

**MINUTES**  
**LAURENS COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**DECEMBER 10, 2013 – 5:30 P.M.**  
**HISTORIC COURTHOUSE – COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS - PUBLIC SQUARE**

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**ATTENDANCE:** **COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT-** County Council Chairman Jim Coleman and Vice Chairman Edward McDaniel; Council Members, Diane Anderson, Ted Nash, David Pitts, Keith Tollison and Joe Wood.

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:** Laurens County Administrator, Ernest Segars; Laurens County Clerk to Council, Betty C. Walsh and Sandy Cruickshanks, Laurens County Attorney.

**ATTENDING - LAURENS COUNTY DEPARTMENT HEADS:** Laurens County Human Resources Manager, Debi Parker and Laurens County Clerk of Court, Lynn Lancaster.

**PRESS:** The *Laurens County Advertiser*, Corey Engle; *The Clinton Chronicle*, Vic MacDonald, GoLaurens.com, John Wage and Iva Cadmus, WLBG-Radio.

**SCHEDULED SESSION AGENDA ITEMS** – (1) Approval of Agenda, December 10, 2013; (2) Approval of Minutes from the November 26, 2013 Regular Session; (3.) Presentation of “The Henry Laurens Awards” – a.) Dr. Jerman Disasa; b.) Mr. Doug Stewart; c.) George S. Wham; (4.) Architect Dennis Ashley, Project Architect for the proposed Hillcrest Square Administrative Offices project; (5) Approval of Resolution #2013-15 – Hunter Park Construction Project - Laurens City Commission of Public Works and Laurens County Development Corporation; (6) Approval of Resolution #2013-16 – Clinton Park Construction Project – City of Clinton, Clinton Economic Development Corporation and Laurens County Development Corporation; (7) Approval of Resolution #2013-17 – Flame Spray – An Inducement Resolution for Flame Spray North America, Incorporated; (8) Administrative Report – Ernie Segars, County Administrator; (9) Public Comment; (10) Comments from Council Members; (11) Executive Session – Two (2) Contractual Matters.

**MEETING NOTIFICATION** - The County Council Members, Press and requested public notifications were informed of the meeting in a timely and appropriate manner.

**CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Coleman called the December 10, 2013 regular scheduled meeting of Council to order at 5:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers of the Laurens County Historic Courthouse.

Chairman Coleman offered an invitation to stand for the invocation and for the Pledge of Allegiance. The invocation was delivered by Councilman Pitts.

**APPROVAL – AGENDA – DECEMBER 10, 2013** – Upon a MOTION from VICE CHAIRMAN MCDANIEL and a SECOND from COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON the agenda was approved without any additions or deletions; VOTE 7-0.

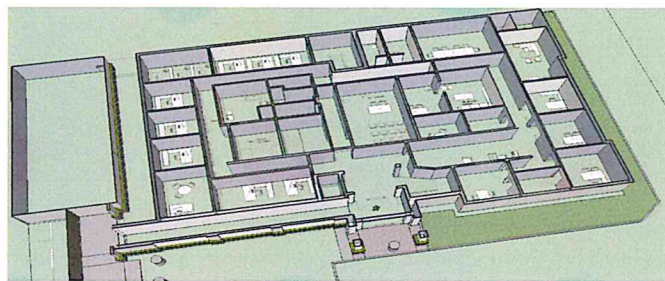
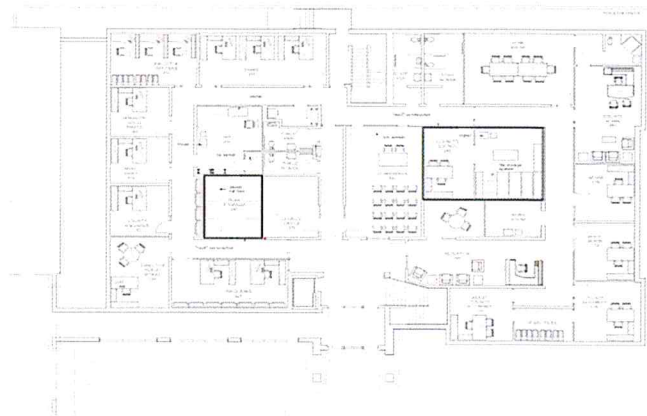
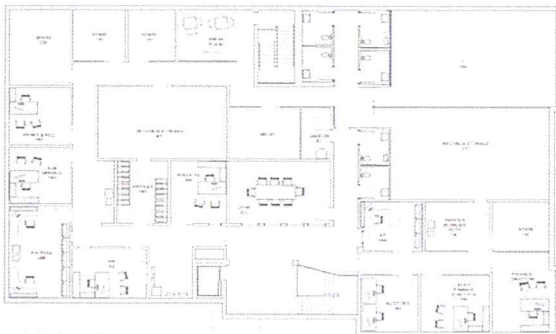
**APPROVAL – MINUTES – NOVEMBER 12, 2013 – REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL** – Upon a MOTION from COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON and a SECOND from COUNCILMAN TOLLISON, the minutes from the November 26, 2013 meeting was approved as presented; VOTE 7-0.

**PRESENTATION OF “THE HENRY LAURENS AWARDS”** – In brief, Chairman Coleman stated, “From time to time, Council sees the need to recognize Laurens County citizens for their notable leadership and or service to the County. With this in mind, we have three (3) awards to be presented tonight that were approved by Council at an earlier meeting. Those being honored tonight are - Dr. Jerman Disasa, Mr. Doug Stewart and Mr. George S. Wham. The awarding process for Mr. Stewart will be held at the Annual Farm Bureau dinner meeting held at another location following the County Council meeting”.

Council Members as per nominations presented the two (2) awards to the attending recipients:

- 1.) Council Members collectively, Anderson and Pitts presented Dr. Jerman Disasa his award. Along with comments from School District #55 Superintendent Dr. David O'Shields.
- 2.) Council Chairman, Jim Coleman present Mr. George S. Wham his award.
- 3.) Mr. Doug Stewart – his will be presented at the Farm Bureau Annual Dinner.

**HILLCREST SQUARE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES – ARCHITECT DENNIS ASHLEY** – Project Architect Dennis Ashley, provided a brief update on the proposed Hillcrest Square Administrative Offices project. Mr. Ashley stated that Mr. Segars really wanted Council to be shown the connections of the new building to the present facility and to be advised that bids for the project would begin in April of 2014. Below are draft designs presented to Council.



Continuing Mr. Ashley said that there is a five (5) to six (6) foot grade for the end of this building and that the new construction consists of one hundred nineteen feet (119') by seventy feet (70').

Mr. Ashley now opened the floor for questions and comments from Council.

Councilman Wood questioned the open area between buildings, if the corridor was closed in or an open concept. Councilman Tollison agreed that the area should be closed off or used as equipment storage. Mr. Ashley replied that this area was approximately ten feet (10”) and that storm water piping would be placed in that area and that a steel gate would be placed on the open end to prevent anyone from entering.

Councilman Tollison asked for confirmation that the breezeway would be concealing this area from the front. Mr. Ashley replied that it would.

Councilman Tollison questioned security if both entrances to the facility were to be used especially during court sessions and involving another staffed security point. Mr. Ashley replied, “That point has not been finalized at this time but that there would be plugs built in to accommodate the need for a security point. We do have a robust budget. The public wishing to visit with the Probation or other existing departments would enter at the entrance point now in place and would not be able to enter the newer portion because of locked doors”.

Mr. Holland said, “The reason it was designed this way was to not bring in all the traffic thru the new front door. All foot traffic can enter by means of the existing front door where there is security stationed. The existing exterior doors in the existing area that are locked all the time. The new front door area is not intended to be open to the public”.

Councilman Tollison said that he did not like this and that it was going to prove to be confusing to the public with a front door to the Administration area that is locked.

Councilman Tollison asked to again look at the floor plan and asked if there was a reception area in the plans. Mr. Ashley replied that there was not one but there is flexibility to change.

Councilman Tollison asked if the proposed plan has been discussed with the current staff that will be using it. Administrator Segars replied that they have conceptually. Mr. Holland replied that there have been three or four changes made based on the comments from the staff. Councilman Tollison added that he is a firm believer in that the people who work the offices are the people that really know how things work.

Councilman Tollison noted that the Human Resources Office is located on the second floor; this is one office that will have the foot traffic when it comes to existing employee benefits and those applying for jobs. This office needs to be accessible to them. Mr. Ashley pointed out the elevator and the available stairs for access.

Councilman Wood stated that it is unfortunate that today’s society is based on security.

Councilman Pitts said, “District Fifty Six has gone back and retrofitted three older schools with cameras. What we failed to do at that time was to consider the access control area with initial buzzing in of the people to certain offices. In doing this, we opened up the entire area for wandering”.

Mr. Ashley stated that these are really great comments and can be played into the over plan.

Councilman Tollison said, “If we allow entrance at the entrance now, you still do not want people roaming about. I want to be sure that the staff has been consulted with the design and if we are going to spend this amount of money, we need to do it right”.

**RESOLUTION #2013-15 – HUNTER PARK CONSTRUCTION PROJECT – LAURENS CITY**

**COMMISSION OF PUBLIC WORKS AND LAURENS COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION -**

The enclosed Resolution will need to be approved based on the prior discussions with Council regarding the Hunter Park Construction Project. The concept of the project was approved by County Council on a 5-1 vote at the November 26<sup>th</sup> meeting of Council.

CONCILMAN PITTS made the MOTION to approve Resolution #2013-15 as presented with COUNCILMAN TOLLISON SECONDDING for discussion.

Councilman Tollison asked that his earlier concerns involving the County be retracted from any mention of funding responsibilities towards this project. “I understand that the Commission of Public Works (CPW) is putting a fund increase in place to do this and I want the County to be certain to not be affiliated with this increase or any monetary part of it. Secondly, I asked Mr. Moss if he thought the number of citizens in Laurens County were enough for the job market and if the building could be marketed”.

Councilman Wood questioned the part of the Resolution that noted the deed being held by the Laurens County Development Corporation; and noted that the Laurens County Development Corporation has no income what so ever except the funds that they get from the County and the municipalities. *(WHEREAS, the Laurens CPW with the endorsement of the City of Laurens has agreed to transfer properties in the Hunter Industrial Park to the LCDC for project management and development. The CPW has substantially improved the parcel with utilities, building pads and other significant infrastructure improvements in the Park; and)*

Councilman Wood questioned another part of the Resolution; *(WHEREAS, all financial funding for the repayment of interest and principal for this project will be solely provided through economic development funds of the City of Laurens and/or the CPW for the purposes of any loan agreements or financial obligations and has been endorsed by the Laurens City Council);* Councilman Wood said, “I have seen nothing from the City of Laurens as to their participation towards putting money into this project. I do not even see where the City Council has voted to even build this building. I too echo the concerns expressed by Councilman Tollison as to the CPW not having the funds to pay their bills and are going to have to raise their costs for services. Here the CPW is going into debt for three million dollars to the Laurens County Development Corporation not Santee Cooper. The agreement to build is with the Laurens County Development Corporation and Santee Cooper, not the CPW. They are going to be looking at the Laurens County Development Corporation to pay back the loan”.

Continuing, Councilman Wood said, “This involves the ethics of prior employees with the City of Clinton. Santee Cooper now has two (2) prior city managers working there for them”.

Chairman Coleman stated that the Board of Santee Cooper is the one approving this process not the two former City of Clinton employees.

COUNCIL VOTED 6-1 (Councilman Wood in opposition).

**RESOLUTION #2013-16 – CLINTON PARK CONSTRUCTION PROJECT – CITY OF CLINTON, CLINTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AND LAURENS COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION** – Chairman Coleman stated that enclosed Resolution involves the discussions held on November 26<sup>th</sup> for a project in the Hunter Park.

COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON made the MOTION to approve the Resolution as presented with COUNCILMAN TOLLISON SECONDDING for discussion.

Councilman Wood said, “I made a comment to Mrs. Anderson about wanting to buy a new pickup truck and asked her if she would loan me the money. She replied certainly not. I ask what is the difference in this and

what is happening here? I used this as an example. The City of Laurens and Clinton can not borrow the money but the Development Corporation can. If a payment is not made on these buildings, Santee Cooper will not be going to the City of Laurens and Clinton for the money, they will be coming to the County for the money or will repossess the building”.

Councilwoman Anderson said, “My reply to you was meaning that I felt like you personally could handle any funding options that you needed and would not need my personal help to do so. But when a person needs help in the County, we all need to help...just like I feel like we need to help Clinton...team work”.

COUNCIL VOTED 6-1 (Councilman Wood was in opposition).

Councilman Tollison stated that he expects the County Attorney to fully insure that the County is not liable in these projects.

**RESOLUTION #2013-17 – FLAME SPRAY – FLAME SPRAY NORTH AMERICA, INCORPORATED –**  
Chairman Coleman stated that this is an Inducement Resolution for Flame Spray North America, Incorporated, an existing industry, that proposes investing approximately \$9 million and creating an additional forty five (45) new jobs. Attorney Cruickshanks stated that this is to identify the project.

VICE CHAIRMAN MCDANIEL made the MOTION to approve with COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON SECONDING; COUNCIL VOTED 7-0 to approve.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT – ERNIE SEGARS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR** - Administrator Segars reported of the report from Standard and Poor’s of the County moving from an A rating to an A+ rating and that the audit is proposed to be completed and received by the end of December

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** – Chairman Coleman opened the floor for public comments at 5:45 P.M. Having no one else wishing to address Council, Chairman Coleman closed the session at 5:46 P.M.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS** – Chairman Coleman asked if there were any comments from Council. All extended their wishes to everyone a Merry Christmas.

Referring to a recent televised news article, Councilman Wood noted that Laurens County was mentioned as one County not spending more than they were taking in and was in the black.

Another item, Councilman Wood said that he wanted to acknowledge the work that District 55 was doing to teach students to work with their hands on the housing projects for Habitat for Humanity.

Referring to the Revenue and Expenditure Report, Councilman Tollison thanked the Department Heads for being so frugal with their spending

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – COUNCILMAN NASH made the MOTION to move into Executive Session at 6:37 P.M. to discuss one (a) contractual matter. COUNCILMAN TOLLISON SECONDING; VOTE -0.

There was a COUNCIL CONSENSUS to come out of Executive Session at 6:50 P.M.

- 1.) **Contractual Matter** - COUNCILMAN TOLLISON made the MOTION for Council to approve the contract with Republic and for the staff to pursue securing the contract. COUNCILMAN NASH - SECONDING. COUNCIL VOTED 7-0 to approve the contract that deals with the treatment of Solid Waste for Laurens County.

ADJOURNMENT - With no further business, Chairman Coleman adjourned the meeting of Council at 7:58 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betty C. Walsh". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Betty C. Walsh

Laurens County Clerk to Council