

MINUTES
LAURENS COUNTY COUNCIL
JULY 28, 2015

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

Staff Present: Ernest Segars, County Administrator; Sandy Cruickshanks, County Attorney; and Robert Russian, Director of Public Works

Department Directors Present, Debi Parker, Director of Human Resources; Joey Avery, Commination's Director; Greg Lindley, Director of Fire Services; Matt Pennington, Assistant Director of the Laurens County EMS; and Major Joe Tyson, Laurens County Johnson detention Center

Press Present: Vic McDonald of the Clinton Chronicle; Ida Cadmus, WLBG Radio; and Corey Engle of the Laurens County Advertiser

Chairman Joe Wood called the July 28, 2015 meeting of Laurens County Council to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Historic Court House in Laurens, SC. Councilman David Pitts delivered the invocation and all participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Wood welcomed Councilman Garrett McDaniel as a member of Council. Mr. Garrett was elected in a special election on July 21, 2015 to fill the unexpired term of his late father Edward A. McDaniel.

Councilman McDaniel said that he is honored to serve as a member of Laurens County Council and he looks forward to serving with all members of Council.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA, JULY 28, 2015- On a motion by Vice Chairman Tollison and a second by Councilman Nash, Council approved the referenced agenda on a vote of 7-0. Chairman Wood said there would be a slight change to the agenda so that Council could handle the three economic development issues at one time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, July 14, 2015- On a motion by Councilman Jones and a second by Vice Chairman Tollison, Council approved the referenced Minutes on a vote of 7-0.

SECOND READING APPROVAL, Ordinance #794 – “An Ordinance Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of one or more Incentive Agreements By and Between Laurens County and a company known as “Project DVZ” as Sponsor, and One Or More Existing or To-Be-Formed or Acquired Subsidiaries, Or Affiliated Or Related Entities and Certain Sponsor Affiliates, To Provide for A Fee In Lieu of Ad Valorm Taxes Incentive; to Provide for a Sponsor Affiliate and to Enter into Any Necessary Agreements with

The Sponsor to Effect the Intent of this Ordinance; and Matters Related Thereto.”

County Attorney Cruickshanks said Project DVZ will provide an investment of approximately \$23.8 million in Phase II of the Owings Industrial Park. Following a brief discussion of the project, Councilman Nash made a motion to approve Ordinance 794 on second reading. Vice Chairman Tollison offered a second to the motion and Council approved Ordinance # 794 on second reading.

Discussion of Resolution # 2015, “ Identifying a Project to Satisfy the Requirements of Title 12, Chapter 44 of the South Carolina Code, So as to Allow Investment Expenditures Incurred by a Company Known to the County as Project Lace, its Affiliates and Related Entities, To Qualify As Expenditures Eligible for a Fee-in-Lieu of AD VALORM Taxes Arrangement with Laurens County, South Carolina; Authorizing the Receipt and Administration of a State Grant and Utility Grant for the Benefit of the Project; Committing to Enter into Necessary Agreements with the Company to Effect the Intent of This Resolution; and Other Matters Relating Thereto.

Attorney Cruickshanks said that Project Lace will utilize an existing facility in the Gray Court area. The company will invest approximately \$17.6 million and will provide 38 new, full-time jobs.

Council Member Anderson made a motion to approve the referenced Resolution. Councilman McDaniel offered a second to the motion and Council approved the motion on a vote of 7-0.

FIRST READING APPROVAL, Ordinance # 795- “ An Ordinance Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of One or More Incentive Agreements by and Between Laurens County, South Carolina and a Company to be Known to the County as “Project Lace,” As Sponsor and One or More Existing or To-Be- Formed or Acquired Subsidiaries, Or Affiliated or Related Entities and Certain Sponsor Affiliates, To Provide for a Fee in Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxes Incentive and Certain Special Source Revenue Credits; Authorizing the Receipt and Administration of a State Grant and Utility Grant for the Benefit of the Project; To Enter into Any Other Necessary Agreements with the Sponsor to effect the Intent of this Ordinance; and Other Related Matters.”

Vice Chairman Tollison made a motion to approve Ordinance 795 on first reading. Councilman Jones offered a second to the motion and Council approved the motion on a vote of 7-0.

SECOND READING APPROVAL, Ordinance # 796 “ Laurens County General Fund Budget, Fiscal Year 2015-2016.”

Laurens County Fire Director Greg Lindley presented information to Council relative to the budget, including:

- a.) The Fire General Fund operates on a levy of 18.0 mills with the value of a mill estimated to be \$133,750.
- b.) Of the 18 mills, 1.9 mills is established for the Fire Reserve Fund (\$254,125) and 16.1 mills to operate the county Fire Service (\$2,153,750.)

c.) There is an anticipated carry-over from FY 2014-2015 of \$20,000 and staff has recommended a transfer of \$35,000 from the Fire General Fund balance, for a total carry-over/fund transfer of \$55,000.

d.) Based on these projected incomes/expenses, the anticipated expenditures for the Fire General Fund for FY 2015-2016 are \$2,208,375 and the anticipated expenditure for the Fire Reserve Fund is \$ 254,600.

e.) There is a two mill tax levy to fund the operations of the County Fire Director's Office. The income/expenditures for that office total \$267,410. Director Lindley said that the Department is proposing to buy two new pick-up trucks for Division Chiefs for approximately \$55,000.

f) Director Lindley also reported that he is recommending no changes in the Contract amounts paid to the City of Clinton (\$283,940) and the City of Fountain Inn (\$205,494) for FY 2015-16

The total budget for the Laurens County Fire Service for FY 2015-2016 is as follows:

- 1.) Fire General Fund- \$2,208,375
 - 2.) Fire Reserve funds- \$254,600
 - 3.) Fire Director's Office Account- \$267, 410
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Total- \$2,730,385

Councilman Nash offered a motion to approve Ordinance # 796 on second reading. Vice Chairman Tollison offered a second to the motion and Council approved the motion on a vote of 7-0

COMMUNICATIONS IMPROVEMENTS- Director Lindley and Communications Director Joey Avery briefed Council on a proposed program to add at least two (2) communications transmitters to improve emergency communications in the Fire Service. The improvements could total as much as \$410,000. Chairman Wood said Council will take the initial proposal as Information and the Chairman agreed to assign the proposal to a Council Committee when more information is available.

APPROVAL OF AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT for the transfer of ownership of two fire service trucks between the Laurens County Fire Department and the City of Laurens Fire Department

Based on the recommendations of the command staffs of both Departments, the City of Laurens Fire Department will transfer ownership of 2004 Ford F-550 rescue truck to the Laurens County Fire Department. The Laurens County Fire Department will in turn transfer ownership of a 1999 Freightliner medium rescue truck to the City of Laurens Fire Department.

Chief Anthony Kiker of the Laurens County Fire Department and Chief Bill Hughes of the Laurens City Fire Department said that the transfer of the vehicles will improve the fire-fighting capabilities of both departments.

Councilman Pitts made a motion to approve the referenced Interlocal Agreement. Council Member Anderson offered a second to the motion and Council approved the motion on a vote of 7-0.

APPROVAL OF A FIRE SERVICE CONTRACT for management of identified phases of the Capital Improvements project to be funded with a General Obligation Bond, Laurens County Fire Service

County Administrator Ernie Segars advised Council that the projected complexity of repair work and upgrades for 20 to 30 individual fire stations will require proper bidding, scheduling and inspection of that work and the Capital Improvements plan calls for the construction of up to five new fire stations

that will require architectural and engineering services. Based on these factors, staff is proposing that the Laurens County Fire Service enter into a services contract with DA Architects of Summerville, SC for the construction/architectural services

Laurens County has had a long affiliation with DA Architects in the design of the Laurens County Detention Center, the Hillcrest Square Judicial and the administration complex at Hillcrest Square. Chairman Wood and Councilman Pitts both praised the qualifications and prior service to the county.

The projected cost of the service will be approximately \$95,000. Councilman Pitts made the motion to approve the service contract and Vice Chairman Tollison offered a second to the motion. Council approved the motion on a vote of 7-0.

REQUEST FOR LOCAL MATCH FUNDS for the purchase of an ambulance to be funded by FEMA/AFG grant

Matt Pennington, Assistant Director of the Laurens County Emergency Medical service, presented a request to Council for \$12,727 in local funds to supplement a \$127,273 federal grant for the purchase of a new, \$140,000 ambulance to be included in the EMS fleet.

Council Member Anderson made a motion to fund the local match of \$12,727 from the county's FY 2016 Contingency Account. Councilman McDaniel offered a second to the motion, and Council approved the motion on a vote of 7-0.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT- Administrator Segars advised Council that county staff has been discussing needed updates/modifications to certain long-standing county ordinances. Public Works Director Rob Russian said that the county Road Ordinance is in particular need of updating. The administrator said that staff will meet with the county attorney on this issue and report to Council at an upcoming meeting.

PERIOD FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Wood opened the time for public comment and invited anyone from the public interested in addressing Council to come forward. No one wished to address Council and Chairman Wood closed the time for public comment.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

- 1.) Vice Chairman Tollison- congratulated the Laurens County EMS for the successful application for a federal grant to purchase a new ambulance. He also welcomed Councilman McDaniel as a member of Laurens County Council.
- 2.) Councilman Nash said that he agrees that some county ordinances should be updated and modified. He also congratulated Councilman McDaniel on his election to Council.
- 3.) Councilman Jones welcomed Councilman McDaniel as a member of Laurens County Council.
- 4.) Councilman Pitts said that, as a member of the Executive Committee of the Laurens County Development Corporation, he has been appointed as the Chairman of a Search Committee to receive applications for the position of Executive Director of the LCDC. Marvin Moss has submitted his notice of retirement as LCDC executive director effective December 31, 2015. Notice of the Position has been placed with various publications, he said. Councilman Pitts also congratulated Mr. Moss for his years of service to Laurens County and the LCDC.
- 5.) Councilman McDaniel again expressed his appreciation for his election to Laurens County Council and he looks forward to working with Council members in the future
- 6.) Council Member Anderson congratulated Councilman McDaniel on his recent election to Council'
- 7.) Chairman Wood expressed his appreciation to Marvin Moss for Mr. Moss's years of dedicated and effective service to the county. Chairman Wood said that he first met Mr. Moss when Laurens County was working diligently to locate the Sterilite Corporation to Laurens County.

In other action, Chairman Wood referenced a newspaper article that reported that the O'Dell Corporation of Ware Shoals has given a \$10,000 "Back to School" gift to Ware Shoals District 51. The gift will be used to purchase all Back to School supplies for 5K through 4th grade at Ware Shoals Primary School.

The gift from the O'Dell Corporation provides a good example for other companies in the area< Chairman Wood said. He requested that the Council office send a letter of appreciation to the O'Dell Corporation.

With no further business, Chairman Wood adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ernie Segars" followed by the initials "bw" in a cursive style.

Ernest B. Segars
Laurens County Administrator