

**Newberry County Council
Economic Development Committee**

MEETING MINUTES

June 22, 2015

6:00 PM

Courthouse Annex Conference Room

Present: Leslie (Les) Hipp, Committee Chairman
Henry H Livingston, Council Chairman
Scott Cain, Committee Member

Absent: Steve Stockman, Committee Member

Others: Rick Farmer, Economic Development Director
Devonna Summer, ED Assistant
Mike Briggs, Central SC Alliance

Media: None Present

1. Call to Order

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

2. Additions, Deletion, & Adoption of the Agenda

Agenda approved as presented.

3. Approval of February 9, 2015 Minutes

February 9, 2015 minutes were approved as presented.

4. Public Comments

None

5. Central SC Alliance Report & Invoice (1st Quarter)

Mr. Briggs presented a copy of the Annual and Quarterly Reports for the committee to review. He reported on the quarterly activity in Newberry County and mentioned the marketing missions undertaken recently by Central's staff. He touched on the assistance given to Newberry County in preparation of and during the 2014 SEUS Japan Conference and South Korea Trip, the SC Department of Commerce Magazine, and Central's website featuring Newberry County.

Mr. Livingston was pleased to see that Newberry County's activity level was up.

Mr. Hipp commented that an International prospect told him during a recent visit that South Carolina was a business friendly state and he thought this was very reassuring news.

Mr. Cain motioned to approve the 1st Quarter Invoice with recommendation to full Council; seconded by Mr. Livingston. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Farmer noted that Central has been very helpful to him during his first month on board and he and David King will be meeting soon to go over future marketing trips.

6. Staff Report

Mr. Farmer gave an overview of the Toast of the Town event, Project Speed Racer and the Mid-Carolina Commerce Park/ Power Team Site Readiness effort. He said the county has postponed the initiative of pre-permitting a box on the I-26 Mega Site due to Volvo's announcement to build near Charleston. The Department of Commerce has made a commitment to help market the Mega Site and Mr. Farmer highlighted some proposed marketing efforts to share with DOC and other partners. He informed the committee that Newberry County Economic Development is now on Facebook which is an excellent and free way to get things out in our community.

Mr. Farmer thanked Council for the funding of an office assistant and noted he will work with the County Administrator on the office space needs in the near future.

7. Comments by and discussion items from the Committee Members

No comments.

8. Executive Session

§30-4-70 (a) (5): Discussion of matters relating 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.

Mr. Cain motioned to go into Executive Session; seconded by Mr. Livingston; unanimously approved.

[6:31 p.m. – 6:34 p.m.]

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

Mr. Hipp mentioned that the committee might want to consider changing its meeting time to accommodate a committee member who will not be able to meet at 6:00 p.m. due to his job obligation. Mr. Cain recommended changing the meeting time to at least 6:30 p.m. for the next meeting. Committee members present agreed to run this by Administration and other Council Members for approval.

9. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

APPROVED:

Leslie Hipp, Committee Chairman

Laurie Renwick, Recorder