



**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL  
BUDGET WORK SESSION  
MINUTES  
APRIL 9, 2018  
7:00 P.M.**

Newberry County Council met on Monday, April 9, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in the Courthouse Annex Conference Room, 1309 College Street, Newberry, SC, for a budget work session.

**PRESENT:** Henry H. Livingston, III, Chairman  
Kirksey Koon, Vice Chairman  
Bill Waldrop, Councilman  
Steve Stockman, Councilman  
Scott Cain, Councilman  
Travis Reeder, Councilman  
Dr. Harriett Rucker, Councilwoman  
Wayne Adams, County Administrator  
Laurie Renwick, Clerk to Council  
Debbie Cromer, Finance Director  
Karen Brehmer, Budget Specialist

**MEDIA:** Andrew Wigger, Newberry Observer

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Caroline Smith, Ken McBride, Beth Folk, Joan Malnate, Sandra Oliver, Ron Harsha, Sam Ziady, Jeff Smith, Connie Phostole, Dot Bowers, Kelly Bannister and Barbara Chapman.

The meeting was duly advertised as required by law.

- 1. *Chairman Livingston called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.***
- 2. *Appearances –***
  - a. Jeff Smith, Dot Bowers and Sam Ziady spoke on behalf of the Newberry County Library System and updated council on the great facilities and services offered at the libraries, the need to improve school test scores to attract new residents, proper funding levels per capita, and the need for staff raises and additional part-time

personnel for extended operating hours. Mrs. Ziady also requested that IT become a full-time position instead of part-time.

Chairman Livingston asked Mr. Ziady what was done with the additional \$10,976.00 allocation that was given to the library last year.

Mr. Ziady responded that this money along SC State Lottery money was used for book shelves at the Library.

Chairman Livingston enquired if library staff was given a raise when Mr. Ziady received his last one.

Dr. Rucker asked Mr. Ziady if he received a raise last year.

Mr. Ziady stated that he did not receive a raise last year but the year before.

Mr. Reeder asked who decides where the county allocated money goes.

Mr. Ziady stated that the Board decides; however, they are under state guidelines that determines percentages and where it can be used.

Dr. Rucker asked if there was anything in the bylaws that limit the term of board members.

Mr. Ziady says it is suggested but not mandated; it is hard to get people to serve when they are not compensated.

Mr. Smith said he has asked the board to look around their communities to see if anyone is interested in the library and willing to serve on the board

Chairman Livingston asked if Mr. Smith looked over the budget closely and suggested that he look and see who received raises over the past several years.

- b. Kelly Bannister spoke on behalf of the Newberry County Health Department and requested funding for a generator for emergency back-up power for vaccines during power outages. She said it was initially placed in the budget but was taken out and she was here tonight requesting that the \$50,000.00 be placed back in the budget for the generator.

Mr. Waldrop asked if they had lost any vaccines in the past due to power outages and was anyone designated to check up on things during inclement weather.

Ms. Bannister responded that they have had numerous power outages and to date have not lost any vaccines. She stated that it was her responsibility as site supervisor to make sure everything was running correctly at the Health Department.

Chairman Livingston asked how many units/refrigerators they had.

Ms. Bannister responded that there are two refrigerators and two freezers in the vaccine room that are critical. It was her understanding from Mr. West that he had recommended a 5-kilowatt generator to run the four units in that one room; however, she was told that a generator that size would run their entire building.

Mrs. Cromer, Finance Director, reported that they would contact Mr. West and get the specifics on the generator.

Chairman Livingston said in a worst-case scenario, if the power did go off and the vaccines were lost, who would absorb the cost of this loss.

Ms. Bannister responded that these are state and federal vaccines and ultimately DEHC would incur the loss.

Chairman Livingston asked if DHEC would entertain sharing the cost to purchase the generator.

Ms. Bannister stated that she doubted they would since they just assisted in renovating the building.

Mr. Cain asked if the vaccines were lost would that create a health concern for Newberry County.

Ms. Bannister said they would be able to borrow from other counties quickly so that would not be a problem.

Chairman Livingston thanked Ms. Bannister for her thorough report.

- c. David Stumbo and Jami Steifle with the Solicitor's Office were unable to attend and rescheduled their presentation at the County Council meeting on April 18, 2018.

3. **General Operating Budget** – Wayne Adams, County Administrator and Finance Staff Documents presented by Mr. Adams are attached and part of the official minutes.

4. **Capital Budgeting and Fund Balance** – Wayne Adams, County Administrator and Finance Staff Documents presented by Mr. Adams are attached and part of the official minutes.

5. **Debt Service Levy Budget** - Wayne Adams, County Administrator and Finance Staff Documents presented by Mr. Adams are attached and part of the official minutes.

6. **Community Services Levy Budget** - Wayne Adams, County Administrator and Finance Staff Documents presented by Mr. Adams are attached and part of the official minutes.

7. **Fund Balance Projection** – Wayne Adams, County Administrator and Finance Staff Documents presented by Mr. Adams are attached and part of the official minutes.

8. **General Discussion**  
No general discussion.

9. **Public Comments**

- a. Ron Harsha introduced himself and stated that he was recently hired as the Recreation Director for the Town of Whitmire. In the past, Council has been very generous with an annual allotment to run the programs in Whitmire. He reviewed the allotments from past years in the amount of \$10,000.00; however, he noted a decline (\$8,000.00) in 2013 and 2014 with the last three years there being no allotment to Whitmire at all. He asked Council if there was something he should be doing to get back the level of funding to run the programs in Whitmire.

Mr. Cain and Mr. Adams recommend a meeting with Mr. Harsha and staff next week to address his concerns.

- b. Kenneth McBride, Director of DSS, thanked Council and reported that they were very proud of the renovations that have been made to their facility and he along with staff were looking forward to the completion of the flooring project.
- c. Barbara Chapman, Director of Newberry County Literacy, thanked Council for its support and invited them to participate in the summer reading program.

**10. *Questions/comments from Council Members***

Chairman Livingston mentioned having a council retreat on a weekend after the budget process. He asked Council to think of some items they would like to address, and the retreat will be set up later.

**11. *Adjournment***

Chairman Livingston adjourned the budget work session @ 8:46 p.m.

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL**

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**Henry H. Livingston, Chairman**

**APPROVED:**

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**Laurie N. Renwick, Clerk to Council**