

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 28, 2022**

The Newberry County Council Economic Development Committee met on Monday, February 28, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Courthouse Annex, 1309 College Street, Newberry, SC, for its regularly scheduled meeting.

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

PRESENT: Henry H. Livingston, III, Committee Chair
Robert N. Shealy, Council Member _____
Travis Reeder, Council Member (via ZOOM)
Christopher Inglese, County Administrator
Rick Farmer, Economic Development Director
Susan C. Fellers, Clerk to Council

1. Call to Order

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

2. Election of Chair for 2022

Mr. Livingston turned the meeting over to Mr. Inglese for election of the Chair for 2022.

Mr. Inglese opened the floor for nominations. Mr. Reeder nominated Mr. Livingston to continue serving as Chair; seconded by Mr. Shealy. There being no further nominations, Mr. Inglese called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

Meeting was turned back over to Mr. Livingston.

3. Additions, Deletions and Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Shealy moved to adopt the Agenda, as presented; seconded by Mr. Reeder. Vote was unanimous.

4. Approval of December 6, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Shealy moved to approve the December 6, 2021 Minutes, as presented; seconded by Mr. Reeder. Vote was unanimous.

5. Public Comments

No comments from the public

6. Staff Report - Rick Farmer, Economic Development Director

a. Project Activity - Activity is high with 6 new projects this quarter in which Newberry County is participating. There are several potential expansions in the works.

b. Product Development

i. Mid-Carolina Commerce Park Expansion Update - Construction continues and is on time with an estimated completion date in late spring of 2022. This construction will open up 7 or 8 new sites to development. In the past year Newberry County has gone from 1.5 Class A sites to 10.5 Class A sites.

ii. Mid-Carolina Commerce Park II Update - Construction on Daeyoung continues and this company should be up and running by August. This is a \$5 million dollar company with 224 jobs. Hiring will start in a few months.

iii. CPST Update - Two Economic Development projects will be presented:0

1. Mawsons Way Extension and Repairs - Extension at a cost of \$2.8 Million and repairs/resurfacing of existing road at a cost of \$1.6 Million.

2. New elevated water tank for I-26/SC 773 Intersection with an estimated cost of \$4.9 Million.

c. Prospect Development

- i. State of SC Korea Mission** - This has been rescheduled from July to October and staff will be participating in person. Mr. Farmer will represent Newberry County and the Central SC Alliance at this Mission.
- ii. SC Auto Summit** - This will be held on March 1-3 in Greenville and is the first in-person summit in 2 years. BMW, Mercedes and Volvo will all participate, along with many automotive suppliers.

d. Other

- i. Economic Development Strategic Planning** - Mr. Inglese addressed this issue. Newberry County needs policy document guidance on sending County time and resources. Newberry County would like to hire an expert to assist with this. There is funding in this year's budget and the County would like to get started as soon as possible, as this will take approximately 9 months to a year to complete.

Mr. Inglese presented 3 options for the process:

1. Staff intensive process
2. Council intensive process in which the Council would act as the Economic Development Task Force. This would require meeting several times in various parts of the County.
3. Each Council Member would appoint to a 7 member task force with 3 ex officio members appointed by Administration. The Council would approve the final product of this task force. Staff recommends this option.

The consensus of the Committee was to recommend Option 3 to the full Council for action. Accordingly, Mr. Shealy moved to present to full Council with the recommendation of option 3; seconded by Mr. Reeder. Vote was unanimous.

- ii. **Central SC Invoice** - Mr. Shealy moved to present consideration of payment of the quarterly \$18,000 invoice to full Council; seconded by Mr. Reeder. Vote was unanimous.
- iii. **Recent Existing Industry Contacts with Georgia Pacific, West Fraser, Big Gun Robotics, KRA, MM Technics, Pioneer, Kiswire, Comfort Care, KT Manufacturing, Samsung and Others** - Mr. Farmer's goal is to visit each industry at least once per year.
- iv. **Economic Development Review (SC Power Team)** - Mr. Farmer will attend this meeting to be held in Hilton Head on March 16-18.

7. Comments by and discussion items from Committee Members

The committee expressed appreciation to Mr. Farmer for his work.

- 8. **Executive Session: Section 30-4-70(a)(2) and (a)(5): Discussion of matters incident to proposed contractual arrangements, and related to the proposed location, expansion, or the provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other business in the area served by the public body, including Projects Titan, Harmony, Green, Joe Firefly, Viking and others.**

Mr. Shealy moved to go into Executive Session for the above-stated reasons; seconded by Mr. Reeder. Vote was unanimous.

EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:40 P.M. - 7:15 P.M.

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

9. Adjourn

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

Mr. Livingston declared the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**



Henry H. Livingston, III, Chair



Susan C. Fellers, Clerk to Council

Minutes Approved: 4-20-22