

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
June 12, 2023**

*The Newberry County Council Economic Development Committee met on Monday, June 12, 2023 in the Courthouse Annex Conference Room, 1309 College St., Newberry, SC, for a regularly scheduled meeting.*

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

**PRESENT:** Travis Reeder, Council Member, Committee Member  
Les Hipp, Council Vice-Chair, Committee Chairman  
Jeff Shacker, Newberry County Administrator  
Rick Farmer, Economic Development Director

**ABSENT:** Nick Shealy, Council Member, Committee Member

**1. Call to Order**

Chairman Les Hipp called the meeting to order.

**2. Additions, Deletions & Adoption of the Agenda**

Chairman Hipp asked the committee if there were any additions or deletions of the agenda. Hearing none, Mr. Reeder made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Hipp gave the second. There was no discussion and the vote to approve the agenda was unanimous.

**4. Public Comments**

Mr. Hipp asked Mr. Farmer if anyone signed up to speak publicly at the meeting. Mr. Farmer said no one had.

**5. Staff Report**

a. Project Activity: Mr. Farmer reported that project activity has picked up in the last quarter, and said there were seven site submissions since the committee last met. He said there are several expansions at local industries pending.

**b. Product Development**

i. Mr. Farmer said the new road in Mid-Carolina Commerce has been completed. He said final steps include the disbursement of grant funds. He told the committee a \$600,000 grant from the state had been requested and the funds received. He said a \$1.5 million grant promised by the SC Power Team had been applied for, but has not yet been delivered.

ii. Mr. Farmer reminded the committee that the Daeyoung Construction in Mid-Carolina Commerce Park II is now complete, and the new public road and turn lane have been completed as well. He said the County should adopt the road formally, and then he will process the last remaining grant to Daeyoung.

iii. Mr. Farmer said there has been significant planning activity for the \$3.3 million Mawsons Way Extension project. He said the financial planning stage is essentially complete, and presented the following sources of funding:

<b>Coordinating Council:</b>	\$2,000,000
<b>SC Dept. of Commerce:</b>	\$600,000
<b>County Transportation Committee:</b>	\$500,000
<b><u>Newberry County:</u></b>	<u>\$200,000</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDING SOURCES:</b>	\$3,300,000

**c. Prospect Development**

i. Mr. Farmer said he plans a significant web site overhaul in the coming fiscal year. He said the web site last received a significant upgrade back in 2016. Funding for the project was included in his FY23-24 budget.

ii. Mr. Farmer said planning for a fall marketing mission will begin in July. He said he will be coordinating the effort with the Central SC Alliance and the SC Dept. of Commerce.

**d. Other**

i. Mr. Farmer reported that the Economic Development Strategic Plan would be presented to the full Council for consideration at the July 19, 2023 meeting.

ii. Mr. Farmer said the Central SC Alliance has asked if Newberry County could direct utility tax credits through the Alliance, so that the Alliance can get matching funds from the state. Newberry County would still get 100% of the funds. He said this is done in other regions, and has been done in the Central SC Alliance with other counties.

Chairman Hipp asked Mr. Farmer to look into the possibilities of Utility Tax Credits from other utilities. Mr. Farmer said he has, in the past, reached out to other utilities like Duke and Dominion, but to no avail. He said he would make contacts again with other utilities, and see if there are opportunities.

**6. Comments by and discussion items from Committee Members**

Chairman Hipp asked if there were any comments or further discussion from the committee members. Hearing none, he moved to the next item on the agenda.

**7. 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 Rubicon, Belford Solar, Feder, Alpha, CA, JG, YMCA, BRT and other unnamed projects.**


Mr. Hipp said that the committee needed to enter executive session to discuss matters of economic development, contractual matters, and issues surrounding the proposed location, expansion, or the provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries. Mr. Reeder made a motion that the committee enter executive session, and Mr. Hipp gave the second. The vote was unanimous.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**  
**6:23 p.m. – 7:22 p.m.**

Upon returning to open session, Mr. Hipp stated that the committee discussed the items as previously described, and that no actions were taken during executive session.

**8. Adjourn**

Mr. Reeder offered a motion to adjourn, and Mr. Hipp gave the second. The vote was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

  
Les Hipp, Chairman

  
Rick Farmer, Economic Development Director

APPROVED: 6-21-2023