

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
CPST WORK SESSION
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 14, 2022**

The Newberry County Council met on Monday, February 14, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Courthouse Annex, 1309 College Street, Newberry, SC., for a CPST Work Session.

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

PRESENT: Todd Johnson, Chairman (District 1)
Les Hipp, Vice-Chairman (District 5)
Mary Arrowood, Council Member (District 2)
Robert N. Shealy, Council Member (District 4)
Johnny Mack Scurry, Council Member (District 6)
Travis Reeder, Council Member (District 7)
Christopher Inglese, County Administrator
Karen Brehmer, Deputy County Administrator
Debbie S. Cromer, Finance Director
Susan C. Fellers, Clerk to Council
Crystal Waldrop, Procurement Director

ABSENT: Henry H. Livingston, III, Council Member (District 3)

MEDIA: Andrew Wigger, Newberry Observer

Mr. Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and determined a quorum to be present.

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

1. Presentation of Proposed CPST Projects

a. Detention Center

Captain Daniel Floyd provided Council with reasons why a new jail is necessary including the schematic details and cost, potential locations for a new jail and how this goal can be accomplished. He also provided information as to an addition to the existing site.

Needs discussed were:

- Lack of separation cells. Currently there are only 20 separation cells with all other housing units being dormitory style.
- Infrastructure is outdated with patchwork renovations. Maintenance is needed at the jail almost daily.
- Lack of adequate holding cells.
- Perimeter fencing.
- Lack of staffing applications and non competitive pay.

Potential locations for a new jail or addition:

- Option A - C&D Lane, which is on the opposite side of the city from the Sheriff's office and is in close proximity to Newberry Middle School.
- Option B - Walter Cousins Drive, which is behind the Sheriff's office and would provide continuity of command structure.
- Option C - 13,000 sq ft addition to the current site would help with separation issues with cells and dorms being added; however, this would not address all of the needs of the Detention Center and would be a very costly bandaid.

How can this be accomplished:

- Total estimated cost of a new jail is around \$15-\$20 million.
- Funding from CPST
- ARPA Funds
- Bonds for budgeting
- Possible funding from the Federal Government with requirement to provide bedspace for federal inmates

- Possibility to work into the budget.

b. Amphitheatre

Tom Pope stated this was a joint County and City venture. Mr. Pope envisions this to be used by churches, private parties, weddings, Opera House; people could eat lunch there. He believes this project to be one that the citizens will be drawn to. Businesses and younger people will benefit. This design provides capacity for 3,400 seats. It would be beautiful and wonderful for the county for young and old.

Mrs. Arrowood inquired as to how this would work jointly with the county and city. Mr. Pope advised a Memorandum of Understanding would be needed to address the responsibilities of each party.

Mr. Hipp felt it was long overdue for the county and city to work together.

Cost of this project is estimated at \$4.8 million, which Mr. Pope felt it was too high and that \$3 million would be a more realistic cost.

c. Public Safety Complex (previously the Friendly Fire Emergency Services Project)

Tommy Long, Emergency Services Director; Chief Werts, Friendly Fire Department; and Chief Johnson, Newberry Rescue Squad, were presenters of this project.

A Public Safety Complex would include a training room to be utilized as a backup EOC if the need arose, a full kitchen to have the ability to support training and EOC activations, bunk rooms to provide the ability to staff the EOC during 24 hour activations and adding full time staff as the future of emergency services grows.

Friendly Fire Department was established in 1962 and is the busiest fire station in the county. Friendly is unable to get any of the new tankers due to size

restrictions in the bay. New trucks have to be custom ordered because of these size restrictions.

Reasons for a new station with a new location:

- Out of the downtown corridor for traffic purposes
- This would benefit 5 agencies: Friendly, Newberry Rescue, Hazmat, Backup EOC, and the training ground
- Room for members to hang out providing a quicker response, morale booster, guests speakers and COVID restrictions.

Friendly is looking at maintenance issues including roof work at over \$25,000, truck repairs almost weekly, and major concrete renovations.

Current issues include disruption to the hotel, local businesses, slower response time because of traffic.

Benefits of a new station for Newberry Rescue Squad:

- Increased response times
- Recruitment and Retention (county wide)
- Increased training opportunities for emergency services county wide
- Infrastructure

A more detailed discussion along with photographs can be reviewed in the powerpoint on file in the County Administration office.

Total estimated cost of this project is \$9.6 million.

d. Mawsons Way Extension

Rick Farmer, Economic Development Director.

Why Mawsons Way Extension is needed:

- Population increase in Newberry County Industrial Park from about 690 employees in 2016 to more than 2,000 today.
- Increase in truck traffic from about 125 movements per day in 2016 to about 300 movements per day now.
- Increase in safety of ingress and egress by offering a second exit from the park with a traffic signal.
- Safer egress for Komatsu employees, who currently must turn left onto SC 219, facing a hill.
- A second entrance could be used from truck traffic, meaning employees and visitors driving cars would be separated from 18-wheelers.
- Open new sites to economic development, and “future proof” the park when more expansion comes.

Currently Mawsons Way is in disrepair, with some areas desperately needing attention. It is the responsibility of the County to provide solid, functional roads in the County industrial parks.

The estimated cost for repair and resurfacing Mawsons Way is \$1.6 million

e. Water Tower (MCCP)

Rick Farmer, Economic Development Director.

A water tower in the vicinity of highway 773 would eliminate the need for industry specific fire protection storage tanks.

Total costs of this project is estimated at \$4.9 million.

NOTE: A more detailed description and discussion of these projects can be found in powerpoints and/or documents on file in the County Administration Office.

2. Public Comments

No comments from the public.

3. Comments/Requests from County Administrator

No comments from the County Administrator.

4. Comments/Requests from Council Members

Council thanked everyone for their presentations and the information presented.

5. Adjournment

There being no other matters to come before Council, Mr. Hipp moved to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Shealy. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL



Todd Johnson, Chairman



Susan C. Fellers, Clerk to Council

Minutes Approved: 3-16-2022