

**Newberry County Council  
Economic Development Committee**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**June 27<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:** Rick Farmer, Economic Development Director  
Kara Cannon, Economic Development Specialist  
Keith Avery, Newberry Electric Cooperative CEO  
Brian Nash, Marlboro Development Team  
Kyle Edney, Marlboro Development Team  
Aimee Talbot, Newberry Downtown Development Association  
Chris Kemper, Newberry Downtown Development Association

**Media:** None Present

**1. Call to Order**

Mr. Stockman called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

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

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

**3. Approval of the March 26<sup>th</sup>, Minutes**

Mr. Cain made a motion to approve the March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018 meeting minutes as written, and Dr. Rucker supplied the second. The vote was unanimous.

**4. Public Comments**

None

## **5. Staff Report**

### **a. Project Activity**

Mr. Farmer reported that project activity has picked up. We have 8 new bona-fide projects so far in 2018, to include: food manufacturing, automotive suppliers, plastics, solar, warehousing, and metal stamping. Also, our Samsung supplier contacts are increasing.

### **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 stuck in the funding process. Mr. Farmer said after numerous requests AT&T has agreed to participate, with \$80,000 in funding. The South Carolina Department of Commerce denied our grant request for \$300,000 to help fund this project. The county has \$355,000 allocated for this in the new budget, not \$481,000 as previously understood.

Mr. Farmer said he has met with 13 potential developers of a new spec building for Newberry county with several of those presenting offers.

Mr. Farmer said the I-26 Mega Site options have expired. And the site certification expires in 2018. The South Carolina Department of Commerce is engaged, and has sent a representative to speak with key landowners about future participation. He said the Economic Development Department recently worked with site consultants McCallum-Sweeney in a state-sanctioned mega site evaluation process.

### **c. Prospect Development**

Mr. Farmer spoke on some recent and near future marketing efforts, to include: Mid-Carolina Commerce Park flyers being completed by the CentralSC Alliance, a possible Korean mission this fall, and a planned Sweden mission in October.

### **d. Existing Industry**

Mr. Farmer reported on recent visits with multiple existing industries over the past several months. Samsung continues to work on Phase II, west of Cannon Creek Court. He said Trucast is implementing its expansion, Kraft-Heinz is growing with the addition of a couple hundred new employees, Carolina Cutting Tools' business is very strong, Carolina Concrete is a large Samsung supplier for concrete, and SWM is scheduled to have construction of its new facility (the county's former spec building) completed by August.

Mr. Farmer announced to the committee that we recognized a few of our local industries with awards at the annual "Toast of the Town" event back in May. These included: Big Gun Robotics (Growth Award), West Fraser (Investment Award), and Komatsu (Growth Award). He said the event was well attended and he has received very positive feedback.

**e. Other**

Mr. Farmer presented a new workforce development initiative to the committee. It will be a Laurens/Newberry Industrial Showcase to be held in the fall at the Center for Advanced Manufacturing in Laurens. This will be a job fair type format specifically for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in the Laurens and Newberry School Districts. Piedmont Technical College, Newberry County School District, both Laurens County School Districts, Laurens County Economic Development Corporation and the South Carolina Department of Commerce will all be partners in this initiative. Mr. Farmer requested that the committee opine on the worthiness of this effort. He said he would be happy to fund this from the Economic Development Budget with approval of the county administrator.

Mr. Farmer also brought forth a new business retention and expansion initiative, Fast Trac Entrepreneurial Training. Aimee Talbot, from the Newberry Downtown Development Association, spoke to the committee about this opportunity. It is a 10-week course, three hours a week, that will be held at Newberry College. It is for existing small businesses within Newberry County and will give them an intense crash course in entrepreneurship. The City and the Chamber of Commerce have agreed to fund \$1,000 each, and Newberry College will provide classroom space and Business Department professors to help facilitate. Mrs. Talbot requested the same of the county. Mr. Cain made a motion to recommend the full council approve the request, and Dr. Rucker seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**6. 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. Dr. Rucker made a motion to go into Executive Session and Mr. Cain offered the second. The vote was unanimous.

**[7:43 p.m.-9:14 p.m.]**

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

**7. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 p.m. Dr. Rucker offered the motion to adjourn, Mr. Livingston supplied the second. The vote was unanimous.

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**APPROVED:**

  
Steve Stockman, Committee Chairman

  
Kara Cannon, Recorder