



MINUTES
JANUARY 9, 2018 - 5:30 P.M.
LAURENS COUNTY COUNCIL
HISTORIC COURTHOUSE – PUBLIC SQUARE
COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

ATTENDANCE: **COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT-** County Council Chairman Joe Wood; Vice Chairman Keith Tollison; County Council Members: Diane B. Anderson, Stewart Jones, Garrett McDaniel and Ted Nash.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT – Councilman Pitts.

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; Laurens County Coroner, Nick Nickels; Laurens County Magistrate Judge, Leesa Inabinette; Laurens County Library Director, Ann Szypulski; Laurens County Fire Services Director, Greg Lindley; Laurens County Vehicle Maintenance / Procurement Superintendent, Billy Wilson; Laurens County Communications / E911 Director, Joey Avery; Laurens County Sheriff Don Reynolds; Laurens County Finance Director, Lisa Kirk; Laurens County EMS Director Matt Pennington and Laurens County Human Resources Manager, Debi Parker.

PRESS: Ida Cadmus, WLBG Radio; Vic McDanald, *Clinton Chronicle* and John Clayton, *Laurens Advertiser*.

SCHEDULED MEETING AGENDA ITEMS – 1.) Call to Order – Chairman Wood; 2.) Invocation – Councilman Nash; 3.) Pledge of Allegiance; 4.) Approval of Amended Agenda – January 0, 2017; 5.) Approval of Minutes December 12, 2017; 6.) Reports To Council - None; 7.) Old Business: a.) Second Reading, Ordinance #841, Noise Regulations; b) Resolution #2018-01 – Lease Agreement for E-911 Radio; 8.) New Business: a.) Strategic Capital Plan; b.) Request – Implement a Long Range Strategic Capital Plan for County Fire Services; 9. Public Comments; 10.) County Council Comments; 11.) Executive Session – None; 10.) County Council Comments; 11.) Executive Session: a.) Employment Matter – To correct an employee retirement issue; 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.

CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Wood called the meeting to order and invited all to stand for the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilman Nash provided the invocation.

PUBLIC COMMENT SIGN-UPS – None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Chairman Wood called for approval of the agenda with any additions or deletions.

Administrator Caime stated that Public Works Director, Rob Russian and Vehicle Maintenance / Procurement Superintendent, Billy Wilson will present an overview of the recent mechanical situation at the new Hillcrest Facility.

COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL made the MOTION to approve the agenda as presented with any additions and / or deletions; VICE CHAIRMAN TOLLISON SECONDDING; VOTE 6-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - COUNCILMAN JONES made the MOTION to approve the minutes from the December 12, 2017 Regular Meeting; COUNCILMAN NASH SECONDDING; VOTE 6-0.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL:

ADDED AGENDA ITEM – OVERVIEW OF SPRINKLER SYSTEM MALFUNCTION AT HILLCREST OFFICES – Mr. Russian, Public Works Director approached Council saying that twenty percent (20%) of the new Hillcrest Administrative Offices were damaged when a sprinkler in an upstairs office burst.

Continuing Mr. Russian said, “The Laurens City Fire and Police and the County Fire Department should be commended for their immediate assistance with the flooding and clean up. The County Buildings and Grounds Department was also a key component in the cleanup and removing of desks to a storage area. The architect was contacted, along with Ernie Segars, Scott Holland and the contractor. Servepro was contacted and they have already begun some demolition. The Administrative Offices closed for the remainder of the day”.

Councilwoman Anderson asked if the insurance company had been contacted. Mr. Russian replied that they were aware of the circumstances.

OLD BUSINESS:

SECOND READING – ORDINANCE #841 – NOISE CONTROL – VICE CHAIRMAN TOLLISON made the MOTION to approve Ordinance #841 as presented, with COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL SECONDDING for further comments.

Councilman Jones noted his concerns for judging those in the rural areas with fire arms and how would the amount of a penalty be determined. Attorney Cruickshanks replied that the fines would be determined by the Judges and that there would be no infringement on the second amendment.

Following a brief dialogue by Sheriff Don Reynolds, Vice Chairman Tollison stated that the felt this to be a reasonable ordinance and is a good start towards enforcement.

COUNCIL VOTED 6-0.

RESOLUTION #2018-01 – LEASE AGREEMENT FOR E-911 RADIO – Mr. Joey Avery, Communications / E911 Director approached Council stating, “This is a Resolution towards the BB&T lease agreement to upgrade the Radio Systems in the E911 Center that Council previously approved during the 2017-2018 budget session. The present system was installed in 1992 and has exceeded its working ability. The financed amount shall not exceed four hundred sixty five thousand dollars (\$465,000) and shall not exceed the 2.47% annual interest rate with a term of four (4) years”.

COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON made the MOTION to approve the Resolution as presented and not to exceed the 2.47 percentage amount, and to bring back the final documents to Council for review. VICE CHAIRMAN TOLLISON SECONDDING; VOTE 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

STRATEGIC CAPITAL PLAN – Administrator Caime presented and reviewed the introductory first version of the capital plan that he is proposing for Council consideration.

Administrator Caime said, “This Plan includes approximately sixty million dollars (\$60,000,000). While some of these items will be financed with current funding sources and without any tax increase and others may have new funding options. A referendum is not required. I currently ask Council to review this document and to offer any comments – good or bad”.

Councilwoman Anderson stated, “I like the work you have done but I personally feel that this Council should have been included in the workings of it. The Plan should be for the whole County and not just the Fire, EMS and E911. I feel that there is a lot missing and Council Members have ideas too”.

Chairman Wood noted, “This document is suggestive with ideas and that Council will have the last say with everything. My personal vision this year is the Courthouse renovations, the Hillcrest roofing and HVAC systems and the EMS Headquarters. Since I have been on Council, I have always thought that the main roll of Council is to keep services running for the citizens of Laurens County”.

Vice Chairman Tollison said, “The EMS Headquarters is my number one priority. Also, getting the Sheriff’s Department vehicles under control”.

Councilman Jones noted the previous planning session Council conducted, that is was a positive and informative session... “I definitely want this Council to be conservative with cost savings to the citizens”.

Chairman Wood cited that Council would accept the document as a starting point for further discussions.

REQUEST – IMPLEMENT A LONG RANGE STRATEGIC CAPITAL PLAN FOR COUNTY FIRE SERVICES – Fire Service Director, Greg Lindley approached Council briefing them on the proposed long range capital plan for fire service in Laurens County.

Mr. Lindley said, “We presently have a bond that was implemented in 2010 for three million two hundred thousand dollars (\$3,200,000) to purchase. This bond will be up for renewal in 2020. To date, we have identified the need for five million five hundred thousand dollars (\$5,500,000) in fire trucks. We would need to increase the bond. I am presently in the process of purchasing good used equipment now using the reserves set aside for fire capital purchases”.

Councilman Jones questioned if any grants could be applied to this long range plan as it relates to funding. Mr. Lindley reported that he has applied for thirteen (13) grants and is presently applying for an AFG.

Vice Chairman Tollison noted that he was recognizing the need to be proactive but does not agree with buying equipment before actual putting them in service.

VICE CHAIRMAN TOLLISON made the MOTION to approve for Mr. Lindley and Administrator Caime to proceed with the Plan using the Fire Contingency Fund as the funding source. COUNCILMAN JONES SECONDING; VOTE 6-0.

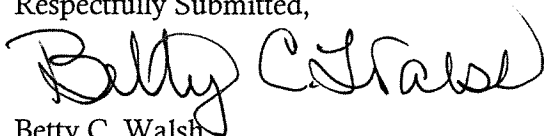
PUBLIC COMMENT – NONE.

COUNTY COUNCIL COMMENTS:

- Chairman Wood noted the upcoming banquets and requested for Council to please advise Mrs. Walsh of their wishes of attending.

ADJOURNMENT – With no further action required by Council, Chairman Wood adjourned the meeting at 6:45 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Betty C. Walsh
Laurens County Clerk to Council