

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES
June 23, 2025**

Newberry County Council Economic Development Committee met on Monday, June 23, 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

1. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance – Robert Shealy, Committee Member.

- Mr. Shealy led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Call to Order – Karl Sease, Chairman.

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

3. Additions, Deletion, & Adoption of the Agenda.

- There were no additions or deletions.

4. Public Comments.

- There were no Public Comments.

5. Staff Report

a. Project Activity

- Mr. Farmer said project activity is between slow and fast. He said they are seeing huge projects (hundreds of millions of dollars and in some cases a thousand jobs), but they are not seeing the typical projects (\$15 million in investment, 35 jobs).
- Mr. Farmer said they hope that after some of the tariff information becomes clearer, then that will ease up and they will see more activity among mainstream projects.
- The county has seen expansion activity, several companies in town that are considering options to expand. Kraft-Heinz has let the county know they are nearly complete with the terms of their 2023 expansion.

b. Product Development:

i. Water-Sewer Extension for MCIP.

- This project will get water to the last five sites within the Mid-Carolina Commerce Park. The sewer is going to be done on the west side of the park.
- Following the completion of the water and sewer extension, this will only leave the asphalt project left to be completed for this phase.
- The county received a grant from the Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) for \$650,000, which will be matched with Utility

Tax Credits from the Newberry Electric Cooperative for this water-sewer extension.

- Mr. Farmer said they have the water permit in hand and the sewer permit should be forthcoming. They will go for bids roughly in July and come before Newberry County Council in August for consideration. This will allow construction to take place in September.
- Mr. Sease asked if the water that will be provided will be purchased from the City of Newberry. Mr. Farmer said the Newberry County Water and Sewer Authority will own this infrastructure.

ii. Mawsons Way Extension.

- This project will take the L-shaped road and turn it into a U-shaped Road, according to Mr. Farmer.
- The winning bidder was Satterfield Construction (about \$2.5 million), with the bids coming in lower than the estimates.
- Construction should start in late July.
- Mr. Shealy asked if they were going to start at the back entrance of Komatsu, to which Mr. Farmer answered in the affirmative.
- Mr. Farmer said this project will allow commerce to flow more smoothly and it will make things safer out there.
- Mr. Farmer said this will open up three industrial sites to development, around 40-50 acres total.

c. Prospect Development:

i. Web site improvements.

- Ms. Long said they have completed an intensive review of the web pages for Economic Development on the Newberry County website and getting those updated. Through the strategic plan, a

few areas were already identified. There are new pages that are still being built.

- Ms. Long also said they are looking at events, one of which is Toast of the Town, but they are looking at rebranding that event named something different. Ms. Long has met with the Newberry County Chamber of Commerce to make sure they are not doing something they are already doing, so they can collaborate and rely on both of their resources.
- Mr. Farmer said what he is looking for Ms. Long to do is take charge of workforce development. He said she will be the educational liaison to bring all of these units together and work in a coordinated way to work together.
- The Central SC Alliance is working on a video on Newberry South Industrial Site.

d. Other:

i. Personnel (new hire).

- Ms. Long is the new Economic Development Coordinator and will assist Mr. Farmer and make the department better. Mr. Farmer thanked Mr. Shacker for letting him hire someone that was not completely green. He said he was able to go out and get someone with experience and skills. Mr. Farmer said Ms. Long only needs to learn the economic development portion of the job, and she has already begun.

6. 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, Eco, Frontier, Orchid and Pinto.

- 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 5:16 p.m.
- Mr. Shealy made a motion to come out of Executive Session; Mr. Reeder provided the second and the motion carried 3-0.
- The Newberry County Economic Development Committee came out of Executive Session at 5:45 p.m.

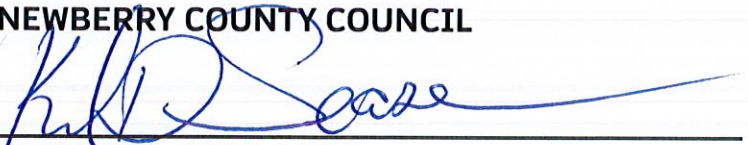
7. Comments by and discussion items from the Committee Members.

- Mr. Shealy said good information and glad to have Ms. Long in the Economic Development department and she did an excellent job in her previous position, as well.
- Mr. Sease said glad to have her on board and he has heard good things from his neighbors on how she helped them in the recreation division over the summer. He said he thinks we have a good team here at the county.


8. Adjourn.

- Mr. Shealy made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Reeder provided the second and the motion carried 3-0.
- Newberry County Economic Development Committee adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL



Karl Sease, Chairman



Andrew Wigger, Clerk to Council

Minutes Approved: 7-2-2025