

**Newberry County Council
Economic Development Committee**

MEETING MINUTES

March 27th, 2017

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

Media: None Present

1. Call to Order

Mr. Livingston called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. Election of Committee Chairman for 2017 – Wayne Adams, County Administrator

Mr. Livingston called for nomination of Steve Stockman for the Economic Development Committee Chairman. Dr. Rucker seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

3. Approval of the December 5th, 2016 and January 20th, 2017 Minutes

Mr. Livingston made a motion to approve the December 5th, 2016 and January 20th, 2017 meeting minutes as written, and Mr. Cain supplied the second. The vote was unanimous.

4. Additions, Deletion, & Adoption of the Agenda

Mr. Livingston made the motion to adopt the agenda. Mr. Cain seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

5. Central SC Alliance Invoices (January-March, April-June 2017)

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

6. Public Comments

None

7. Staff Report

a. Project Development

Mr. Farmer reported that we currently have more than 18 active projects. These include: food processing, assembly, metal working, solar, and an existing industry expansion. Mr. Farmer also spoke about the January 25th, 2017 Groundbreaking Ceremony for MM Technics. He reported that it was a great event with a sizeable turnout.

b. Product Development

Mr. Farmer spoke about the South Carolina Department of Commerce's LocateSC Site Enhancement Initiative. It is a grant award program that can offer up to \$300,000 towards site enhancement efforts. Mr. Farmer discussed some possible options, to include: furthering the road in the Mid-Carolina Commerce Park, grading of sites in the Mid-Carolina Commerce Park, and due diligence on the "Public Works Site." The committee had some discussion, but no decision was made.

c. Prospect Development

Mr. Farmer spoke on some recent marketing efforts. Newberry County Economic Development was featured in SCBIZ Magazine and Expansions Solutions Magazine.

d. Professional Development

Mr. Farmer informed the committee that Kara Cannon recently completed the South Carolina Economic Development Institute and will be attending the Basic Economic Developer's course at UNC-Chapel Hill this summer.

e. Existing Industry

Mr. Farmer reported that International Paper – Prosperity Operations has been rumored to be slowing down its production, but has not been able to confirm. Mr.

Farmer also discussed our upcoming annual “Toast of the Town” for industry appreciation week. The event is scheduled for May 9th, 2017 at Community Hall. It will be similar to last year’s, since it had such great success.

f. Other

None

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. Mr. Cain made a motion to go into Executive Session and Mr. Livingston offered the second. The vote was unanimous.

[7:37 p.m.-8:33 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 8:34 p.m. Mr. Cain offered the motion to adjourn, and Mr. Livingston supplied the second. The vote was unanimous.

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

APPROVED:

Steve Stockman, Committee Chairman

Kara Cannon, Recorder