

**MINUTES  
LAURENS COUNTY COUNCIL  
JANUARY 8, 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:** Human Resources, Debi Parker; Public Works Department, Scott Holland; Finance Director, Lisa Kirk; E/911 – Communications Director, Joey Avery; Chris Hudson, Administrator, Detention Center; Ricky Chastain, Laurens County Sheriff and Greg Lindley, Director of Fire / Rescue Services. Jim Anderson, IT - Contracted.

**PRESS:** Reporter, *WLBG-Radio*; *The Laurens County Advertiser*, Corey Engle; *The Clinton Chronicle*, Vic MacDonald, and Rachel Ham of *Go-Laurens.com*.

**GUESTS:** Will Kennedy, serving an internship with the County Attorney.

**SCHEDULED SESSION AGENDA ITEMS** – (1) Approval of Agenda, January 8, 2013; (2) Approval of Minutes from December 11, 2012; (3.) Election of Officers; (4.) Road Acceptance into county maintenance; (5.) Discussion, proposed Planning Session; (6) Administrative Report; (7) Public Comments; (8) County Council Comments.

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

**CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Coleman called the January 8, 2013 regular scheduled meeting of Council to order at 5:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers of the Laurens County Historic Courthouse and invited all to stand for the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance. The invocation was delivered by Councilwoman Anderson.

County Attorney Cruickshanks introduced Mr. Will Kennedy, who will be serving an internship with his law office.

**ELECTION OF COUNTY COUNCIL CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR** - Chairman Coleman turned the meeting over to the Laurens County Attorney, Sandy Cruickshanks at 5:31 P.M.

Conducting the election for Chairman, Attorney Cruickshanks opened the floor for nominations:

**NOMINATION - CHAIRMAN** - Council Member Anderson nominated Jim Coleman for Chairman. With no additional nominations, Attorney Cruickshanks called for a Motion.

**MOTION – CHAIRMAN** – COUNCIL MEMBER ANDERSON made the MOTION for Councilman Coleman to continue the role of Chairman of County Council. COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL SECONDING; VOTE 6-0 (Councilman Coleman abstained).

**NOMINATION – VICE CHAIRMAN** – Councilman Pitts nominated Edward McDaniel for the Vice Chair position. With no additional nominations, Attorney Cruickshanks called for a Motion.

**MOTION – VICE CHAIRMAN** – COUNCILMAN PITTS made the MOTION for Councilman Edward McDaniel to continue the role of Vice Chair of the County Council. COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON SECONDING; VOTE 6-0 (Councilman McDaniel abstained).

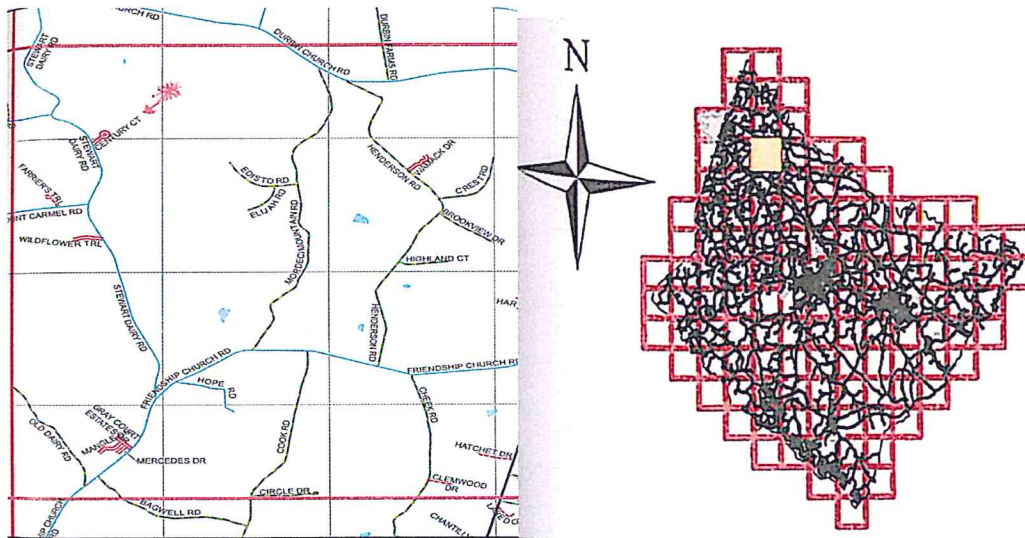
Attorney Cruickshanks then turned the meeting over to Chairman Coleman to conduct the meeting.

**APPROVAL – AGENDA – JANUARY 8, 2013** – COUNCILMAN PITTS made the MOTION to approve the agenda with any additions or deletions; SECONDED by COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON. COUNCIL VOTED 7-0 to approve the agenda with no additions.

**APPROVAL – MINUTES – DECEMBER 11, 2012 – REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL** – COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON made the MOTION to approve the minutes from the December 11, 2012 session of Council and SECONDED by COUNCILMAN NASH; VOTE 7-0

**REQUEST FOR ROAD ACCEPTANCE INTO COUNTY MAINTENANCE SYSTEM** – Public Works Director Scott Holland appeared before Council with a request from Mr. Joe Gresham of Century 21 for the County to approve the acceptance of Stewart Dairy Road (S30-95) into the County road system.

Mr. Holland said, “This is a road within the Stewart Farms Estates, II. The road, Stewart Dairy Road, is located in the upper region of Laurens County between Fountain Inn and the Owings Community and was constructed in October of 2008 by Mr. Gresham. As per the County Road Ordinance, the necessary inspections have been periodically conducted with it now passing the minimum three (3) year trial period. A final inspection was performed in November of 2012 with all construction items in compliance. The roadway is 498.81 feet (.095 mi) in length and has two (2) permanent homes fronting on the roadway.



COUNCILMAN NASH made the MOTION to approve the requested road into the county maintenance with COUNCILMAN TOLLISON SECONDDING; VOTE 7-0.

**DISCUSSION – PROPOSED COUNCIL PLANNING SESSION** – Ernest Segars, County Administrator said, “It has been recommended that with a new year and a new session for Laurens County Council, the staff is recommending that Council conduct a Planning Session. The morning of Saturday, January 26<sup>th</sup> has been suggested. This session can be held at the Laurens County Higher Education Center, or other sites can be considered. At this time, an agenda for the meeting has not been created, but Council Members need to recommend what topics of interest they wish to discuss. As suggestions, possibly the discussion of the construction of new office space at Hillcrest Square to allow office space for the Church Street Office, which is very over-crowded and inefficient; Issues facing the Laurens County Fire Service, including major changes in fire protection rating systems; a review of certain administrative functions within our county government county”.

Councilman Wood stated that he would appreciate if Council would not elect to hold the session on a Saturday.

Councilwoman Anderson stated that a speaker was not needed during the session and that Council and Staff could provide the necessary dialogue.

Chairman Coleman stated that the Development Corporation Offices could be the facility for the meeting.

Councilman Tollison stated that the noted topics were appropriate and that he personally has other concerns that he feels need to be discussed; such as the County funding an IT Department and some personnel issues.

Councilman Pitts suggested that the planning session be held on the 29<sup>th</sup> of January instead of the regular meeting of Council.

There was a COUNCIL CONSENSUS to hold the planning session on January 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 P.M. at the Laurens County Development Corporation Offices.

Councilman Pitts requested that the hiring of Detention Center Officers be included on the agenda with Major Hudson attending to provide an overview of staffing retention and that he would like for an executive session to be established as to personnel matters.

#### ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

a.) Reminders – upcoming events:

- Laurens County NAACP Banquet – January 19, 2013 at 6:00 P.M. First Presbyterian Church, Christian Life Center, Clinton.

- Laurens County Chamber of Commerce Banquet – January 17, 2013 - 6:00 P.M. Cocktails – 7:00 P.M. Banquet – Presbyterian College, Harper Center, Mabry Smith and Yonce, 105 Ashland Avenue

- Laurens County Development Corporation Annual Meeting Luncheon – January 25<sup>th</sup> at Lakeside Country Club.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Chairman Coleman opened the floor for public comments at 6:00 P.M. With no one wishing to address Council, Chairman Coleman closed the hearing at 6:01 P.M.

#### COUNCIL COMMENTS:


- 1.) Chairman Coleman noted a recent email commending the Laurens County Emergency Services.
- 2.) Councilman Wood said, “I want to address the issues of purchasing within the Fire Service. I am not saying all abuse purchases but I am concerned when a fire department buys something and then comes to Council to approved for reimbursement out of the contingency. This is all wrong and should not be after the fact of purchase. Purchases need to be approved first by Council. I addressed this with Mr. Lindley and he liked the idea of changing procedures. Mr. Lindley is trying to consolidate the Fire Service and I feel that this is one area that needs to be discussed and changed. An example would be if one department breaks an item during a service call, then with other departments using the same equipment, it could be replaced easier than putting that one call out of service because of part replacements”.

Chairman Coleman agreed and asked for Mr. Lindley to come back to Council with a report expressing his recommendations.

- 3.) Councilman Pitts stated that he was glad to be re-elected as a Council Member from District #7 and that he looked forward to continuing to work with Council for the common good of the County.
- 4.) Chairman Coleman stated that Laurens County is on the move forward and that he looked forward to prioritizing issues at hand during the Planning Session.

ADJOURNMENT – With no further business, Chairman Coleman adjourned the meeting at 6:10 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Betty C. Walsh

Laurens County Clerk to Council