



MINUTES
JULY 26, 2016
LAURENS COUNTY COUNCIL
HISTORIC COURTHOUSE – PUBLIC SQUARE
COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

ATTENDANCE: COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT- County Council Chairman Joe Wood and Vice Chairman Keith Tollison; County Council Members: David Pitts, Garrett McDaniel and Ted Nash.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Councilman Stewart Jones (family death) and Councilwoman Diane Anderson (prior commitments).

COUNTY STAFF: Laurens County Administrator, Jon Caime; Laurens County Clerk to Council, Betty Walsh and Laurens County Attorney, Sandy Cruickshanks.

DEPARTMENT HEADS PRESENT: Laurens County Public Works Director Rob Russian; Captain Tyson, Detention Center Administrator; Laurens County Human Resources Manager, Debi Parker; Cindy Burke, Laurens County Treasurer; Lisa Kirk, Laurens County Finance Director; Chad Burrell, Laurens County Emergency Services Director and Laurens County Fire Director, Greg Lindley.

PRESS: Vic McDonald, *The Clinton Chronicle*; Corey Engle, *The Laurens County Advertiser*; and Ida Cadmus, WLBG Radio.

SCHEDULED MEETING AGENDA ITEMS – JULY 26, 2016 – 1.) Call to Order; 2.) Invocation – Councilman Nash; 3.) Pledge of Allegiance; 4.) Approval of Agenda July 26, 2016; 5.) Approval of Minutes July 12, 2016 Regular Meeting and July 12, 2016 Council Committee on Health, Welfare and Public Safety; 6.) Reports To Council: a.) County Administrator, Jon Caime; 7.) Old Business: a.) Second Reading, Ordinance #822, Laurens County Fire Budgets – Fiscal Year 2016-2017; 8.) New Business: a.) Public Hearing, South Carolina Jobs Economic Development Authority – Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina; b.) County Administrator Request to Hire Temporary Planning Help; 9.) Public Comment; 10.) County Council Comments; 11.) Executive Session - Employment Matter; 12.) Adjournment.

MEETING NOTIFICATION – The requesting general public and Press were informed of the meeting in a timely manner. Postings of the Agenda were posted in County facilities on their bulletin boards and also posted on the County Web Site.

As a matter of record, newly elected County Auditor, James A. Coleman, was officially sworn in at 5:30 P.M. by the Laurens County Attorney.

- 1.) **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Wood called the meeting to order at 5:34 P.M. and invited all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer.
- 2.) **INVOCATION** – Councilman Nash provided the invocation.
- 3.) **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted by all.
- 4.) **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Chairman Wood called for approval of the July 26, 2016 Agenda inclusive of any additions or deletions.

COUNCILMAN NASH made the MOTION to approve the agenda as presented with COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL SECONDING; VOTE 5-0.

- 5.) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – VICE CHAIRMAN TOLLISON made the MOTION to approve the July 12, 2016 minutes of the regular session of Council and the July 12, 2016 minutes of the County Council Committee on Health, Welfare and Public Safety. COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL SECONDING; VOTE 4-0-1 (Councilman Pitts abstained).

6.) **REPORTS TO COUNCIL:**

a.) **JON CAIME, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR** – Addressing Council Mr. Caime informed them of the following:

- Met with representative of Duke Power involving resource planning, economic development;
- Met with Senator Danny Verdin;
- Met with King Dixon about “Lets Grow Laurens County” Initiative;
- Met with Dr. Cliff Ellis of Clemson University about City/Regional Planning;
- Met with Dr. Stephen Peters, Superintendent Laurens School District #55;
- Met with County Airport Commission and South Carolina Aeronautics Representatives;
- Met with Fountain Inn City Representatives;
- Met with Laurens County Board of Registration and Elections;
- Met with Greenwood County / City Planning Departments;
- Attended Yanfeng Grand Opening;
- Attended FOIA meeting with County Attorney.
- Core Functions - I continue to work on the core functions and will report back to Council as products are produced.
- Human Resources – This County needs to develop a good pay system for our employees along with an evaluation of our existing pay plan; a comprehensive, legal policy manual and to work on Risk Management.
- Finance – This County needs a thorough analysis of our current financial condition; need transparency and public reporting; need to centralize purchasing; need a centralized data base of contracts and we need to start building the next budget allowing for adequate time to build a budget.
- General Administration – This County needs a good comprehensive policy manual; need to adopt a Comprehensive Code of Ordinances; need to build a better website creating more transparency with operations.
- Planning – Staff is working on a countywide long range recreation plan, a long range Emergency Medical Services plan, enhancing our existing fire services plan and create infrastructure and capital plans.

7.) **OLD BUSINESS:**

a.) **SECOND READING, ORDINANCE #822, LAURENS COUNTY FIRE SERVICE BUDGET, FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017** – Before addressing second reading, Greg Lindley, Director of Fire Services and Jon Caime, County Administrator addressed conditions surrounding the Fountain Inn contract proposal as follows:

Current Cost - 2016 Proposal	County Costs
One (1) Fire Station - Thompson Road (40'X90' - 3/bay wide 1/bay deep) - Fire Bond paying for Station	\$ -
One (1) Engine - equipped (\$300,000) - 2nd engine from Gray Court will be moved to new Station - Rescue Truck from Gray Court will be moved to new Station	\$ -
One (1) Aerial Truck - Platform Truck from Gray Court	\$ -
Protective Clothing (Eight [8] Firefighters - \$2,200.00 each	\$ 17,600.00
Communications Equipment	\$ 9,000.00
Estimated Capital Outlay	\$ 26,600.00
(could be paid from fire reserve funds)	

Operating Costs:

Equipment Maintenance		\$ 1,500.00
Maintenance Contracts		\$ 500.00
Vehicle Maintenance	No increase in maintenance	\$ -
Rent / Lease Equipment		\$ -
Telephone		\$ 1,450.00
Membership / Dues		\$ -
Training	Paid from Fire Coord training budget	\$ -
Travel / Meetings		\$ -
Building Maintenance	Low costs due to warranty and new	\$ 500.00
First Responder Supplies		\$ 250.00
Janitorial Supplies		\$ 300.00
Office Supplies		\$ 250.00
Postage		\$ -
Uniforms		\$ 6,000.00
Vehicle Supplies / fuel		\$ -
Utilities	Covered - utility account of fire general	\$ -
Books / Publications		\$ -
Office Furniture	1% funds to help pay	\$ -
Land Acquisition		\$ -
Building Acquisition	Fire Bond paying for station	\$ -
Machines / Equipment		\$ 2,000.00
Vehicles / Apparatus		\$ -
Firefighting Equipment	PPE & Equipment Replacement	\$ 8,000.00
Annual Operating Budget		\$ 20,750.00

Personnel Costs – Staffed with two (2) 24 hour, 7 day, paid firefighters \$182,145.00

Total Cost of Thompson Road Station Proposal: Payroll - \$182,145.00
 Capital - \$ 0.00 (\$26,000 from fire reserve funds)
 \$182,145.00 Total funds proposed

Contract – The City of Fountain Inn has asked for a two (2) year notice with a five percent (5%) increase, two hundred fifteen thousand seven hundred sixty eight and thirty three cents (\$215,768.33) starting July 1, 2016 thru July 1, 2018. In comparing the two (2) options, Mr. Lindley reported the following:

- Option #1 – Honor the two (2) year requested contract at two hundred fifteen thousand seven hundred sixty eight and thirty three cents (\$215,768.33).
- Option #2 – Thompson Road Station staffed at one hundred eighty two thousand one hundred forty five dollars (\$182,145.00)
 - o Option #2 justification:
 - Improved response times;
 - Improved EMS service with cross trained Firefighter/EMT's and Paramedics; Presently there are twenty (20) residential homes with a total value of over five million dollars (\$5,000,000) located in or on the border of the current

contracted area with Fountain Inn and currently have an ISO rating of ten (10) [no fire service]. With this Thompson Road Station, ISO ratings would drop to a Class 5, reducing insurance costs more than half.

Councilman Pitts asked if the one hundred eighty two thousand one hundred forty five dollars (\$182,145.00) was a starting pay salary for fire fighters. Mr. Lindley replied that that would be starting salaries for three (3) paid firefighters.

Councilman Pitts stated that he has a difficult time with the projections and cannot justify dropping the Fountain Inn contract which is the same as Clinton. Mr. Lindley replied that the City of Clinton would require more stations to be built than the Fountain Inn area. Administrator Caime reminded Council that the City of Fountain Inn requested a five percent (5%) increase with Clinton only a (1.88%) increase.

Contract amounts: After detailed discussions, VICE CHAIRMAN TOLLISON made the MOTION to approve contracting the same amounts to both; a 1.88% increase of five thousand three hundred thirty eight dollars (\$5,338) for one (1) year. COUNCILMAN PITTS SECONDING; VOTE 5-0.

Second Reading, Ordinance #822: COUNCILMAN PITTS made the MOTION with COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL SECONDING to approve Ordinance #822 upon second reading as presented; VOTE 5-0.

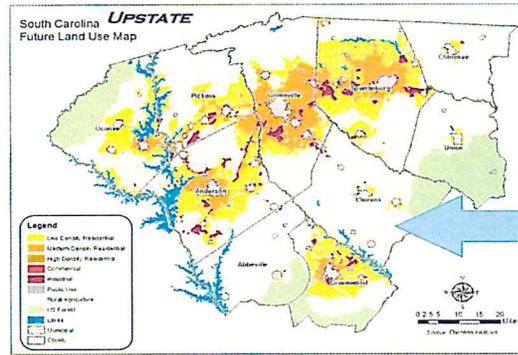
8.) **NEW BUSINESS:**

a.) **RESOLUTION #2016-20 - PUBLIC HEARING SOUTH CAROLINA JOBS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (JEDA) BOND FOR PRESBYTERIAN COMMUNITIES**
– Attorney Cruickshanks stated that the Resolution is supporting the issuance of a seventy five million dollar (\$75,000,000) South Carolina Jobs Economic Development Authority (JEDA) bond for the Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina. And, that Laurens County has no liability associated with the bond.

COUNCILMAN PITTS made the MOTION to approve the Resolution with COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL SECONDING; VOTE 5-0.

b.) **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REQUEST TO HIRE TEMPORARY PLANNING HELP –**
Administrator Caime appeared before Council saying, “Laurens County planned for no growth and is getting no growth. I am asking for an allocation of six thousand, eighty seven dollars (\$6,087) from the contingency account to hire a student from Clemson University for two (2) semesters to help with creating a starting point for long range planning for Laurens County”.

Continuing, Administrator Caime said, “This basically is a plan of where is Laurens County going and how do we get there. As we all know Laurens County is located to become the economic powerhouse of the State. This map shows growth in ten (10) Upstate Counties and is compiled from data plans from each County. Please note that Greenwood, Spartanburg, Greenville, Pickens and Anderson Counties clearly show planned growth while Laurens County is completely void. This is not zoning but is simply a plan for the future of Laurens County. Developers looking at the State want to know where to invest their money for the best return. If Laurens County prefers to preserve agricultural land uses or residential development, we need to plan for it and not get left behind from our surrounding Counties”.



COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL made the MOTION to approve the request for funds using the contingency account with VICE CHAIRMAN TOLLISON SECONDING; VOTE 5-0.

9.) **PUBLIC COMMENT** – Chairman Wood opened the floor for public comment at 6:45 P.M. Having no one else wishing to address Council, Chairman Wood closed the session at 6:46 P.M.

10.) **COUNTY COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

- Councilman Pitts expressed his appreciation of the First Responders and Law Enforcement Officers present tonight showing their support.
- Councilman McDaniel thanked the Volunteers present for showing their support.
- Vice Chairman Tollison thanked the Department Heads and Volunteer Firefighters that were present at the meeting.
- Chairman Wood recognized Vice Chairman Tollison’s recent accident with past and future surgeries. Also, recognized a recent meeting held with representatives of the Dogwood Alliance where they asked Council to approve a Resolution to ban incentives for industry providing the production and burning of wood pellets for electricity.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS ASSIGNMENT – To review the requested Resolution and to make a recommendation to the full Council.

11.) **EXECUTIVE SESSION – EMPLOYMENT MATTER** – COUNCILMAN PITTS made the MOTION to move into Executive Session at 6:58 P.M. for an employment matter with COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL SECONDING; VOTE 5-0.

By CONSENSUS Council reconvened in open session at 7:30 P.M.

COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL made the MOTION to accept the revisions of the County Attorney recommendations. VICE CHAIRMAN TOLLISON SECONDING; VOTE 5-0.

12.) **ADJOURNMENT** – With no further action required by Council, Chairman Wood adjourned the meeting at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betty C. Walsh
Laurens County Clerk to Council