

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
BUDGET WORK SESSION
MINUTES
APRIL 20, 2022**

Newberry County Council met on Wednesday, April 20, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Courthouse Annex, 1309 College Street, Newberry, SC, for a budget work session.

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

PRESENT: Todd Johnson, Chairman
Les Hipp, Vice-Chairman
Mary Arrowood, Council Member
Henry H. Livingston, III, Council Member
Johnny Mack Scurry, Council Member
Christopher Inglese, County Administrator
Karen Brehmer, Deputy County Administrator

ABSENT: Travis Reeder, Council Member
Robert N. Shealy, Council Member
Debbie S. Cromer, Finance Director
Susan C. Fellers, Clerk to Council

MEDIA: Andrew Wigger, Newberry Observer

Mr. Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. and determined a quorum to be present.

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

1. Additions, Deletions and Adoption of the Agenda

There being no additions or deletions to the Agenda, Mr. Scurry moved to adopt the Agenda, as presented; seconded by Mr. Livingston. Vote was unanimous.

2. Discussion of the FY 2022-2023 Budget

Items discussed were as follows:

- Millage for FY21-22 was 127.1; proposed millage for FY22-23 would be 128.6. County portion ONLY of millage increase would be 1.5 mills. The County has no control over any millage increase by the School District.
- Total budget for FY21-22 was \$27,354,795; total proposed budget for FY22-23 would be \$28,835,189.
- \$55,000 has been budgeted for professional services for a parks master plan to determine the needs and to seek guidance.
- An emergency study of the county as whole with options to Council to create a unified district has been recommended to include a study of personnel for emergency services. This would help to preserve ISO ratings.
- Cost of Living Adjustment of 3% across the board for all employees, with an additional 3% for Newberry County Detention Center employees and Public Works employees.
- Council inquired as to whether ARP funds could be used for emergency equipment.
- The Public Defender asked for additional money. Can this money come from the ARP funds as a one-time payment.
- Money for Clerk to Council was moved to the Administration Budget, and Mr. Livingston requested that these funds be moved back under County Council.
- The following new positions are included in the budget: (1) CPA/CFO at a cost of \$115,000 plus benefits; (2) Payroll Assistant; (3) Grants Writer; and (4) I.T. Director. Council questioned as to how we know where these positions fall until the compensation study is completed.
- The Economic Development Assistant is not in the proposed budget. Mr. Inglese felt a strategic plan was needed to move forward in this department. The money for the Assistant goes into the general fund but Mr. Livingston felt this position needed to be in the budget because Economic Development brings a lot of money into Newberry County. Mr. Livingston was also opposed to rotating interns in the Economic Development office.
- Mr. Johnson requested that the Purchasing Ordinance be revisited regarding the limit that can be approved by the Administrator before coming before County Council.
- Software upgrades for Assessor and Clerk of Court, as well as timekeeping.
- Possible increase for recycling attendants, who are currently paid \$15.50 per hour.

- Mrs. Arrowood felt using FILOT for recreational purposes could be bad if companies go out of business.
- Impact of loss of revenue on Public Safety and Recycling.

3. Public Comments

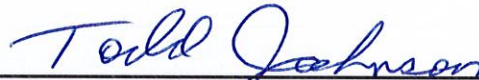
No comments.

4. Adjournment

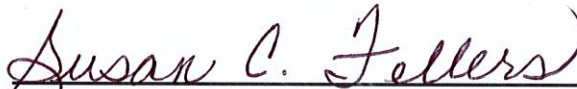
There being no further discussion, Mr. Hipp moved to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Livingston.

Mr. Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 5:41 p.m.

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL



Todd Johnson, Chairman



Susan C. Fellers, Clerk to Council

Minutes Approved: 5-18-22