

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES**  
**August 18, 2025**

Newberry County Council Economic Development Committee met on Monday, August 18, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Courthouse Annex, 1309 College Street, Newberry, SC, for a regular scheduled meeting.

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

PRESENT: Karl Sease, Committee Chair  
Travis Reeder, Committee Member  
Robert N. Shealy, Committee Member  
Jeff Shacker, County Administrator  
Rick Farmer, Economic Development Director  
Jessie Long, Economic Development Coordinator  
  
Eric Nieto, I.T. Director  
Andrew Wigger, Clerk to Council/PIO

Mr. Reeder led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Sease called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

1. Additions, Deletions, & Adoption of the Agenda.

- Mr. Shealy made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented; Mr. Reeder provided the second and the motion carried 3-0.

2. Public Comments.

- There were no public comments.

3. Staff Report

a. Updates – Product/Prospect Development:



i. Current Project Activity

- Mr. Farmer said that current project activity is up but limited because the county is missing a lot of opportunities. He said they missed five of the last seven opportunities, four of which wanted an empty building. The other needed 500+ acres.

ii. Existing Industry Visits

- Mr. Farmer said now that Ms. Long is on staff, he is able to visit existing industries more. He said they are seeing a mostly positive outlook.
- Recently, Piedmont Tech. asked Newberry County Economic Development to survey existing industries on their workforce needs, to see if there was any skillset they were looking for. Something they are hearing is that industries need welders.
  - Mr. Shealy asked if Piedmont Tech. still has the welding program in Greenwood; to which Mr. Farmer answered in the affirmative. Mr. Long said there is a program in Laurens, as well.
- Mr. Farmer said some of the industries are struggling with tariffs as their costs have gone up.

b. Strategic Planning:

i. Infrastructure Expansion

- Construction has started on Mawson's Way, a project that has been in discussion for a few years. Mr. Farmer believes this will be a fast moving project, possibly completed after the first of the year.
- The county is now on phase 3B of the water/sewer at Mid-Carolina Commerce Park, this will take water and sewer all the way to the back of the park, before it crosses the creek.



## ii. Workforce Development

- Ms. Long said they have an Industrial Seminar event here in Newberry coming up to include speakers from the area and state. The event will be on Sept. 9 during lunch, and they have numerous people already signed up.
- Mr. Farmer said he is looking for a sponsor but will pay for it out of their budget if he is unable to find one.

## iii. Marketing and Promotion

- Ms. Long said they have gradually been making updates to the website with a few more changes coming.
- She said they have been continuing to work with the Central SC Alliance and LocateSC.
- A new property is going to come up on the Palmetto Sites.
- Mr. Farmer and Ms. Long have been attending multiple meetings and events for economic development.

4. Executive Session §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 Altair, Stelvio, Captain America, Frontier, Orchid, other relevant projects, and economic incentives.

- Mr. Shealy made a motion to go into Executive Session; Mr. Reeder provided the second and the motion carried 3-0.
- Newberry County Economic Development Committee went into Executive Session at 5:19 p.m.
- Mr. Reeder made a motion to come out of Executive Session; Mr. Shealy provided the second and the motion carried 3-0.
- Newberry County Economic Development Committee came out of Executive Session at 6:04 p.m.




5. Comments by and discussion items from the Committee Members

- Mr. Reeder said they received good information and told staff to keep up the great job.
- Mr. Shealy said excellent information and said everyone is doing a great job and Ms. Long is an asset to the department.

6. Adjourn

- Mr. Shealy made a motion to adjourn; Mr. Reeder provided the second and the motion carried 3-0.
- Newberry County Economic Development Committee adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL**

  
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**Karl Sease, Chairman**

  
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**Andrew Wigger, Clerk to Council**

Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

9-3-2025