

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 2, 2022**

The Newberry County Council met on Wednesday, February 2, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Courthouse Annex, 1309 College Street, Newberry, SC, for a regular scheduled meeting.

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

PRESENT: Todd Johnson, Chairman (District 1)
Mary A. Arrowood, Council Member (District 2)
Henry H. Livingston, III, Council Member (District 3)
Robert N. Shealy, Council Member (District 4)
Johnny Mack Scurry, Council Member (District 6)
Travis Reeder, Council Member (District 7)
Christopher Inglese, County Administrator
A.J. Tothacer, Jr., County Attorney
Karen Brehmer, Deputy County Administrator
Debbie S. Cromer, Finance Director
Susan C. Fellers, Clerk to Council
Crystal Waldrop, Procurement Director

ABSENT: Les Hipp, Vice-Chairman (District 5)

MEDIA: Andrew Wigger, Newberry Observer

OTHER STAFF: Ben Chapman, Sheriff's Office
Beth Folk, Clerk of Court
Donna Lominack, Auditor
Mike Pisano, Public Works Director

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

Mrs. Arrowood had the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Shealy moved to adopt the Consent Agenda consisting of the minutes of the January 19, 2022 Council meeting; seconded by Mr. Reeder. Vote was unanimous.

2. ADDITIONS, DELETIONS AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mr. Scurry moved to adopt the Agenda, as presented; seconded by Mrs. Arrowood. Vote was unanimous.

3. CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL OF BID FOR REPAIRS TO THE COURTHOUSE ELEVATOR - CRYSTAL WALDROP, PROCUREMENT DIRECTOR

Mrs. Waldrop advised 3 bids were received with MAR Construction being the most responsive. The total quote is \$234,175. Currently budgeted in FY 21-22 is \$223,350 Additional funds in the amount of \$35,829 to come from Council Contingency. Staff recommends approval of the MAR Construction bid with the balance of \$35,829 coming from Council Contingency.

Mr. Shealy moved to accept the bid from MAR Construction in the amount of \$234,175 and that the remaining \$35,829 be taken from Council Contingency; seconded by Mr. Scurry.

There being no discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

4. ORDINANCE #02-02-22: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE BUDGET ORDINANCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2021-22, ORDINANCE #04-22-21, TO PROVIDE FOR REVISED REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE APPROPRIATIONS RELATED TO OPERATING AND CAPITAL PURPOSES OF NEWBERRY COUNTY.

a. First Reading

Mr. Inglese explained that this Ordinance includes several requests, as follows:

- Classification and Compensation Study - The last compensation study was done by Archer in 2004. Staff estimates the cost of this study to be \$60,000 and recommended moving forward with the study.
- Gasoline for all county departments - Based on 6 months of actual cost and analyzing the other, it has been determined that the county will need \$100,510 for gas and another \$7,602 for diesel for a total cost of \$108,112.
- Consideration of increase in Public Works department salaries - Public Works currently has 4 vacancies. The positions have been advertised but the applicant pool is limited. Staff recommends a 6% cost for salary and fringe at a cost of \$64,272.77. The Public Works Director proposes this increase in salary for field workers only. Staff would like to move forward in increasing the salaries for 10 pay periods at a pro rata cost of \$16,505.84. The remaining cost would be budgeted in FY22-23.
- Payroll Coordinator - Previously the HR Director processed payroll utilizing 50% of her time. This person will oversee payroll, timesheets, reports, accruals, and all detailed aspects of payroll processing. This would be an exempt employee. After receiving information from the SCAC 2022 Wage and Salary report, Staff proposes a salary range of \$39,684 to \$60,152. A pro rata cost through June 30, 2022 would cost \$25,216 including fringe benefits. The remaining cost of the full time position will be appropriated in the FY22-23 budget.
- ARPA - This is more of an accounting entry. These funds were received after the FY21-22 budget was passed. The County has already expended funds in the amount of \$599,148 for premium pay, fringe benefits cost. Staff recommends the remaining 3,134,111 to be placed into Capital Projects.
- Administrative Assistant (Executive) - This position will be an administrative assistant (executive) to the County Administrator. This employee will oversee keeping the Administrator's appointments, filing,

phone calls, letter writing, research projects, and will be an exempt employee. Staff proposes a range of \$41,156 to \$60,222. The proposed budget amendment through June 30, 2022 would be \$25,243, including fringe benefits. The remaining cost of this full time position will be appropriated in the FY22-23 budget.

Mr. Reeder moved to approve first reading; seconded by Mr. Scurry. There being no discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

5. UPDATE ON CAPITAL PROJECT SALES TAX

Mr. Inglese has phone calls scheduled for tomorrow with the engineers to obtain proposals for several of the projects. Work is progressing on the co-sponsored projects and documents are being circulated for comments.

6. APPOINTMENTS

a. Upper Savannah Workforce Development Board

The Workforce Development Board has requested the appointment of Mashanda Ashton, Senior HR Business Partner for SWM International. She will replace Camila Haigler, who has now taken employment outside of the county.

Mr. Livingston moved to approve the appointment of Mashanda Ashton; seconded by Mr. Reeder. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Livingston advised that longtime Board of Zoning Appeals member Larry Longshore has asked to step down. He thanked Mr. Longshore for his many years of service on this Board. Mr. Livingston then moved to appoint Patrick Meetze to the Board of Zoning Appeals; seconded by Mr. Shealy. Vote was unanimous.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Section 30-4-70(a) of the Code of Laws of SC, as amended, 1976:

(1) Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale or purchase of property, the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to a pending, threatened, or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege, settlement or legal claims, or the position of the public agency in other adversary situations involving the assertion against the agency of a claim.

Cavanaugh Property

Mr. Reeder moved to convene in Executive Session for the above-stated reasons; seconded by Mrs. Arrowood. Vote was unanimous.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

6:20 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.

Mrs. Arrowood moved to return to open session; seconded by Mr. Livingston. Vote was unanimous.

Upon returning to open session, Mr. Johnson advised Council met for the above-stated reasons and no action was taken in Executive Session.

Mr. Livingston moved to accept the highest bid for the Cavanaugh tract; seconded by Mr. Shealy. Vote was unanimous.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments from the public.

9. COMMENTS/REQUESTS FROM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Inglese acknowledged the facilities staff because in his short time he has observed how hard they work. They set up for MLK day and continue to impress with the volume of their responsibility.

The State contract needs to be amended for building and inspection services.

The Covid numbers are going in the right direction. They are still high but not as high as the earlier days.

10. COMMENTS/REQUESTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Johnson expressed condolences to Mr. Scurry on the passing of his sister.

Mr. Livingston asked for prayers for the families of Dr. Joe Smith, Barry Dowd, Tom Crooks and Jerry Martin.

11. FUTURE MEETINGS


- County Council Budget Planning Session, 2-3-2022, 3:00-5:30 pm
- County Council Budget Planning Session, 2-4-2022, 9:00 -1:00 pm
- County Council CPST Presentations, 2-8-2022, 6:00 pm
- County Council CPST Presentations 2-14-2022, 6:00 pm
- County Council Meeting, 2-16-2022, 6:00 pm
- County Council CPST Presentation, 2-22-2-22, 6:00 pm (if needed)

12. ADJOURNMENT

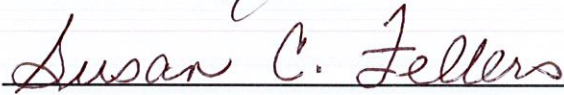
Mr. Shealy moved to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Livingston. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL



Todd Johnson, Chairman



Susan C. Fellers, Clerk to Council

Minutes Approved: 3-2-2022