

**Newberry County Council  
Economic Development Committee**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**7:00 P.M.**

**Courthouse Annex Conference Room**

**Present:** Steve Stockman, Committee Chairman  
Scott Cain, Committee Member  
Henry H. Livingston, III, Council Chairman  
Dr. Harriett Rucker, Committee Member

**Others:** Wayne Adams, County Administrator  
Jay Tothacer, County Attorney  
Rick Farmer, Economic Development Director  
Kara Cannon, Economic Development Specialist  
Keith Avery, Newberry Electric Cooperative CEO  
Mike Briggs, CentralSC Alliance  
Tracy McMillin, CentralSC alliance  
David King, CentralSC Alliance

**Media:** None Present

**1. Call to Order**

Mr. Stockman called the meeting to order at 7:14 p.m.

**2. Election of Committee Chairman for 2018 – Wayne Adams, County Administrator**

Mr. Livingston nominated Mr. Steve Stockman for consideration as the Economic Development Committee Chairman for 2018. Dr. Rucker seconded the nomination. The vote was unanimous.

**3. Additions, Deletion, & Adoption of the Agenda**

Dr. Rucker made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Livingston seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**4. Approval of the December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Minutes**

Mr. Cain made a motion to approve the December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017 meeting minutes as written, and Mr. Livingston supplied the second. The vote was unanimous.

**5. Central SC Alliance Invoices (7-3939 & 7-3987)**

Mr. Livingston made a motion to forward the invoices to council for approval. Dr. Rucker supplied the second. The vote was unanimous.

Mike Briggs and Tracy McMillin gave a brief overview of the efforts CentralSC Alliance has made in the past year on behalf of Newberry County.

**6. Public Comments**

None

**7. Staff Report**

**a. Project Activity**

Mr. Farmer reported that project activity is flat. Department of Commerce confirms project activity is slow. Mr. Farmer stated that Newberry County has only worked three new projects this far in 2018, and none of those originated with the state.

**b. Product Development**

Mr. Farmer reported that the Mid-Carolina Commerce Park recertification is underway and should be completed sometime this summer.

The Mid-Carolina Commerce Park Lot 14 Clearing, grubbing, and grading effort is still in the funding process. Mr. Farmer said after numerous requests AT&T has agreed to participate, with an estimated \$75,000 in funding.

Mr. Farmer said the I-26 Mega Site options will soon lapse. He said the SC Department of Commerce has now taken over the effort of re-negotiating those options.

Mr. Farmer said he has met with 9 potential developers of a new spec building for Newberry county with several of those presenting offers. He said he has a meeting with a 10<sup>th</sup> company this week.

**c. Prospect Development**

Mr. Farmer spoke on some recent marketing efforts, to include: M CCP flyers being completed by the CentralSC Alliance, new Mega Site drone footage captured by CSX, a

potential virtual spec being created by Harper Corporation, and a Korean mission this fall.

Mr. Farmer also discussed a recent state spec analysis Kara put together. It shows that currently, in the state of South Carolina, there are 26 spec buildings and 28 spec buildings in the planning or construction phases. Most of these buildings have been built in the past 2-3 years.

**d. Existing Industry**

Mr. Farmer reported that Big Gun Robotics has added some investments and jobs in the past year, we will be awarding them a “Growth Award” at our annual “Toast of the Town” event on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Komatsu has also added more than 60 new jobs and Samsung now has a second line up and running. He said ArctiChill is doing well, and looking for welders, and we are assisting that effort.

We have a couple of upcoming jobs fairs. One will be held at Newberry College in April and another at Piedmont Tech- Newberry Campus on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**e. Other**

Mr. Farmer announced to the committee that Samsung0Newberry has been recognized and won several awards in the past six months: Project of the Year award by the SC Chamber of Commerce; a CiCi award (Community Investment-Community Impact) from *Trade and Industry Development* magazine; South Carolina was awarded as *Business Facilities* magazine’s State of the Year; and *Site Selection* magazine will soon announce the Samsung project as one of the nationwide Top 20 Deals of 2017.

We have our annual industry appreciation event, “Toast of the Town”, coming up on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Farmer has been in talks with several Human Resource managers and directors from our local industries about reviving Newberry County’s defunct human resources association.

Mr. Farmer delivered some hard copies and a brief overview of the SC Power Team’s newest data tool.

**8. Executive Session**

Chairman Stockman stated that the committee would like to go into Executive Session in accordance with SC Code §30-4-70 (A) (2) and (A) (5) and with regards to current projects

and potential contractual agreements. Mr. Livingston made a motion to go into Executive Session and Dr. Rucker offered the second. The vote was unanimous.

**[7:41 p.m.-8:46 p.m.]**

Mr. Adams stated that the committee met in Executive Session and no action was taken in that session.

**9. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m. Mr. Livingston offered the motion to adjourn, and Dr. Rucker supplied the second. The vote was unanimous.

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**APPROVED:**

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**Steve Stockman, Committee Chairman**

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**Kara Cannon, Recorder**