

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 17, 2021**

Newberry County Council met on Wednesday, February 17, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Courthouse Annex, 1309 College Street, Newberry, S.C., for a regular scheduled meeting.

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

**PRESENT:** Henry H. Livingston, III, Chairman, District 3  
Todd Johnson, Vice Chairman, District 1  
Mary Arrowood, Council Member, District 2  
Nick Shealy, Council Member, District 4  
Les Hipp, Council Member, District 5  
Johnny Mack Scurry, Council Member, District 6  
Travis Reeder, Council Member, District 7 (via Zoom)  
Wayne Adams, County Administrator  
A.J. Tothacer, Jr., County Attorney  
Karen Brehmer, Deputy Administrator  
Debbie S. Cromer, Finance Director  
Taylor Davenport, Assistant to County Administrator  
Susan C. Fellers, Clerk to Council (via live stream)

**MEDIA:** Andrew Wigger, Newberry Observer

Mr. Livingston called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and determined all Council Members to be present either in person or via Zoom.

Mr. Johnson had the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1. ADDITIONS, DELETIONS AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

There being no amendments to the Agenda, Mr. Scurry moved to adopt the agenda as presented; seconded by Mr. Shealy. Vote was unanimous.

## 2. EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Mr. Livingston recognized the following employees for their service to Newberry County:

- Janna Longshore, Sheriff's Department - 5 years
- Haley Gantt, Animal Control - 5 years
- Debbie Cromer, Finance Director - 45 years

### 3. ORDINANCE #11-24-20: AN ORDINANCE ACTING ON A REQUEST TO AMEND THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO ZONING ORDINANCE #06-11-16, CODIFIED IN CHAPTER 153 OF THE NEWBERRY COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, SO AS TO REZONE ONE REAL ESTATE PARCEL TOTALING FIFTY-TWO AND NINE-TENTHS (52.9) ACRES DESIGNATED AS TMS PARCEL NO. 631-12 (TRACT A) FROM SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (RS) AND RURAL (R2) TO SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (RSM).

#### a. Public Hearing

Motion by Mr. Scurry to hold the public hearing; second by Mr. Johnson. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Livingston declared this to be the public hearing.

Speaking in opposition to rezoning were the following persons:

- Amanda Moss
- Ronnie Kinard
- Patrick Meetze
- Becky Boland
- Andrew Boozer
- In addition, letters received from Sherree Richardson and Tom Abraham were read into the record.

Mike Satterfield with Great Southern Homes spoke regarding the County's need for housing. They are proposing 88 homes (1.7 houses per acre), If

approved and once construction starts, it will be 3-5 years to go through this procedure.

There being no further comments, Mr. Livingston declared the public hearing closed.

### **b. Third Reading**

Mr. Hipp moved to table third reading at least until the next meeting or possibly the meeting after that. That is up for discussion as to whether to postpone for 2 weeks or 4 weeks.

Mr. Shealy seconded the motion.

Mr. Livingston asked Council if they wanted to determine whether 2 weeks or 4 weeks.

Mr. Shealy preferred 4 weeks. Mr. Hipp agreed with that.

Mr. Livingston stated a motion was on the table to delay third reading for 4 weeks which would be until the March 17th meeting.

However, Mr. Livingston said he would like to see third reading potentially moved to the first meeting in March if a meeting can be set up quickly between the developer and community.

Mr. Shealy said he would get the meeting scheduled as soon as possible.

Mr. Livingston then polled Council as to Mr. Hipp's motion:

- REEDER: NO. Second and third reading were delayed for them to do this. Now it is being delayed again because they did not take advantage of it.
- SHEALY: YES.
- HIPP: YES
- ARROWOOD: YES
- JOHNSON: YES

- LIVINGSTON: YES
- SCURRY: YES

Motion passed by majority vote of 6-1.

- 4. ORDINANCE #02-04-21: AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO SUSPEND TEMPORARILY THE NORMAL OPERATING PROCEDURES APPLICABLE TO THE MEETINGS OF COUNTY COUNCIL, TO DECLARE A STATE OF EMERGENCY WITH REGARD TO COUNTY COUNCIL'S CONTINUED ABILITY TO CONDUCT NECESSARY BUSINESS OF THE COUNTY, TO PROVIDE FOR EMERGENCY PROCEDURES FOR PUBLIC MEETINGS OF COUNTY COUNCIL DURING SAID EMERGENCY, AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONTINUATION OF SAID PROCEDURES UPON EXTENSION OF THIS ORDINANCE BY COUNTY COUNCIL.**

This is an extension to the ordinance approved by Council on December 30, 2020.

Mr. Hipp moved to approve the ordinance; seconded by Mrs. Arrowood.

Mr. Johnson suggested making this permanent by another ordinance requiring three readings.

There being no further discussion, Mr. Livingston called for the vote.

Vote was unanimous.

- 5. CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE SPRINGHILL CONSTRUCTION FOR THE FLEET MAINTENANCE SHOP ADDITION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$184,900 - CRYSTAL WALDROP, PURCHASING DIRECTOR.**

Mrs. Waldrop recommended approval of the low bid from Springhill Construction in the amount of \$184,900.

Motion by Mrs. Arrowood to approve bid of Springhill Construction; second by Mr. Shealy. Vote was unanimous.

## **6. APPOINTMENTS**

Mr. Shealy moved to appoint Max Crawford to Workforce Savannah; second by Mrs. Arrowood. Vote was unanimous.

## **7. EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF NEEDED)**

No Executive Session needed.

## **8. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

James Wimmer wanted to know the status of the proposed Second Amendment Ordinance. Mr. Tothacer reported a memo had been provided to Council, which was privileged information.

Mr. Johnson said a Resolution had already been passed regarding this. Mr. Wimmer replied this is a proposed ordinance.

## **9. COMMENTS/REQUESTS FROM THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

Mr. Adams came to Newberry County 14 1/2 years ago. Debbie Cromer retired; he asked her to stay and is glad he did.

## **10. COMMENTS/REQUESTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Mr. Shealy - no comments.

Mr. Hipp thanked everyone who came tonight.

Mrs. Arrowood asked that we remember the people suffering from Covid. She also asked for a moment of silent prayer for Mr. Johnson's daughter, who is in the hospital.

Mr. Johnson appreciated everyone who came tonight.

Mr. Scurry urged that we think about what is best for Newberry County. People are not selling land. Some families have nowhere to live. We all have an obligation to Newberry County.

Mr. Reeder sought prayers for everybody all over the country. There are too many national disasters along with the Covid.

Mr. Livingston thanked everyone for being at the meeting. Also, we pay Mr. Adams a good salary to advise us as to what needs to be looked at.

**11. FUTURE MEETINGS:**

- a. Personnel & Intergovernmental, 2/22/21, 6:00 p.m.
- b. Economic Development, 3/1/21, 6:00 p.m.
- c. County Council, 3/3/21, 6:00 p.m.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Hipp moved to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Scurry. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Livingston declared the meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL**

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**Henry H. Livingston, III, Chairman**

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**Susan C. Fellers, Clerk to Council**

**Minutes Approved:** \_\_\_\_\_

Agenda Item #3: Ordinance #11-24-20. Feb 17 , 2021 meeting:

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Mr. Shealy seconded the motion.

Mr. Livingston asked Council if they wanted to determine whether 2 weeks or 4 weeks.

Mr. Shealy preferred 4 weeks. Mr. Hipp agreed with that.

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- JOHNSON: YES
- LIVINGSTON: YES
- SCURRY: YES

Motion passed by majority vote of 6-1.