

# NEWBERRY COUNTY CAPITAL PROJECT SALES TAX COMMISSION

## Orientation Meeting

November 9, 2021, 6:00 p.m.

The Newberry County Capital Project Sales Tax Commission met on Tuesday, November 9, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. for an orientation meeting. The meeting was held in the Council Chambers at the Courthouse Annex, 1309 College Street, Newberry, SC 29108.

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

PRESENT: CPST Commissioners: Lisa Toland  
Renee Joiner  
Cornelius Cromer  
Alison Johnson  
Roy McClurkin, by Zoom  
Sid Crumpton, by Zoom  
Mike Reid (alternate)  
Harry Werts (alternate)

County Staff: A J. Tothacer, Jr., County Attorney  
Karen M. Brehmer, Deputy Administrator  
Tony McDonald, Interim County Administrator  
Crystal Waldrop, Purchasing Director  
Debbie S. Cromer, Finance Director

Consulting Attorney: Theodore Dubose, Haynesworth, Sinkler, Boyd  
Media: Andrew Wigger

### 1. Agenda

Karen Brehmer, Deputy Administrator welcomed the commissioners and thanked each one for their willingness to offer their service to our county as we move forward to present a referendum to the voters of Newberry County to continue the penny sales solution for projects throughout the county.. She then introduced staff who were present.

### 2. Organizational Considerations

Jay Tothacer, Jr., the county attorney, discussed the statutory requirements of the Commission's representation and called for the election of officers. Lisa Toland was elected chair by acclamation; Renee Joiner was likewise elected vice chair. It was noted that Ms. Toland will be serving for the third time as a CPST Commissioner and Ms. Joiner for the fourth time. The county attorney emphasized that the CPST Commission is a public body under the SC Freedom of Information Act. In this regard, it was stressed that deliberations of the Commission are to be open to the public, and that any records of meetings and other deliberations or correspondence between or among members concerning CPST business are subject to open records requirements of the Act. All of council's

meetings are streamed live for the public to view as well as members to attend by zoom. The meeting's agenda for this meeting (Nov. 9, 2021) was suggested as a suitable format for future meetings. Minutes are not kept as verbatim. Generally speaking, minutes are consolidated. Recordings are available. The county attorney briefly discussed prohibitions on dual office holding. A more extensive discussion followed concerning conflicts of interest and the process of recusal. The noting of such conflicts is the responsibility of Commission members and must be submitted in writing.

### **3. Ballot Formulation – Theodore DuBose, Esquire**

Mr. Theodore DuBose, the County's bond counsel, discussed the need for the Commission to set meeting dates that will allow it to recommend a list of projects to County Council by May 18, 2022. The bulk of the Commission's work will occur in the spring of 2022. He also noted the suggested deadline for the Commission to release its calendar of meetings and project submission standards no later than November 30, 2022. He informed the group that the priority of projects is a must as the ballot is developed prior to its presentation to County Council. He discussed the events of the suggested calendar and how meeting is vital to the process. Mr. DuBose informed the commission that once the ballot was presented to county council, the duration of their commission will end.

Mr. Dubose broke down the details and procedures of the CPST to include what projects are eligible.

Mr. DuBose discussed the pay-as-you-go funding of all projects versus bonding approximately 90% of total project costs up front. Under the bonding scenario, projects further down the ballot would not have to wait; bonded projects could all commence upon funding of the bonded amount. County has been fortunate in issuing the bonds up front. The Commission will make the decision as to which projects will be bond funding and which ones will not. He estimated total funding availability for the upcoming iteration of the CPST at \$30 million, which includes funding expected to be left over from the current iteration of the CPST.

The commission will have to rank priority for the projects, decide if they will use bonded money or pay-as-you-go financing.

### **4. Discussion and Questions – by Commission members**

Ms. Joiner asked if the dates for the meeting were set in stone. Ms. Brehmer stated that the calendar was only a suggestion at this point and changes were allowed. The Commissioners voted to change the next meeting to November 29 at 6:00 P.M.

Ms. Johnson inquired about how many projects were done in the prior CPST. Ms. Brehmer stated about 15.

**5. Other Business**

None

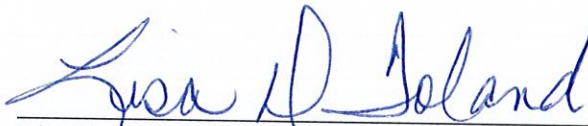
**6. Public Comments**

None

**7. Adjournments**

There being no further business, Ms. Toland declared the meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

NEWBERRY COUNTY  
CAPITAL PROJECT SALES TAX COMMISSION



Lisa Toland, Chairperson



Karen Brehmer, Deputy Administrator

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

11/29/2021