



MINUTES
JUNE 12, 2018 - 5:30 P.M.
LAURENS COUNTY COUNCIL
HISTORIC COURTHOUSE – PUBLIC SQUARE
COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

ATTENDANCE:

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

COUNTY STAFF: - Laurens County Administrator, Jon Caime; Laurens County Clerk to Council Betty Walsh and Laurens County Attorney, Sandy Cruickshanks.

DEPARTMENT HEADS PRESENT: Magistrate Judge, Leesa Inabinette; Laurens County Communications / E911 Director, Joey Avery; Laurens County Finance Director, Lisa Kirk; Laurens County Probate Judge Kay Fridy; Laurens County Treasurer, Cindy Burke; Laurens County Auditor, Jim Coleman; Laurens County EMS Director, Matt Pennington; Laurens County Sheriff Don Reynolds and Laurens County Vehicle Maintenance / Procurement Supervisor, Billy Wilson.

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

SCHEDULED MEETING AGENDA ITEMS – 1.) Call to Order – Chairman Wood; 2.) Invocation – Diane Anderson; 3.) Pledge of Allegiance; 4.) Approval of Agenda – June 12, 2018; 5.) Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings; a.) May 22, 2018 Regular Meeting; b.) May 22, 2018 Budget Meeting #4; c.) May 29, 2018 Budget Meeting #5; 6.) Reports To Council; a) Matt Pennington- EMS Gold Plus Award; 7.) Old Business: a) Public Hearing Ordinance #845 Project Lime; b) Third Reading of Ordinance #845 Project Lime; 8.) New Business: a) Road Department Fiscal Year 2018 Equipment Purchase Request; b) Newberry Jail Contract Approval; c) School District #56 School Resource Officer Position Approval; d) Upper Savannah Workforce Development Business Plan Memorandum of Understanding Approval; 9.) Public Comment-Fifteen (15) Minute Period for Public Comment; 10.) County Council Comments; 11.) Executive Session-Contractual Dealing With Purchase of Real Estate; 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 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. Councilwoman Anderson provided the invocation.

PUBLIC COMMENT SIGN-UPS – Brian Smith, Clemson Extension Agent.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – JUNE 12, 2018 – Chairman Wood called for approval of the agenda with any additions or deletions. Mr. Rob Russian, Director of Public Works asked for the addition of information about the roof replacement. Councilman Pitts asked for the addition of a nomination for the Laurens County Memorial Hospital, Board Trustee from the County Council Committee on Health, Welfare and Public Safety. Councilwoman Anderson requested a Henry Laurens Award appointment.

VICE CHAIRMAN TOLLISON made the MOTION to approve the agenda with COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL SECONDING; VOTE 7-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Chairman Wood called for a motion to approve all of the minutes as presented. COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL made the MOTION to approve the minutes of the May 22, 2018 regular session; May 22, 2018 budget session #4 and May 29, 2018 budget session #5 with COUNCILMAN JONES SECONDING; VOTE 7-0.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL:

- a.) **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE - GOLD PLUS AWARD** - Matt Pennington, EMS Director approached Council acknowledging the EMS Gold Plus Award from the American Heart Association that was recently received by the County EMS Team. Mr. Pennington said, “This is an award recognizing Laurens County EMS for demonstrating continued success in using the Mission Lifeline program by administering pre-hospital treatment for those having a heart attack”.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a.) **PUBLIC HEARING ORDINANCE #845 “PROJECT LIME”** - Chairman Wood opened the Public Hearing at 5:40 P.M.

With no additional comments, Chairman Wood closed the Public Hearing at 5:42 P.M.

- b.) **THIRD READING OF ORDINANCE #845 “PROJECT LIME”** - COUNCILMAN JONES made the MOTION to approve Ordinance #845 upon third reading as presented with COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL SECONDING; COUNCIL VOTED 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

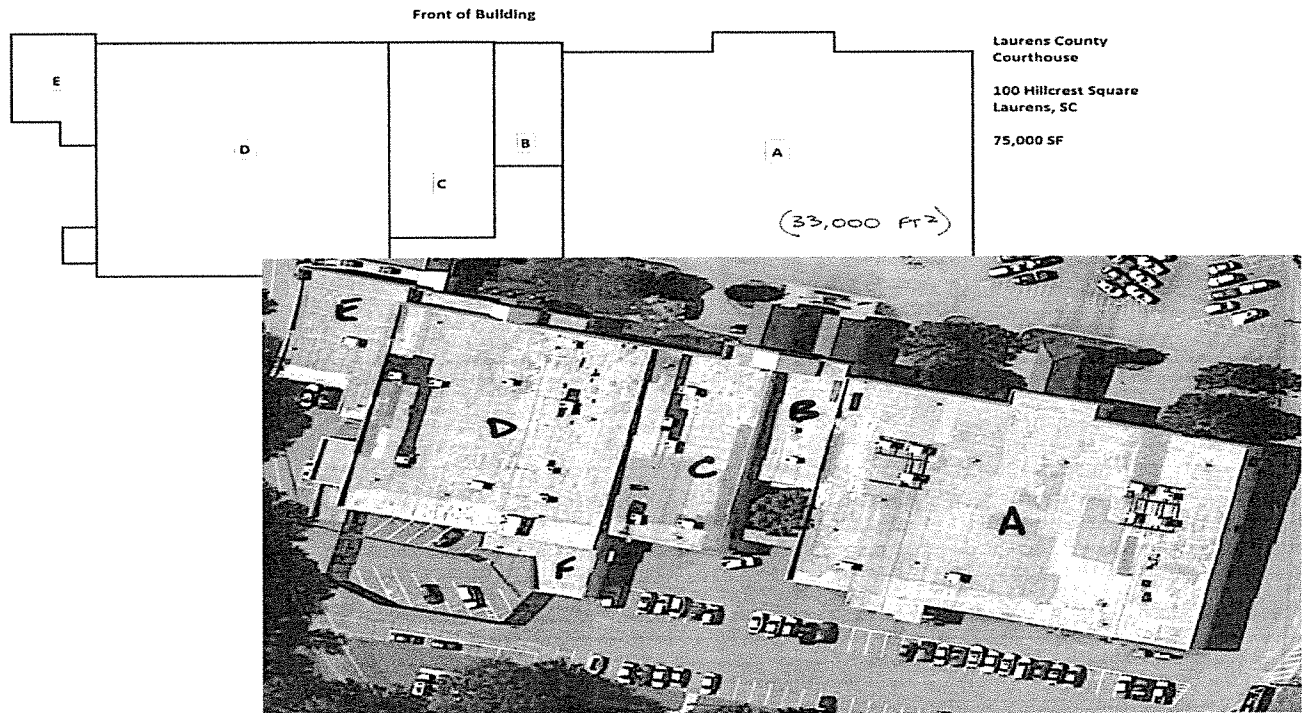
- a.) **ADDED AGENDA ITEM - HILLCREST ROOF REPLACEMENT** – Mr. Rob Russian approached Council providing an update on the leaks and proposed roof replacement at the Hillcrest Judicial / Services Center.

Mr. Russian said, “I had a meeting last week with the elected officials from the Hillcrest Building where those in attendance expressed the urgency of moving forward with the roof repairs. Council approved the replacement of the roof and the HVAC for the building. I was advised that the Departments are having to place tarps over desks and filing cabinets and that the leaks are threatening destruction of many paper documents and computer systems. Those elected officials requesting and attending the meeting was those all in section A – Auditor, Treasurer, Clerk of Court and Probate. This has been a discussion matter of Council for several months now with concern over which comes first, the HVAC systems or the roof. Section A has seven (7) HVAC units that are raised up on beams and five (5) units that actually penetrating the roof. We are still in the design phase for the units and don’t expect to begin until the end of this year. I would like to recommend to Council to accelerate the roof replacement on Section A. I also feel certain that the way the HVAC units are installed on the roof that all should be okay”.

Councilman Pitts asked what departments were in the noted areas of A-B-C-D-E-F. Mr. Russian replied with the following:

- A = Auditor, Assessor, Clerk of Court, Codes, Probate and Treasurer
- B = DJJ, Magistrate
- C = Family Court
- D = Circuit Court, Solicitor
- E = Probation, Parole and Pardon
- F = Storage

Roof Diagram



Laurens County Auditor, Jim Coleman said, “The roof has had all the patching it can hold and it still leaks. There was some type of foam used and it is deteriorating more and more now. We do not want this to become another Spartanburg County. We do have mold now but it is not as bad as Spartanburg and we don’t want it to get that way. This has been known and talked about for well over a year and a half. This is a safety hazard for the employees and the public”.

Laurens County Treasurer, Cindy Burke said, “This roof has really leaked since day one. Everything that has not been scanned or microfiched is subject to water damage. All of our permanent records are subject to damage as we have to put tarps on our desks and filing cabinets almost every night and on every weekend. There are also employees that are experiencing a lot of respiratory illnesses. With this, we ask that not only the roof be reroofed but to study the walls and carpets that have been subject to these leaks”.

Councilman Pitt asked how it was proposed to pay for these repairs and what the costs were. Mr. Russian replied that the Council previously approve working from the reserve funds and bond. The anticipated costs for the entire roof is around eight hundred twelve thousand dollars (\$812,000).

Chairman Wood expressed his concerns as putting the cart before the horse scenario....”I really don’t think we need to fix the roof before the HVAC units are installed. There will be mounting holes drilled into the roof and more leaks will eventually appear.” Mr. Russian stated that for the most part, the HAVC units are on existing beams that will not require additional penetration.

Chairman Wood asked if a schedule was available as to the repairs. Mr. Russian replied that it has been determined that December 1, 2018 could be a start date for repairs – June 18-July 6 – Field Work; July 9-August 6 – Design; August 7 – final design review; August 9 – Pre bid and August 23 – Bid.

Councilman Pitts said, “I tend to have to agree with Chairman Wood on this. Replacing the roof and then HVAC is taking chances with puncturing the roof. My personal opinion is that we need to sale a bond for a million dollars (\$1,000,000) and replace the entire things. We are facing emergency procurement right now”.

Administrator Caime said, “A bond could be married with the bond for EMS Headquarters. We could pay for some from the remaining bond for Hillcrest move to revenues and when the bond comes on line, repay the revenue account”.

COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON made the MOTION to approve the replacing of the roof on Section A of the Hillcrest Judicial / Services Building due to the emergency situation that we are now in with it leaking and possibly destroying valuable records. COUNCILMAN JONES SECONDING.

Councilman Pitts said, “From personal experience, there are five (5) experienced and reputable contractors that we have asked to submit bids”.

COUNCIL VOTED 7-0.

- a.) **APPROVAL – ROADS AND BRIDGES DEPARTMENT, FISCAL YEAR 2018 EQUIPMENT PURCHASE REQUEST** – Public Works Director Rob Russian approached Council asking to be allowed to use monies remaining in this present capital budget and the operational budget to purchase a new bobcat at thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) to replace the present 1992 model.

In briefing Council, Mr. Russian said that the Roads and Bridges Department was allocated seventy four dollars (\$74,000) of capital funds to purchase a dump truck. A smaller dump truck was purchased leaving fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) on account in the capital budget. Also there is monies in the operations budget to provide the other fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000).

COUNCILMAN PITTS made the MOTION to approve the monies for the purchase of a new bobcat for the Roads and Bridges Department not to exceed thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000). VICE CHAIRMAN TOLLISON SECONDING for further discussion.

Vice Chairman Tollison asked if this was a request in the new budget. Mr. Russian replied that it was not.

Councilman Jones questioned if sharing of equipment was among various departments. Mr. Russian replied that it was not with the piece of equipment.

Councilwoman Anderson said, “We presently have a lot of capital requests in this year’s budget and we don’t have enough money to fund them all. I would like for him to wait and add it to his capital requests”.

COUNCIL VOTED 6-1 (Councilwoman Anderson objecting)

- b.) **APPROVAL - NEWBERRY COUNTY - JAIL CONTRACT** – Chairman Wood said, “No disrespect to the Sheriff’s Department nor the Detention Center about this. This is to temporarily house the Newberry prisoners as they remodel pods at the Newberry Detention Center. Newberry County will be providing officers and will pay twenty five dollars (\$25) per prisoner, per day. What bothers me most about this is the way it was handled. The first I had heard about this was when I was in Anderson County and someone walked up to me and asked if I knew about this. I replied that I did not have any knowledge of this. I called the County Administrator, who in term called the Sheriff and was replied by a telephone text that it was true. Shortly thereafter, I was informed that the County Attorney had already written a contract without any knowledge with County Council. I, as Chairman of County Council, recognize the fact that the Sheriff has the right to run the Sheriff’s Department as he see fit. I also recognize that this Detention Center is the property of Laurens County which the County Council is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance. County Council has a vested interest in this contract because of a state mandate to enlarge the facility. The number one responsibility of this Council is to try to keep the population of this facility under control. I’ve got many questions about this”.

Directing the question to Sheriff Reynolds, Chairman Wood asked why did not the County of Newberry contact this County Council about this? Sherriff Reynolds replied, “You would have to ask their County Council why. The kitchen out there is so inadequate, if anything, this will help us get it up to par. We had the State Risk Management to come in and he signed off on all of this stuff. He sat down with the Laurens County people and the Newberry County people and concluded that this was a good plan. Newberry County is furnishing all of the manpower, taking on the responsibility of their health care, workers comp. There is nothing incurred here expense wise. I would also like to think that they would help us if we needed it”.

Chairman Wood asked how many inmates, what type of inmates and for how long? Sheriff Reynolds replied that there would be no more than thirty five (35) of a mixed conviction and would start August 20, 2018 for about a year with a possible extension date.

Councilwoman Anderson stated that she was concerned with overcrowding and asked what was the average spent on inmates now at the Detention Center. Ms. Vera Lawson replied that the average was fifty dollars (\$50) a day.

Councilman McDaniel asked what the potential revenue would be and asked if this should not become revenue neutral that the additional expenses would be reimbursed. Sheriff Reynolds replied that he thought we would come out on the good end and that it would be approximately three hundred fifteen thousand dollars (\$315,000).

There was a COUNCIL CONSENSUS that a motion with a vote was not needed on a contract that was implemented already by the Sheriff.

c.) **APPROVAL - SCHOOL DISTRICT #56 – SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER POSITION –** Sheriff Reynolds referred to a letter received from Dr. O’Shield in School District #56 for the request of an additional School Resource Officer for the Joanna School and that the School District would provide the funds to cover the salary and benefits for School Resource Officer provided by the Laurens County Sheriff’s Office.

VICE CHAIRMAN TOLLISON made the MOTION to approve the request for the additional officer with COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL SECONDING; VOTE 6-0-1 (Councilman Pitts abstained).

d.) **APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING - UPPER SAVANNAH COUNCIL OF GOVERNEMENTS - WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BUSINESS PLAN –** Mr. Billy Morgan approached Council asking for the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding with Laurens County and the Upper Savannah Council of Governments Workforce Development program.

COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL made the MOTION to approve with COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON SECONDING; VOTE 7-0.

ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:

a.) **HENRY LAURENS AWARD NOMINATION –** COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON made the MOTION to approve the nomination of Mr. John Livingston for the Henry Laurens Award. COUNCILMAN JONES SECODNING; VOTE 7-0.

b.) **REPORT - COUNTY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, WELFARE AND PUBLIC SAFETY – HOSPITAL BOARD NOMINATION –** As a MOTION and a SECOND from the COUNTY COUNCIL COMMITTEE, Committee Chairman David Pitts asked Council to approve the nomination of Mr. Don Adams to the Board of Trustees. He will be replacing Dr. Rufus K. Watkins who wishes to not serve another term.

COUNCIL VOTED 7-0 to approve the nomination.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mr. Brian Smith approached Council and introduced Ashley McCarter as the new County 4-H Agent.

COUNTY COUNCIL COMMENTS:

- a.) Councilman Jones wished everyone the best of luck during the elections.
- b.) Chairman Wood said that during this election there were a lot of comments made and promises made and whoever gets on this Council will find out soon enough that there is a lot of work in doing this job and that some, if elected, are in for a wide awaking.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - CONTRACTUAL DEALING WITH PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE – Chairman Wood asked for a motion at 6:50 P.M. to move into Executive Session for a contractual matter dealing with the purchase of real estate. COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL made the MOTION to move into executive session with COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON SECONDING; VOTE 7-0.

Councilman Nash left the meeting.

There was a COUNCIL CONSENSUS (6-0) to reconvene in open session at 7:45 P.M. Chairman Wood reported that no action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT – With no further business to conduct, Chairman Wood adjourned the meeting at 7:47 P.M. so as to move forward with the continued budget scheduled discussions.

Respectfully Submitted,


Betty C. Walsh
Laurens County Clerk to Council