

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES
MARCH 1, 2021**

The Newberry County Council Economic Development Committee met on Monday, March 1, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Courthouse Annex, 1309 College Street, Newberry, S.C., for a regular scheduled meeting. Notice of the meeting was duly advertised, as required by law.

PRESENT:

Henry H. Livingston, III, Committee Chairman
Travis Reeder, Council Member
Johnny Mack Scurry, Council Member
Nick Shealy, Council Member
Mary Arrowood, Council Member
Leslie Hipp, Council Member
Wayne Adams, County Administrator
Jay Tothacer, County Attorney
Rick Farmer, Economic Development Director
Kara Cannon, Economic Development Deputy Director
Taylor Davenport, Assistant to the Administrator
Keith Avery, CEO, Newberry Electric Cooperative

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Livingston called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and determined a quorum to be present.

2. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN FOR 2021 – WAYNE ADAMS,
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Reeder nominated Mr. Henry Livingston, III for consideration as the Economic Development Committee Chairman for 2021. Mr. Scurry seconded the nomination. The vote was unanimous.

3. ADDITIONS, DELETIONS AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

There being no additions or deletions to the Agenda, Mr. Scurry moved to adopt the Agenda as presented; seconded by Mr. Reeder. Vote was unanimous.

4. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 7, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Shealy moved to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Mr. Reeder. Vote was unanimous.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments from the public.

6. STAFF REPORT - RICK FARMER, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Mr. Farmer reported a steady flow in project activity in the last quarter, with three new projects, Atlantic, Speed Racer II, and Eco.

Newberry South Industrial Site - The property is under the control of Newberry County. Now Palmetto Sites Certified. Evaluation was positive, due diligence is complete and property is being marketed by Newberry County and Duke.

Mid-Carolina Commerce Park - Notice's to Proceed have been approved and submitted. Engineering work has started last week.

Mid-Carolina Commerce Park II - Closing will take place this week. All due diligence is complete, and the site is currently in the process of getting Palmetto Sites certified. There are 2 projects in late stages looking at this site.

Prospect Development - Mr. Farmer showed a new drone video of MCCP II that was done by CentralSC Alliance, at no cost to the County. Newberry County has been featured in "County Spotlight" in SC Biz magazine.

Mr. Shealy made a motion to send two CentralSC invoices to full council for approval. Mr. Scurry seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

There was a Drive-Thru Job Fair conducted on February 17th in the Piedmont Technical College Parking lot. It was limited to five companies, but only four showed. It was a light crowd, with 21 cars participating and 30 job seekers.

Mr. Farmer reported the following recent existing industry visits (both virtual and in person): Pleasurecraft Boats, Samsung, Komatsu, SWM, Valmont, Kiswire, Big Gun Robotics, KRA, and MM Technics.

7. DISCUSSION OF ORDINANCE # 03-06-21

Mr. Shealy, being an employee of Newberry Electric Cooperative, asked to recuse himself from the discussion of this Ordinance.

Mr. Adams gave explained to the Committee the parameters of this Ordinance. Essentially, the Co-op is seeking FILOT treatment (6% assessment ratio vs. 10.5%) and a 20% special source revenue credit (SSRC) for the investments listed in the document. These investments primarily concern the expansion of broad band access to certain areas of the county (listed by NEC substation name) and the addition of a substation to serve the expanding Mid-Carolina Commerce Park (if necessary, to serve new users). The FILOT treatment would be limited to 1) the items listed AND 2) an amount not to exceed \$14.5 million.

Mr. Avery, CEO of Newberry Electric Cooperative, also gave some explanation of what this Ordinance will allow the Co-Op to do for Newberry County.

There were no questions from Committee members. Mr. Reeder made a motion to send to full council, Mr. Scurry offered the second.

8. COMMENTS BY AND DISCUSSION OF ITEMS FROM THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

No comments.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:24 p.m., Mr. Shealy moved to go into Executive Session pursuant to §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 Spectrum, Powder, Sam II and planned local expansions.; seconded by Mr. Reeder. Vote was unanimous.

At 6:47 the Committee returned to open session. Mr. Adams reported the Committee met for the reason stated above and no action was taken.

10. ADJOURN

Mr. Livingston declared the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Henry H. Livingston, III, Chairman

Susan C. Fellers, Clerk to Council

Approved: _____