

MINUTES

**LAURENS COUNTY COUNCIL
DECEMBER 8, 2009
LAURENS COUNTY HISTORIC COURTHOUSE
COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

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

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

PRESS: Corey Engle, *The Laurens County Advertiser*, Bristow Marchant, *The Clinton Chronicle*, Randy Stevens, WLBG-Radio and Stan Stone, GoLaurens.Com.

SCHEDULED MEETING AGENDA ITEMS - ① Approval of Agenda, December 8, 2009; ② Approval of Minutes from November 24, 2009 regular session; ③ Second Reading, Ordinance #698, "An Ordinance to Temporarily Suspend the Application of the Blue Laws in the Unincorporated Areas of Laurens County; And Other Matters Related Thereto"; ④ Teknor Apex, Resolution and Inducement Agreement, "A Resolution Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of an Inducement Agreement by and Between Laurens County, South Carolina, and Teknor Apex Company Whereby, Under Certain Conditions, Said Company Will Acquire, By Construction and Purchase, Certain Property in Laurens County and Laurens County will Execute Fee-In-Lieu-Of-Tax or Lease Agreements and Provide Certain Economic Development Inducements to Teknor Apex Company and Execute Certain Documents and Enact Certain Further Legislation for Said Company's Project Involving No Less Than Six Million Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$6,400,000) in Investment".

ADDED AGENDA ITEMS - ① Appointment, Laurens County Board of Assessment and Appeals; ② Resolution, Clinton Red Devils Football Team, AAA State Champions.

MEETING NOTIFICATION - The County Council Members and the Press were informed of the meeting in a timely manner.

CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Coleman called the December 8, 2009 meeting of Laurens County Council to order at 5:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers of the Historic Courthouse located on the Public Square in Laurens.

Chairman Coleman invited all to stand for the delivering of the invocation by Vice Chair Anderson. Everyone continued to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Coleman noted that Councilman McDaniel would not be in attendance tonight due to recent heart surgery and Mr. Holland would not be present due to dog bite he encountered this afternoon while on the job. Chairman Coleman asked that everyone remember them in their prayers.

APPROVAL – AGENDA – NOVEMBER 24, 2009 – COUNCILMAN NASH made the MOTION to approve the agenda with any additions. Added was an appointment to the Laurens County Board of Assessment and Appeals Board; the discussion of fire protection being compromised due to a bridge closure on Allen's Bridge Road. VICE CHAIR ANDERSON SECONDING; VOTE 7-0.

APPROVAL – MINUTES – NOVEMBER 24, 2009 - COUNCILMAN NASH made the MOTION to approve the Minutes of the November 24, 2009 meeting of Council; SECONDED by COUNCILMAN TOLLISON; VOTE 7-0 to approve the minutes.

SECOND READING – ORDINANCE #698 - “AN ORDINANCE TO TEMPORARILY SUSPEND THE APPLICATION OF THE BLUE LAWS IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF LAURENS COUNTY”.

COUNCILMAN WOOD made the MOTION to approve the Ordinance with COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL SECONDING; VOTE 7-0.

TEKNOR APEX - RESOLUTION AND INDUCEMENT AGREEMENT - “A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF AN INDUCEMENT AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN LAURENS COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND TEKNOR APEX COMPANY WHEREBY, UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS, SAID COMPANY WILL ACQUIRE, BY CONSTRUCTION AND PURCHASE, CERTAIN PROPERTY IN LAURENS COUNTY AND LAURENS COUNTY WILL EXECUTE FEE-IN-LIEU-OF-TAX OR LEASE AGREEMENTS AND PROVIDE CERTAIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INDUCEMENTS TO TEKNOR APEX COMPANY AND EXECUTE CERTAIN DOCUMENTS AND ENACT CERTAIN FURTHER LEGISLATION FOR SAID COMPANY’S PROJECT INVOLVING NO LESS THAN SIX MILLION DOLLARS (\$6,000,000) IN INVESTMENT” – County

Attorney Cruickshanks introduced Mr. Tom Martin of the McNair Law Firm and Mr. Tony Catalfomo, Plant Manager, Teknor Apex and recommended for Council to approve the Resolution with the changes made since the agenda mailing last week.

COUNCILMAN NASH made the MOTION to approve the Resolution and Inducement Agreement with the financial changes from six million four hundred thousand dollars (\$6,400,000) to six million dollars (\$6,000,000) as noted. COUNCILMAN TOLLISON SECONDING.

Councilman Tollison asked why the amount had changed. Attorney Cruickshanks replied, “The statute only requires for a minimum investment of two and half million dollars (\$2.5). In the event that they do not meet the six million four hundred thousand dollars (\$6,400,000) they would still be eligible for the twenty five percent (25%) credit under the new investment. The amounts were reduced to protect this investment”.

Mr. Martin said, “I thank you for considering this project for Laurens County and do appreciate all of the concerns and support that this Council gives to the industry in Laurens County. Even in these hard economic times, existing industry wanting to stay and expand in Laurens County reaffirms this gratitude”.

Mr. Catalfomo echoed the same appreciation as Mr. Martin but also stated that there were other areas and facilities that were involved with this proposed expansion but Laurens County was selected as the best place to make this expansion.

COUNCIL VOTED 7-0 in favor of the documents.

APPOINTMENT – LAURENS COUNTY BOARD OF ASSESSMENT AND APPEALS – As a MOTION, COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL requested for Council approval of David Kenneth Couser to represent County Council District #3 on the Board of Assessment and Appeals. VICE CHAIR ANDERSON SECONDING; VOTE 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Chairman Coleman opened the floor for public comments at 5:45 P.M.

Mr. Tom Martin of the McNair Law Firm said, “Being from Laurens County and having lived at Route #1, Ware Shoals, South Carolina, I wish to recognize with this Council what a great County this is and to wish everyone a very merry and blessed Christmas”.

With no one else wishing to address Council, Chairman Coleman closed the public comment segment at 5:46 P.M.

RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION – As a MOTION COUNCILMAN TRIBBLE requested for the Clinton Red Devils Football Team be recognized for their recent State Championship winnings. VICE CHAIR ANDERSON SECONDING; VOTE 7-0.

COUNTY COUNCIL COMMENTS: Chairman Coleman opened to floor for Council comments.

- Councilman Nash wished all a Merry Christmas and thanked all of the Laurens County employees for their dedication and hard work.
- Councilman Wood wished all a Merry Christmas and noted the recent drop in held at the Harmony House.
- Vice Chair Anderson wished all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
- Councilman Tribble wished all a Merry Christmas.
- Chairman Coleman informed all that the Laurens County Museum has invited the full Council and staff to a tour of the Museum immediately following the Council meeting. Chairman Coleman also wished Councilman McDaniel and Attorney Martin a continued speedy recovery with their recent illnesses.

ADJOURNMENT – There was a COUNCIL CONSENSUS to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Betty C. Walsh
Clerk to Council