

MINUTES
LAURENS COUNTY COUNCIL
AUGUST 13, 2013 – 5:30 P.M.
HISTORIC COURTHOUSE – COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS - PUBLIC SQUARE

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT - Vice Chairman Edward McDaniel (family matters with mother).

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 Fire Director, Greg Lindley; Laurens County Finance Department Director, Lisa Kirk; Laurens County Human Resources Manager, Debi Parker; Laurens County Treasurer, Cindy Burke; Laurens County E/911 – Communications Director, Joey Avery and Laurens County Emergency Medical Service Director, Chad Burrell.

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

SCHEDULED SESSION AGENDA ITEMS – (1) Approval of Agenda, August 13, 2013; (2) Approval of Minutes from the July 23, 2013 Regular Session; (3.) Public Hearing, Ordinance #755 – “An Ordinance to Convey Real Estate Containing 7.56 Acres For An Economic Development Project Known As ZF Transmissions And All Matters Appertaining Thereto.”; (4.) Third Reading Approval, Ordinance #755; (5.) Public Hearing, Ordinance #756, “Fiscal Year 2013/2014 Laurens County Fire Budgets”; (6.) Third Reading Approval, Ordinance #756; (7) Approval for the submission for a 2013 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) – Laurens County Sheriff’s Department; (8) Report - Council Adhoc Committee on County Computer and Internet Use Policy; (9) Administrative Report – Ernie Segars, County Administrator; (10) Public Comment; (11) Comments from Council Members.

AMENDED (6/12/2013) AGENDA ITEMS - Executive Session – Two (2) Employment 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 July 23, 2013 regular scheduled meeting of Council to order at 5:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers of the Laurens County Historic Courthouse. An invitation to stand for the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. The invocation was delivered by Councilman Wood.

GUEST RECOGNITION – Chairman Coleman recognized the attending Boy Scout Troop #111 from Clinton as well as one attending from Troop #174. The Troop is led by Alex Cruickshanks, son of Sandy Cruickshanks.

Chairman Coleman recognized Alex King from Troop #111 with a letter of recognition for his accomplishments.

APPROVAL – AGENDA – AUGUST 13, 2013 – COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON made the MOTION to approve the agenda for the July 23, 2013 meeting with any additions or deletions. The motion was SECONDED by COUNCILMAN PITTS for discussion. Councilman Tollison stated that he would like to provide a report from the Committee that met recently.

COUNCIL VOTED 6-0 to approve the agenda as presented and amended.

APPROVAL – MINUTES – JULY 23, 2013 – REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL – COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON made the MOTION to approve the minutes from the July 23, 2013 regular session of Council, SECONDED by COUNCILMAN PITTS; COUNCIL VOTED 6-0.

PUBLIC HEARING, ORDINANCE #755 - "AN ORDINANCE TO CONVEY REAL ESTATE CONTAINING 7.56 ACRES FOR AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT KNOWN AS ZF TRANSMISSION AND ALL MATTERS APPERTAINING THERETO." - Chairman Coleman opened the public hearing at 5:37 P.M. for public comments. Having none, Chairman Coleman closed the hearing at 5:38 P.M.

THIRD READING - ORDINANCE #755 - "AN ORDINANCE TO CONVEY REAL ESTATE CONTAINING 7.56 ACRES FOR AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT KNOWN AS ZF TRANSMISSION AND ALL MATTERS APPERTAINING THERETO." COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON made the MOTION to approve Ordinance #755 upon third reading with COUNCILMAN NASH SECONDING; VOTE 6-0.

Chairman Coleman stated that this ordinance accompanies the recent announcement for ZF TRANSMISSIONS several weeks ago and is for an engineering facility.

PUBLIC HEARING, ORDINANCE #756, "FISCAL YEAR 2013/2014 LAURENS COUNTY FIRE BUDGETS" - Chairman Coleman opened the public hearing at 5:40 P.M. for public comments. Having none, Chairman Coleman closed the hearing at 5:41 P.M.

THIRD READING - ORDINANCE #756, "FISCAL YEAR 2013/2014 LAURENS COUNTY FIRE BUDGETS" - COUNCILMAN PITTS made the MOTION to approve Ordinance #756 upon third reading with COUNCILMAN TOLLISON SECONDING; VOTE 6-0.

Operational budgets for operating, supplying and equipping fire / rescue departments are as follows:

Cross Hill	\$	29,392.59
Durbin Creek	\$	28,148.00
Ekom	\$	10,710.00
Gray Court	\$	36,433.00
Greenpond	\$	29,760.00
Hickory Tavern	\$	38,520.00
Joanna	\$	37,698.00
Mountville	\$	18,140.00
Renno	\$	12,865.00
Sandy Springs	\$	29,180.00
Waterloo	\$	36,830.00
Western Laurens	\$	33,110.00
Youngs	\$	31,317.95
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Subtotal	\$	372,104.54
Laurens County	\$	341,533.35
Clinton Rural	\$	332,334.82
Fountain Inn	\$	205,493.00
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Subtotal	\$	879,361.17
TOTAL	\$	1,251,465.71

The Fiscal Year 2013 - 2014 budget includes total projected revenue in the amount of \$2,640,000 and total projected expenditures in the amount of \$2,680,124. Approximately \$40,124 will be utilized from the fund balance to balance the budget. The estimated percentage change in estimated operating and capital budgets between Fiscal Year 2014 and the proposed budget is an increase of 1.5%. The millage for the current Fiscal Year is 20 mills. The estimated millage in dollars necessary for the Fiscal Year 2014 proposed budget is \$2,640,000.

APPROVAL FOR THE SUBMISSION OF A 2013 JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) – LAURENS COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT – Administrator Segars described this request is a routine process for approval and acknowledgement of the submission for a Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) in the amount of \$21,604 to improve officer safety, crime prevention and traffic safety in the Laurens County Sheriff’s Department. There is no local match requirement for these funds. The items proposed for purchase are:

A.) \$4,000.00 Computers - Purchase Computers for the Sheriff’s Office civilian staff to complete their assigned duties for entering data, researching data and accessing other vital information stored within the Laurens County Sheriff’s Office records management system.

B.) \$1,000.00 Metal Detector - Purchase a Metal Detector to assist in investigations for the Sheriff’s Office. This will aid the deputies in locating evidence and stolen items such as guns and jewelry that have been buried in the ground or thrown in shallow waters.

C.) \$11,500.00 Utility Vehicle - Purchase a side by side utility vehicle to be used by the Sheriff’s Office for law enforcement and community events and incidents. This vehicle will assist the Sheriff’s Office when responding to missing/wanted persons in remote areas of the county where the patrol cars and 4wd vehicles cannot access.

D.) \$4,104.00 Body Cameras - Purchase body cameras for the deputies to wear while on patrol and performing law enforcement duties. These cameras will allow the deputy to record both audio and video of the scene in which they are responding. This will aid by an accurate record of the interaction with suspects, victims and witnesses to aid in prosecution. Also, digital camera with lens to take photos of crime scenes and other law enforcement activities.

E.) \$1,000.00 Shock Restraint Bracelet System - Purchase a shock restraint bracelet system to be used to escort violent and unruly inmates. This system will deliver an electric shock immobilizing the inmate without the officer putting hands on them. This is an officer safety tool which will protect both the officer and prisoner.

Total 2013 JAG Funds \$21,604.00

COUNCILMAN TOLLISON made the MOTION to approve the request for the grant request as per noted. COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON SECONDING for discussion.

Councilman Pitts questioned the shock restraint bracelet system as being endorsed by law enforcement. Attorney Cruickshanks stated that it is used in a very limited basis for out of control inmates so the officer would not have to use physical control over the inmate.

Councilman Pitts questioned if there was a policy in place as to use of this device. Attorney Cruickshank’s replied that it is noted in the Sheriff’s Department Manual. Administrator Segars added that it denotes what the device is and is not to be used for.

COUNCIL VOTED 6-0.

REPORT – COUNCIL ADHOC COMMITTEE – COUNTY COMPUTER / INTERNET USE POLICY -

Councilman Tollison, Chairman, Council ADHOC Committee for IT development stated that the Committee had met earlier, prior to the budget session and have developed a proposed policy for computer and internet

usage by county employees. The Committee now proposes the provided policy to be adopted by Council with an effective date to be determined.

Chairman Coleman stated that with this coming recommended from a Committee, it does not need a motion and a second. Attorney Cruickshanks reminded Council that the effective date needs to be determined.

Councilman Pitts asked for confirmation that the Council Attorney has reviewed and approved the Policy. Attorney Cruickshanks stated that he had not reviewed the proposed Policy.

Councilman Tollison stated that it has been reviewed with recommendations from the Labor Attorney, Linda Edwards.

Councilman Pitts stated that he would like for the County Attorney to have the opportunity to review as well. Councilman Tollison stated that Attorney Cruickshanks has had the opportunity to review just as Council.

COUNCIL VOTED 6-0 and established October 1, 2013 as the implementation date for the Policy

REPORT – COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman Tollison, Committee Chairman, stated, “The Committee met with the law enforcement officials from the County to discuss ways for better retention methods for officers within Laurens County Law Enforcement. At the end of our discussions, it came down to adjustments needed in the pay scale. We have asked the staff to bring back to us what it would take to bring the Detention Center officers pay up to the equivalent of a road deputy.”

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT – ERNIE SEGARS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR- Administrator Segars reminded Council of the Red Carpet Breakfast.

Administrator Segars noted that Chairman Coleman is now a proud grandfather with the birth of a grandson,

Chairman Coleman also noted that our Human Resources Manager, Debi Parker has also become a grandparent over the weekend.

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

County Treasurer Cindy Burke briefly updated Council on a recent incident within the Hillcrest Facility of a sickly female that was lost and noted that she, Mrs. Burke, was extremely proud of all of the staff at the Facility that helped with the search.

With 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.

- 1.) Councilman Pitts asked for a report from Mr. Moss on the spec building and asked to allow the full Council the opportunity to tour the facility when at a more completed point.

Mr. Moss stated that the spec building should be completed next week and that there were three (3) very good prospects looking at the building and that once the sidewalks are installed, landscaping will be next. Mr. Moss also noted that they are hopeful to start a new spec building very soon.

- 2.) Councilwoman Anderson noted the attendance of Mrs. Ruth LaForge from the Upper Savannah Council of Governments and informed Council of several grant projects that have been awarded through the Council of Governments.

- 3.) Councilman Pitts said that while attending the South Carolina Association of Counties Conference, he was impressed with a marketing presentation of what the citizens of a county received and stated that he would like to see the County move in that same direction.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON made the MOTION to move into Executive Session at 5:50 P.M. to discuss a two (2) employment matters; COUNCILMAN TOLLISON SECONDING; VOTE 6-0.

There was a COUNCIL CONSENSUS to reconvene in open session at 6:20 P.M.

Chairman Coleman reported that no action was taken on either employment matter.

ADJOURNMENT – With no further business, Chairman Coleman adjourned the meeting of Council at 6:22 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Betty C. Walsh

Laurens County Clerk to Council