



MINUTES
MAY 8, 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 and David Pitts.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Councilman Ted Nash (illness).

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 Magistrate Judge, Leesa Inabinette; Laurens County Communications / E911 Director, Joey Avery; Laurens County Fire Service Director, Greg Lindley; Laurens County; Laurens County Finance Director, Lisa Kirk; Laurens County Assessor, David Satterfield and Laurens County Human Resources Manager, Debi Parker.

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

SCHEDULED MEETING AGENDA ITEMS – 1.) Call to Order – Chairman Wood; 2.) Invocation – Councilman Jones; 3.) Pledge of Allegiance; 4.) Approval of Agenda – May 8, 2018; 5.) Approval of Minutes April 24, 2018 regular session and April 24, 2018 Budget Session #1; Reports to Council: a.) Capstone Project - Jordon Lloyd, Clemson PSA, Intern; b.) Opioid Lawsuit Presentation – County Attorney, A. Cruickshanks, IV; 6.) Old Business: a.) Second Reading Ordinance# 846 FY 2018 - 2019 Budget; b.) Second Reading Ordinance #847 FY2018 - 2019 Fire SPTD Budget; c.) Resolution #2018-21 - Project Lime; d.) Second Reading of Ordinance #845 - Project Lime; 7.) New Business: a.) Clemson Extension Contract Approval; b.) First Reading of Ordinance #848 Local Option Sales Tax; c.) Request – Appointment of Two (2) Council Members, Review Courthouse Assessment; 8.) Public Comment; 9.) County Council Comments: 10.) Executive Session – None; 11.) Adjournment; 12.) Budget Session #3 Immediately Following the Regular Session of Council.

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. Councilman Jones provided the invocation.

Chairman Wood asked for all to continue keeping Council Nash in prayer.

PUBLIC COMMENT SIGN-UPS – Paul Odell.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – MAY 8, 2018 – Chairman Wood called for approval of the agenda with any additions or deletions. COUNCILMAN JONES made the MOTION to approve the agenda with VICE CHAIRMAN TOLLISON SECONDDING; VOTE 6-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a.) **APRIL 24, 2018 REGULAR SESSION -** COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON made the MOTION to approve the April 24, 2018 regular session minutes with COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL SECONDING; VOTE 6-0. COUNCILWOMAN

- b.) **APRIL 24, 2018 BUDGET SESSION #3 -** COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL made the MOTION to approve the April 24, 2018 budget session minutes with COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON SECONDING; VOTE 6-0.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL:

Before continuing with the regular scheduled agenda, Chairman Wood addressed a recent editorial published by saying, “A recent editorial in the local newspapers stated that Council had approved the “County budget that included an increase in taxes to the taxpayers of Laurens County...this is not a true statement. Council has always approved the budget on first reading and by title only using the numbers approved from the previous year budget. The County budget is not actually approved until a public hearing and third reading is held”.

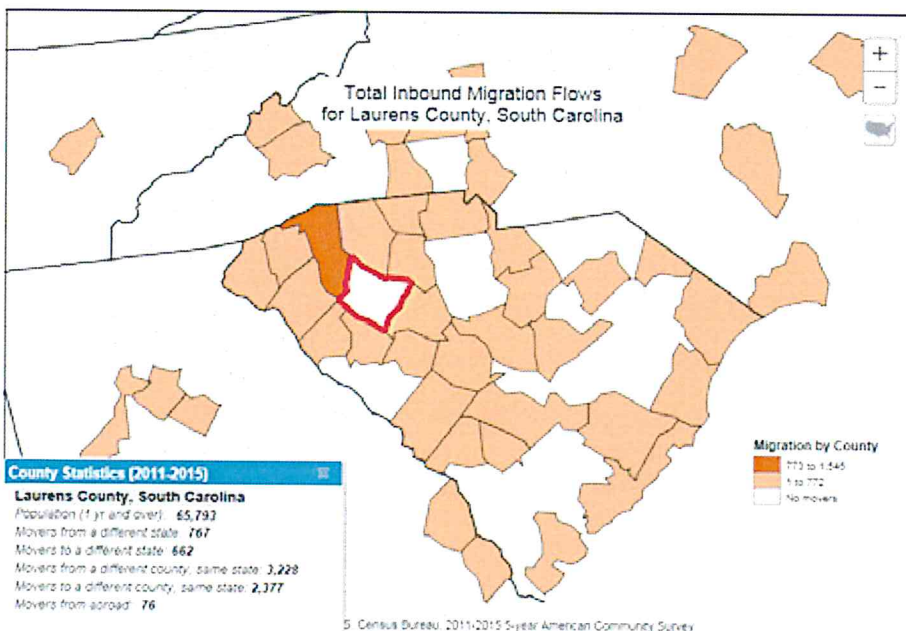
CAPSTONE PROJECT - JORDON LLOYD, CLEMSON PSA, INTERN – Mr. Lloyd approached Council and stated, “I was asked to provide this Council with data involving the population trends within Laurens County to include ages, race and male/female. Also to include the migration in and out of the people within Laurens County”.

A full copy of the data presented is attached and is to be considered part of these minnutes. Only pieces of the data is incorporated into the actual minutes.

Survey Results (without pictorial maps):

- 60-64, 65-69 - is a growing population especially around the Lake
- 20-24, 25-29 – limited growth
- 30-34, 45-49, 40-44, 45-49 - declining

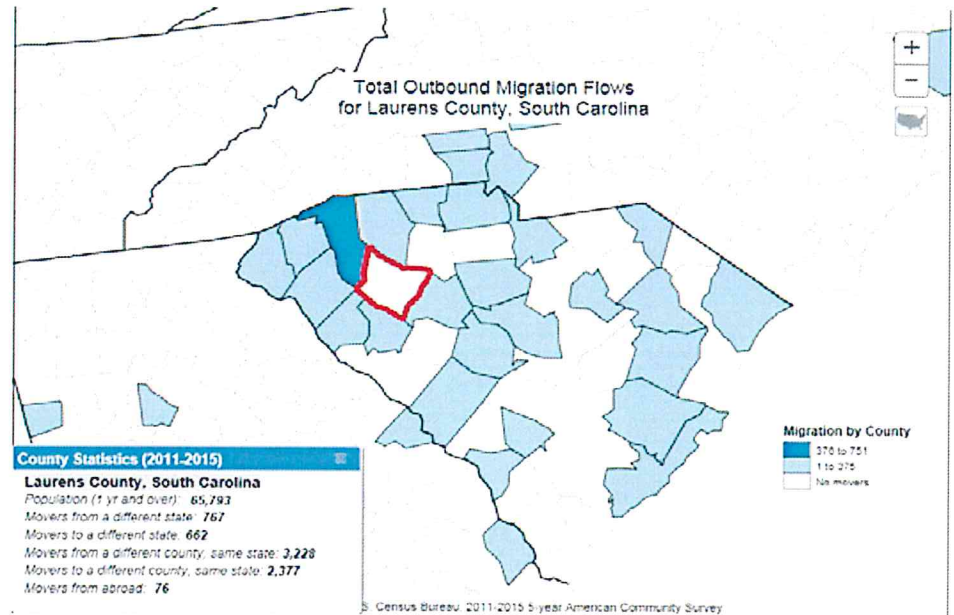
Inbound migration 2011 – 2015



County	Migration Count
Greenville County	1545
Greenwood County	527
Anderson County	150
Spartanburg County	138
Montour County, PA	128
Saluda County	99
Richland County	86
Newberry County	81
Horry County	80
Cherokee County	55

Outbound migration

Greenville County	751
Greenwood County	363
Spartanburg County	252
Mobile County, AL	197
Lexington County	181
Richland County	160
Anderson County	159
Newberry County	149
Pickens County	137
Haralson County, GA	93



Vice Chairman Tollison noted that he was glad to see the growth within Laurens County over the past several years that has resulted in good solid growth economically.

Administrator Caime said, “The Clemson PSA students have been collecting this data for a year or so now on Laurens County. These statistics can be used in many different ways. It proves that we actually have families moving to Laurens County and with this growth, we need to create a strategic plan. I’ve been trying to sell County Council on this visioning process for some time now. There are and will be concerns that should be addressed within Laurens County. The Comprehensive Plan will be required to be updated soon and this data can be used as a toll to develop our plans. There is and needs to be tons of data that should be captured. The trends are really different from what we all might think”.

Chairman Wood stated, “I, myself like the simple life in Laurens County. We have the ability of going to Greenville, Greenwood and Spartanburg in just a matter of minutes. When I go to Greenville now, usually I cant wait to get back home. The more growth we have, the more services we need to provide; the more employees we need to provide these services and the need to increase the taxes to provide all of the components of providing the services. We do not need another Woodruff Road in Laurens County”.

OPIOID LAWSUIT PRESENTATION – County Attorney, Cruickshanks introduced Mr. Jon White of the Harrison and White Law Firm who is to present to Council how the County can recover funds with this lawsuit and that this is only for Council information.

Mr. White began by saying, “The opioid crisis we now have is not gender, age or race specific. This opioid epidemic is present in our cities, counties, state, nation and worldwide. We presently have lawsuits in place against the regulatory bad acts and controlling the behavior of the drug companies and their lack of ethics. We intend to expose their hidden clinical surveys towards these opioid drugs that should only be allowed with individuals that are in Hospice or for specific surgeries.

Vice Chairman Tollison asked, “On a need to know basis, the companies causing this epidemic is not true. It’s the bad decisions being made. We the people are choosing to take these medications because it is available. I work in Camden, New Jersey area with a lot of these problems already and it is coming our way, if not here now. I would like to know if you came to us with this proposition or did we come to you”? Mr. White replied, “We have talked with your County Attorney and concluded that we needed the opportunity to provide this information to the full Council”.

Vice Chairman Tollison replied, "I question if we would be spending funds that we don't have to spend? Do you think that this will deter this crisis?"

Mr. White said, "These drugs are in the open market. The Federal Drug Administration determines how it is put on the market for sale and distribution. I'm sure each of you have heard of the black box warnings. This is where the full truth is not disclosed. They go so far to say that these opioid drugs are not addictive. The sale of these drugs creates in excess of twenty two billion dollars (\$22,000,000,000) for the companies. The distributors have no safeguards to keep them off of the markets. The Doctors are misinformed thus unfair trade practices result. Yes, we think that this will curb the crisis if all comply with the agreements. Compensation would be provided to Laurens County thus putting the burden on the people causing the problems and not the taxpayers".

Mr. White presented a map of the state that showed the counties that are participating in this lawsuit to date. Those counties were: Greenwood, Union, York, Cherokee, Spartanburg, Greenville, Anderson, Pickens and Oconee. Those that are being encouraged to join the lawsuit are Abbeville, McCormick, Chester and Laurens.

Chairman Wood thanked Mr. White and reiterated that Council has received this as information at this time.

OLD BUSINESS:

SECOND READING ORDINANCE #846 – BY TITLE ONLY - “AN ORDINANCE TO IMPLEMENT THE FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019 LAURENS COUNTY BUDGEANT T PURSUANT TO SECTION 4-9-140 AND/OR SECTION 4-9-130 OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS, 1976 AS AMENDED” – Administrator Caime stated that the millage numbers are in a more positive position with .1 mill on the general fund and a .35 on EMS.

COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL made the MOTION to approve Ordinance #846 upon second reading, by title only. COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON SECONDING for discussion.

Councilman Pitts referring to Ordinance #846, item number two (2), *“the tax levy shall exceed the levy imposed for 2018 by the index pursuant to SC Code 6-1-320 by 2.55%. The allowable index is 2.55%”* asked for confirmation that the 2.55% is what is allowed to increase the tax levy. If we approve this upon second reading, are we saying that we approve the increase by 2.55% or by .1% for the general fund. Administrator Caime replied that the 2.55% is correct as allowed by Act 388. The net calculations will only be about a .1 mill increase. The value of the mill has increased (\$172,500).

Chairman Wood questioned the unfunded mandates were included. Administrator e replied that the unfunded mandates are included as part of our ordinance. .1 mill is forty cents (.40) on a one hundred thousand dollar (\$100,000) home.

Vice Chairman Tollison asked if with this increase in millage, are we reaching our cap of 2.455% on mileage? Chairman Wood stated that he felt like if Council voted on second reading tonight as presented, that it can very well change before third reading. Attorney Cruickshanks added, “2.55% translates to .1 mill”.

Councilman Pitts asked for clarification of item 4-a of the ordinance: “A Special Revenue Fund in an amount of \$360,000 is hereby established for the purpose of separate accountability so as to offset the costs and relates expenditures associated with the collections of delinquent taxes by the County Treasurer’s Office. The funds for this Special Revenue Fund are to be transferred by the Treasurer, as authorized and directed by the Treasurer, as and for the purposes established by the statutory requirements for these funds”. Administrator Caime replied, “Council took action by creating a special revenue fund last year consisting of two (2) general fund sources specifically designated for use and by the Treasurer. This created the three hundred sixty

thousand dollars (\$360,000). Council also capped the balance in that account of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) and that each year what is not spent out of this fund goes back to the general fund”.

COUNCIL VOTED 5-1 (Councilmen Jones was in opposition).

SECOND READING ORDINANCE #847 – BY TITLE ONLY - “AN ORDINANCE TO IMPLEMENT THE FY 2018-2019 FIRE SPECIAL PURPOSE TAX DISTRICT BUDGET” - Administrator Caime stated that this does not reflect any increases in millage.

COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON made the MOTION to approve Ordinance #847 upon second reading, by title only. VICE CHAIRMAN TOLLISON SECONDING; VOTE 6-0.

RESOLUTION #2018-21 - PROJECT LIME - Attorney Cruickshanks informed Council that this Resolution allows for the amendment of the Fee In Lieu Of Tax Agreement previously approved by Council – February 13, 2018, Ordinance #840. It still has a commitment of \$2.8 million in investment on or before December 31, 2023. This allows for the removal of the initial sponsor affiliates from the Fee Agreement towards the Solar project.

COUNCILMAN JONES made the MOTION to approve as presented with COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL SECONDING; VOTE 6-0.

FIRST READING – ORDINANCE #845 – “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE EXISTING MASTER AGREEMENT GOVERNING THE OCTAGON INDUSTRIAL PARK BY AND BETWEEN LAURENS COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND GREENVILLE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA TO ENLARGE THE BOUNDARIES OF THE INDUSTRIAL PARK TO INCLUDE CERTAIN PROPERTY NOW OR TO BE HEREAFTER OWNED AND / OR OPERATED BY A COMPANY IDENTIFIED FOR THE TIME BEING AS PROJECT LIME, LOCATED IN LAURENS COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND AUTHORIZING OTHER RELATED MATTERS” – Attorney Cruickshanks stated that this was an amending ordinance that deals with the existing master agreement allowing to add another to the Octagon Park Agreement.

COUNCILMAN JONES made the MOTION to approve Ordinance #845 as presented with VICE CHAIRMAN TOLLISON SECONDING; VOTE 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

CLEMSON EXTENSION CONTRACT APPROVAL – Administrator Caime explained that this was the continuation of the agreement between Laurens County and Clemson University for the purpose of supporting a County Extension Agent – 4-H position in the Laurens County Clemson Extension Office. The position is to provide leadership in planning and conducting a comprehensive County 4-H Youth Development Program consisting of volunteers.

The proposed budget for this position is as follows:

Salary	\$16,393.00
Benefits 40.3%	\$ 6,607.00
Travel	\$ 1,200.00
Materials and Supplies	<u>\$ 800.00</u>
	\$25,000.00

COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON made the MOTION to approve the agreement with COUNCILMAN PITTS SECONDING. Chairman Wood stated that he thought this to be a waste of money. COUNCIL VOTED 5-1 (Chairman Wood in opposition).

FIRST READING - ORDINANCE #848 – “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE #466 PROVIDING FOR THE USE OF THE MAXIMUM LEGAL PERCENTAGE OF LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX FUNDS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019 LAURENS COUNTY BUDGET; AND OTHER MATTERS APPERTAINING THERETO” – COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON made the MOTION to approve Ordinance #848 as presented. COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL SECONDING for discussion.

Vice Chairman Tollison asked for confirmation that this would be taking a total allotment of twenty nine percent (29%). Administrator Caime confirmed.

Councilman Pitts said that he firmly believes that the County will end the year in an excess revenue and asked for the MOTION TO BE AMENDED to say that if the Fiscal Year ends on a positive note that the taxpayers will be reimbursed. Having made the MOTION, COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON AGREED TO AMEND as well as COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL AGREEDING TOWARDS HIS SECONDING. VOTE 6-0.

REQUEST – APPOINTMENT OF TWO (2) COUNCIL MEMBERS, REVIEW COURTHOUSE ASSESSMENT – Robert Russian, Public Works Director, approached Council asking for two (2) County Council Members to be appointed to serve on a committee to review the proposed conditions assessment report on the Historical Courthouse Preservation Project.

Continuing, Mr. Russian said, “There were twelve (12) responses to the request for proposal. I have five (5) copies each and would like to have two (2) County Council Members on the Committee to review and to assist myself, the Buildings and Grounds Foreman and Billy Wilson, in Procurement”.

Chairman Wood stated that he would serve as well as Vice Chairman Tollison expressing his intent to serve. Councilman Pitts also asked for an individual that he knew in the Clinton area who was has experience in this type of work to be included.

Vice Chairman Tollison stated that he thought the next step would be where the experience like this could be applied. Councilman Pitts said that he thought this to be the most important step.

There was no actual motions or actions of the full Council as the two (2) Members of Council volunteered.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- 1.) Mr. Paul Odell, approached Council saying, “I’m proud to be living in the home of the free and brave. And not to forget the freedom of speech. I am proud to have served the last thirty two (32) years on the Registration and Elections Commission and prior to that having severed twenty eight (28) years on the Laurens County Council. I have several areas that I would like to address and express my opinions on. One being that each year during budget deliberations, it’s always about salaries. I believe in a full day’s pay for a full day of work. The taxpayers are not paying for what they should get. When I was on Council a full day consisted from 8:30 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. It now costs more per capital in Laurens County than it takes to run in Greenville County. In the early seventies (70’s) the Office of Laurens County Council was formed as a County Council form of Government. The Legislature created and passed the Home Rule Act that gave the people the choice of which form of government they wished to have. The taxpayers in Laurens County approved a County Council form of Government with an Administrative Secretary. This form of Government cannot be changed without a vote of the citizens”.

Continuing, Mr. Odell said, “On another matter that concerns me is the Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission. On everyone’s tax notice in Laurens County, there is a tax imposed by the Water Sewer Authority. This is unconstitutional. It is against the law for a public property to be taxed by utility services. This has been tried in Court – Greenville versus the Western Carolina Authority. The

courts ruled against Western Carolina. There are a lot of taxpayers in Laurens County that pay this tax and do not have the luxury of water lines running in their area”.

Continuing, Mr. Odell said, “The schools own the County. Look at your tax notices and you will see where all of your tax money is going. The School Districts have the authority to apply taxes and they just keep on putting the taxes on. This in itself has a direct impact on County Council when the taxpayer sees their tax notices and instantly assumes that the County Council is responsible”.

Chairman Wood thanked Mr. Odell for his comments and added that he has always said that this County Council gets blamed for a taxes. We are a County Council form of government.

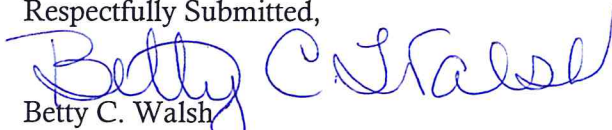
COUNTY COUNCIL COMMENTS:

- 1.) Vice Chairman Tollison said, “I believe in growing Laurens County. The more rooftops we have the greater the impact on the County and the more we have the more we can spread the burdens of taxes. We all know change is coming. I’ve stated this implying no disrespect to Chairman Wood”.
- 2.) Chairman Wood stated, “I am by no means against growth for Laurens County. Just not to the speed and conditions presently in Greenville and Spartanburg. We now have more jobs than we can fill”.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

ADJOURNMENT – With no further business to conduct, Chairman Wood adjourned the meeting at 7:06 P.M. so as to move forward with the budget discussion scheduled.

Respectfully Submitted,


Betty C. Walsh
Laurens County Clerk to Council