

**Newberry County Council
Economic Development Committee**

MEETING MINUTES

**December 15, 2014
6:00 PM
Courthouse Annex Conference Room**

PRESENT: **Leslie (Les) Hipp, Committee Chairman**
Henry H. Livingston, Council Chairman (arrived @ 6:08 p.m.)
Scott Cain, Committee Member
Steven C. Stockman, Committee Member

OTHERS: **Teresa Powers, Economic Development Director**
Wayne Adams, County Administrator
Laurie Renwick, Clerk to Council
Keith Avery, CEO, Newberry Electric Coop.
Patrick Meetze, Citizen

MEDIA: **None present**

1. Call to Order

Mr. Hipp called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Additions, Deletions, and Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Cain motioned to adopt the agenda as presented, seconded by Mr. Stockman; unanimously adopted.

3. Approval of September 8, 2014 Minutes

Mr. Cain motioned to approve the September 8th minutes as presented; seconded by Mr. Cain; unanimously approved.

4. Public Comments

None

5. Central SC Alliance

- a. Quarterly Report –**
- b. Invoice Approval (3rd Quarter FY14/15)**

Ms. Powers reviewed the report submitted by Central SC Alliance with committee members. She noted that the county has been actively involved with 29 projects to date; doubling last year's total of 14 projects. The Mid-Carolina spec building was submitted on 13 of those 29 projects. She said some of these projects have been closed out but a lot are still active now; we have had good activity this year.

Mr. Cain asked Ms. Powers about her work load and if she needed any help.

Mrs. Powers stated that Central has been helping with the RFI's and gathering other data as needed; we have been getting those turned around with no trouble at this time.

There was general discussion about the services provided by Central Alliance and the benefits of their marketing efforts.

Mr. Cain motioned to recommend Central's 3rd Qtr. Invoice payment to full Council; seconded by Mr. Stockman; unanimously approved.

6. Report on SEUS Japan Conference and Trip

Ms. Powers reported that they had a good trip in Japan where they met with 4 companies in addition to the conference attendance. They attended an event with a speaker from FUGI Films and also met with officials at ISE. In Korea, they met with an accountant who gave them an overview of dealing with Korean companies and met with Select USA folks at the US Embassy who work trying to get Korean investments in the US. Central Alliance was responsible for coordinating with the consultants who lined up the meetings in Korea and the SC Department of Commerce was instrumental in lining up the meetings in Japan. The challenge is to try and get in front of these companies at least 18 months before their expansion plans. We had a Japanese company come and look at the spec building only because we met with them in Japan.

Mr. Adams stated that Ms. Powers and Mr. Hipp are really great at meeting with these people and describing the assets that Newberry County has to offer.

Mr. Hipp said it was a very productive trip which gave us another opportunity to build relationships with the Dept. of Commerce and other elements within the state that are responsible for economic development and marketing. It lets Commerce folks get to know us and see us being proactive by being there and that we have product. It was well worth the time and pain of getting there and back.

Mr. Adams said the ISE and Kiswire folks were great and he was glad they went over and strengthened those relationships.

7. Report on Area Development Consultants Forum in Florida

Ms. Powers reported that Area Development is one of the trade publications for site selection and this was their 18th forum where they bring in consultants to do the presentations and programing. She said she had face to face conversations with at least half of these consultants talking about the Mega Site and Newberry County. It was well worth it to get time with these consultants and build relations with them.

8. Mega Site Update

Ms. Powers reported that the site has been certified and we are now working around the wetland mitigation which has to be approved by application/permitting through the Corp. of Engineers. We are trying to reduce the time and risk of prospective companies by trying to pre-permit a 500 acre box.

Mr. Adam said that with the help of GEL, we are looking to identify property and credits so we can secure the plan when needed.

9. Executive Session

Mr. Hipp stated that the committee would like to go into Executive Session in accordance with SC Code §30-4-70(A)(2) and §30-4-70(A)(5)

Mr. Livingston motioned to go into Executive Session; seconded by Mr. Cain. The vote was unanimous.

[6:45 p.m. – 7:28 p.m.]

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

10 Adourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Leslie Hipp, Committee Chairman

APPROVED:

Laurie Renwick, Recorder