcel No. 399-117, from Rural (R2) to General Commercial (GC).**

Mr. Waldrop moved to approve third reading; second by Mr. Livingston. Vote was unanimous.

**3b.** Mr. Livingston stated that through the National Association of Counties there was an opportunity for counties to get discount drug cards that could possibly help some residents. He asked Mrs. Renwick to update Council on this project.

Mrs. Renwick stated the National Association of Counties had contracted with CVS/Caremark to provide prescription discount cards to member counties to offer to their uninsured and underinsured residents. The process will be easy; there are no enrollment fees, no forms to fill out, no age or income requirements and no medical condition restrictions. The entire family will be covered under one card and most all commonly prescribed medicines will be covered. Mrs. Renwick said the cards will be located at the Courthouse Annex, the Office of Veterans Affairs, DHEC, DSS, Free Medical Clinic, Rite-Aid, Prosperity Drug Company, Prosperity Town Hall and Roche Pharmacy for residents to pick them up.

Mr. Hawkins asked if one had to prove they were a resident of Newberry County.

Mrs. Renwick stated there was no requirement for prove of residency.

Mr. Waldrop said that this was a nationwide program.

Mr. Renwick stated there are 59,000 participating pharmacies nationwide. If you have a card and happen to be out of town or out of state you can use the card at any participating pharmacy nationwide.

Mr. Livingston stated a lot of our adjoining counties are using this program and have had quite a bit of success. He said the card is basically for the uninsured and underinsured and felt that during these hard economic times, with people losing their jobs, this is a great time to offer the card. He thanked members of Council and Mrs. Renwick for making this happen.

Mr. Hawkins stated we should make sure that all newspapers and radio stations in the County have this information.

Mr. Caldwell stated that we are able to participate in this program because we are a member County of the National Association of Counties.

**3c.** Mr. Summer stated that NACO stood for the National Association of Counties. Each County that is a member of the South Carolina Association of Counties can send representatives to the National Association of Counties which gives local government officials a chance to lobby at the federal level for ideas and strategies that affect local government. Over the years, we have been very lucky to have as a member of the National Association of Counties someone from Newberry County. Mr. Johnnie Caldwell began serving on the National Association of Counties in 2000 and over the years he has served on various committees which included the Public Land Steering Committee, the Finance Committee, the Finance and Government Affairs Committee and on the Board of Directors. Mr. Summer stated it was a privilege to give this award to Mr. Johnnie Caldwell in recognition of his faithful service and contributions to Newberry County and the State of South Carolina through his work through the National Association of Counties.

Mr. Caldwell stated this was not his trophy even though his name may be on it; it is the County's trophy. He stated the State had 46 counties and if all counties were members of the South Carolina Association of Counties, our state would have 2 members and votes with NACO. Unfortunately, our State does not have 100% membership but Mr. Caldwell was elected as an at large member, which gave the State two members. He thanked everyone and stated again the award was Newberry's, not his.

Mr. Summer stated that the next award was the "Employee of the Year" award. The purpose of this award is to recognize outstanding service to Newberry County, to enhance Awareness of employee success, and to promote a positive work environment. Each employee was encouraged to participate in the nominating process. The nominations included a brief narrative describing how the nominee met certain criteria. This year's Employee of the Year met these requirements and then some. Here are a few words to describe our Employee of the Year by his peers. Professionalism, always available, on call 24/7, dedicated, highly knowledgeable, pleasant manner, loyal, kind, humorous, serves all areas of county government, timely response to work request, gets the job done, dependable, multi-tasker, 100% Newberry County.

Mr. Summer stated it was a privilege and honor to present the 2008 Employee of the Year Award to Mr. Tom Barber.

Mr. Summer presented a plaque to Mr. Barber in appreciation of his selfless commitment and service to the employees and citizens of Newberry. County.

Mr. Barber stated this came as a complete shock. He said he was asked to be here tonight to answers some questions about a new project. Mr. Barber said he was truly grateful and thanked everyone.

**4. Committee Reports.**

No committee reports.

**5. Appointments.**

No appointments.

**6. Consideration to declare the following as surplus property and authorizing sale of surplus property on GovDeals – Crystal Waldrop, Purchasing Director.**

- a. 1994 Buick Century from the Assessor's Office
- b. Forty-two Airport Runway Lights from the Airport

Mrs. Waldrop briefed Council on the items to be declared surplus property.

Mr. Adams stated that Mr. Mickey Wilson with the Airport Commission was in attendance. He has been in contact with some folks who are interested in the Airport lights.

Mr. Wilson said a friend of his, Mr. Kent Lester, is a pilot at White Plains Air Park outside of Gilbert. Mr. Lester asked him to be on the lookout for some runway lights to put at their airport. Mr. Wilson said it was his understanding that the lights would have to be surplused. He stated he has no personal interest in the lights and was only inquiring on behalf of a friend.

Mr. Baker moved to declare the property surplus; second by Mr. Dawkins.

Mr. Summer asked if there was any discussion.

Mr. Baker asked if the runway lights will go on GovDeals or should we let Mr. Wilson negotiate with Mr. Lester at White Plains Air Park.

Mr. Adams stated that if Council was OK with Mr. Wilson negotiating with the interested party that it was fine with staff.

Mr. Summer stated that the property would be declared surplus but the lights would not be put on GovDeals until Mr. Wilson has had a chance to talk with his contact.

All in favor; Vote was unanimous.

**7. Request by Councilmen.**

No request

**8. Public Comments (by those who signed up at the meeting).**

No comments

**9. Vote for Executive Session, When Necessary.**

No vote for Executive Session

**10. Executive Session.**

Executive Session Cancelled

**11. Necessary Action on Matters Discussed in Executive Session.**

No Action

**12. Comments from County Administrator.**

Mr. Adams stated he had a few recognitions if Council was agreeable. Mr. Adams said three of the Council Members were participating in their last Council meeting tonight barring some unforeseen emergency that requires a meeting over the next couple of weeks. He said it would be fitting to acknowledge and recognize their service and some of their accomplishments. The three Council Members are Mike Hawkins, John David Dawkins, and Chairman Henry Summers. He said in order to recognize them it is appropriate to punctuate their service by noting something about each man's legacy, because all three have served multiple terms as Chairman and have been active in many areas of policy making.

Mr. Adams stated that Mike Hawkins is one of the fathers of economic development in Newberry County as it exists today. During his term as Chairman, he spearheaded the founding of the New Mid Carolina Commerce Park and was a key proponent in creating an economic development office as a department of County Government. These initiatives have already begun to pay dividends and they will continue to provide job opportunities for Newberry County citizens and expand our tax base well into the future. Mr. Adams thanked Mr. Hawkins for these and other significant contributions he has made and asked him to come forward and accept a token of gratitude and perhaps say a few words.

Mr. Hawkins wanted to say a few words about Tom Barber. He said the only time he remembered calling Tom for help; he looked over his shoulder and he was standing there, like Radar on Mash. He said many people have said the same about Tom and said he appreciates everything Tom does for the county.

Mr. Hawkins introduced his wife Andy and asked her to stand. He thanked her for putting up without him for thousands of hours over the last few years. He said it has been a real honor to occupy one of the chairs up here for the last 8 years. He said he appreciated

the comments Mr. Adams made because that has been what he has put his emphasis on. Mr. Hawkins stated he has the same optimism tonight as he did when he came 8 years ago. He said Newberry County is a wonderful place to live but it can be better. In his opinion, the secret to that is a four letter word; JOBS. We have seen Pioneer Foods, Caterpillar, Nasmyth, Schweitzer-Mauduit, and now Loblolly Green Power locate in Newberry County over the last 8 years. He said he agreed with Mr. Livingston that we are facing some tough economic times and the new Council has a tough job ahead with the upcoming budget. Mr. Hawkins said he is proud of some of the things they have accomplished.

Mr. Adams stated that John David Dawkins is best known for his contributions to providing our fire and rescue service with modern serviceable facilities and equipment. He championed the concept of cost effective equipment and maintenance and replacement. He was also the primary advocate for creating the County's Emergency Services Board which is now fulfilling its purposes of coordinating activities and expenditures among a network of emergency service agencies. He asked Mr. Dawkins forward to accept a token of appreciation.

Mr. Dawkins said it has been a wonderful 8 years and he would not take anything in the world for the past 8 years in serving Newberry County. He stated he has the utmost respect for anyone willing to put their name on the ballot and sit in these seats or any other elected office in Newberry County. People do not realize the time and effort put in on behalf of the citizens of Newberry County. He stated there is not a single person that sits on the Council, no matter how he voted, in his mind he voted to better Newberry County. He said he lives on the Lake Murray and will now have the opportunity to enjoy it which he has not been able to do the last 8 years. Mr. Dawkins thanked everyone.

Mr. Adams stated that Henry Summer, over the course of his 24 years of service, has been Council's voice on major financial issues and its touchstone for gauging the value of policy proposal of all kinds. A friend to all his colleagues, Mr. Summer's even temperament and professional training made him a "go-to" guy when decisions were difficult and because of his uncommon community mindedness, his fellow members of Council knew his opinions and ideas were stripped of all but the purest motives. Mr. Adams asked the Chairman to come forward.

Mr. Summer thanked everyone and said he appreciated the support from the staff and for Council electing him as Chairman. He feels like John and Bill are his brothers and he is going to miss them. He thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve and stated it has been a privilege, and as Bob Hope use to say, "Thanks for the Memories". Chairman Summer asked his wife Sue to come forward and share this with him.

Mr. Adams made the last presentation. He stated as with tradition, he presented Mr. Summer with his gavel for his most recent service as Chairman of County Council.

**13. Comments from Council Members.**

Mr. Caldwell thanked members of Council and the legislative delegation for their support and efforts in approving and naming the Interchange at I-26 and Hwy. 121 in honor of Mr. Israel Brooks which speaks well of his character.

Mr. Baker wished everyone a good and happy Christmas and New Year.

Mr. Livingston told the three Council Members going out that he enjoyed working with them and wished all of them the best. He said he admired Chairman Summer for his 24 years of service. He asked us not to forget that we are in much better shoes than a lot of people across our Country and to keep those who are struggling and have lost their jobs in mind. It may only take a smile while you are standing in line to brighten someone's day.

Mr. Waldrop stated that he has served with Mr. Summer for 24 years on Council and Mr. Summer has been a jack of all trades for this Council and he is going to miss him. He said he has served with Mr. Dawkins and Mr. Hawkins for 8 years and was going to miss them too.

Mr. Summer thanked everyone for the recognition and appreciated the opportunity to serve and hoped that everyone has a good Christmas.

**14. Future meeting.**

- a. January 7, 2009 @ 7:00 p.m.
- b. January 21, 2009 @ 7:00 p.m.

**15. Vote to Adjourn.**

Mr. Waldrop motioned to Adjourned.

**16. Adjournment.**

Mr. Summer declared the meeting Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

APPROVED:

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Henry H. Livingston, III, Chairman

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Laurie N. Renwick, Clerk to Council

