

**Newberry County Council
Economic Development Committee**

MEETING MINUTES

Sept. 28, 2015

7:00 P.M.

Courthouse Annex Conference Room

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

Others: Wayne Adams, County Administrator
Rick Farmer, Economic Development Director
Gordon Johnson, Magistrate/Citizen

Media: None Present

1. Call to Order

Mr. Hipp called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Additions, Deletion, & Adoption of the Agenda

Mr. Cain made a motion to adopt the agenda as written, and Mr. Stockman offered the second. The vote was unanimous.

3. Approval of June 22, 2015 Minutes

Mr. Cain made a motion to approve the June 22, 2015 committee meeting minutes as written, and Mr. Stockman supplied the second. The vote was unanimous.

4. Public Comments

None.

5. Central SC Alliance Invoice (2nd quarter)

Mr. Farmer reported that he had spoken with Tracy McMillan at the Central SC Alliance. He said she told him that since the meeting date of this committee meeting was moved, from Sept. 21 to Sept. 28, neither she nor Mr. Mike Briggs would be able to attend and offer a report. She said they had a long scheduled marketing trip in Europe.

Mr. Cain offered a motion to defer approval of the second quarter CSCA invoice until such time as they could provide an activity report. Mr. Stockman offered the second. Mr. Livingston said he thought we should go ahead and pay the invoice. The vote on the motion to defer payment was 3-1, with Messrs. Hipp, Cain and Stockman voting for deferment, and Mr. Livingston voting against.

6. Staff Report

a. Project Activity Overview

Mr. Farmer reported that he is working 13 projects overall, of which 9 are currently active. He said a couple of the current projects date back to January, and there has been no activity since the initial request for information was submitted. He said overall project flow is strong. He said the projects represent industries in solar energy, fiberglass, chemicals, metals, food processing and plastics.

b. Product Development

i. MCCP Site Clearing and Grading Effort

Mr. Farmer reported that this effort is being delayed while we work to find additional funding partners. He said a consultant working on our behalf has a meeting in October with a potential funding partner. He said he will work on next steps once we know if the potential funding partner is willing to participate.

ii. I-26 Mega Site

Mr. Farmer reported that he has had significant success pulling together a plan and partnership to market the I-26 Mega Site. He said he has raised about \$46,000 of the necessary \$85,000. He said Duke Energy is in for \$25,000, CNNGA for \$10,000, the Central SC Alliance for \$7,500, NCWSA for \$2,000 and CSX Rail for \$1,500. He said he plans to commit \$2,500 from his current economic development budget. He said the SC Dept. of Commerce has expressed a willingness to participate financially, but he has been unable to get a specific and formal commitment.

iii. DOC Site Identification Effort

Mr. Farmer said there is not much he can say about this publicly, as there are contractual issues. However, he said, the SC Dept. of Commerce wants one new industrial site per county, and is prepared to invest in those sites, although the manner and amount of investment remains unspecified. He said he has been working with an industrial realtor and started with 10 potential parcels within Newberry County, then narrowed the list to four. He said those four parcels were submitted to the DOC, which came back and asked him to focus on two adjacent parcels, which might be developed as one industrial site.

c. Existing Industry Visits

Mr. Farmer said he has visits scheduled with Kiswire, KraftHeinz, Caterpillar, West Fraser, ArctiChill, Aqua Products and Merchant Foods.

d. Marketing

Mr. Farmer reported that Newberry County Economic Development is now on Twitter at @NewberryEconDev. He also said the RFPs for the new Web site are in, but he has not received them from Purchasing yet. He said he hopes to be able to create this new Web site for less than \$20,000, but expects the proposals to be “all over the place.”

e. Economic Development Specialist Position

Mr. Farmer reported that he, the Administrator and human resources interviewed candidates and selected to promote an existing Newberry County employee. Kara Cannon, who currently works in the Assessor’s Office, will begin in her new role in late October.

7. Executive Session

Mr. Hipp stated that the committee would like to go into Executive Session in accordance with SC Code §30-4-70 (A) (5). Mr. Cain made a motion to go into Executive Session and Mr. Stockman offered the second. The vote was unanimous.

[7:53 p.m. – 8:49 p.m.]

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

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. . Mr. Stockman offered the motion to adjourn, and Mr. Cain supplied the second. The vote was unanimous.

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

APPROVED:

Leslie Hipp, Committee Chairman

Rick Farmer, Recorder