



MINUTES
AUGUST 28, 2018
LAURENS COUNTY COUNCIL
HISTORIC COURTHOUSE – COUNCIL CHAMBERS

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT- Vice Chairman Tollison (work related).

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

STAFF ABSENT: None.

DEPARTMENT HEADS PRESENT: Lisa Inabinett, Magistrate Judge; Debi Parker, Human Resources Manager; Andy Howard, Director, Parks, Recreation and Tourism; Billy Wilson, Vehicle Maintenance/Procurement Officer and Chuck Bobo, Codes Official.

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

SCHEDULED AGENDA ITEMS – AUGUST 28, 2018 – 1.) Call to Order; 2.) Invocation – Councilman Jones; 3.) Pledge of Allegiance; 4.) Approval of Agenda – August 28, 2018; 5.) Approval of Minutes – a.) August 14, 2018 - Council Committee As A Whole and b.) August 14, 2018 - Regular Session of Council; 6.) Reports to Council; 7.) Old Business: a.) Second Reading, Ordinance #852, Extending 1998 BMW FILOT Agreement; b.) Public Hearing, Ordinance #814, Junk Yards; c.) Third Reading, Ordinance #814, Junk Yards; 8.) New Business: a.) Flame Spray, Extending Investment Window; b.) Information Technology (IT), Approval of Job Descriptions and Pay; c.) Planning Position – Approval of Job Description; d.) Building Codes – Intragovernmental Agreement - Joint Service with City of Laurens; e.) Notification – Department of Justice – Federal Grant (JAG); f.) Hickory Tavern Youth Recreation Association, new lease agreement request; g.) Variance Request – Subdivision Ordinance – Cross Hill Community; 9.) Public Comment; 10.) County Council Comments; 11.) Executive Session – Personnel Matters (Public Works Director and Assistant Public Works Director Position); 12.) Adjournment.

MEETING NOTIFICATION – The requesting general public, department heads 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT SIGN UPS – None.

CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Wood called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – AUGUST 28, 2018 – Chairman Wood asked for approval of the agenda and any additions or deletions from the agenda.

COUNCILMAN NASH made the MOTION to approve the August 28, 2018 agenda with COUNCILMAN JONES SECONDDING; VOTE 6-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – AUGUST 14, 2018 - COUNCIL COMMITTEE AS A WHOLE AND AUGUST 14, 2018 - REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL - COUNCILMAN JONES made the MOTION to approve both – August 14, 2018 - Council Committee As A Whole and August 14, 2018 - Regular Session of Council minutes with COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL SECONDDING; VOTE 6-0.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL - NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

SECOND READING, ORDINANCE #852, EXTENDING 1998 BMW PILOT AGREEMENT – Attorney Cruickshanks explained that the equipment BMW has within Laurens County is eligible for the extension to 2028.

COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL made the MOTION to approve on second reading the extension of the agreement with BMW. COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON SECONDING; VOTE 6-0.

PUBLIC HEARING, ORDINANCE #814, JUNK YARDS – Chairman Wood opened the public hearing at 5:36 P.M. Having no one wishing to address Ordinance #814, Chairman Wood closed the hearing at 5:36 P.M.

THIRD READING, ORDINANCE #814, JUNK YARDS – COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON made the MOTION to approve Ordinance 3814 upon third reading as presented with COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL SECONDING.

Councilman Jones questioned Section 4 on screening for grandfathered junkyards.

- d.) Any non-conforming junkyard will be in accordance with the standards and criteria for effective screening set forth in these regulations. For non-conforming junkyards, the owner/operator responsible will have one (1) year from the date of enactment of this ordinance to have an approved screening in place at front of the property.
- e.) Evergreen vegetation that serves as screening shall be of an approved type that can reach a minimum height of eight feet when mature from the date planted and shall be planted at intervals evenly spaced and in close proximity to each other so that a continuous, unbroken screen (without gaps or open spaces) will exist to a height of at least eight feet (8') along the length of the fence surrounding the junkyard. The evergreen screen shall be maintained as a continuous, unbroken screen for the period the property is used as a junkyard.
- f.) Plans for the screening device shall be approved by the Building Official before it is erected or put into place.

Administrator Caime stated that many existing junkyard owners contributed to the language in the ordinance and that more strenuous guidelines were in place for screening with new junkyards. Councilman Jones asked for confirmation that the owners had one (1) year to comply. Codes Official Chuck Bobo stated that evergreen vegetation is required for new owners and does not affect the grandfathered owners.

COUNCIL VOTED 5-1 (Councilman ones opposed).

NEW BUSINESS:

FLAME SPRAY, EXTENDING INVESTMENT WINDOW – Mr. Jonathan. Coleman, Director of the Laurens County Development Corporation, said, “This industry is located in the Woodfield Industrial Park and they are requesting the extension of their investment window by adding five (5) more years”. Attorney Cruickshanks added that the Fee Agreement only needs Council approval and this will be adding twenty (20) more jobs and an additional investment of four million dollars (\$4,000,000).

COUNCILMAN JONES made the MOTION to approve with COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON SECONDING; VOTE 6-0.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT), APPROVAL OF JOB DESCRIPTIONS AND PAY – Chairman Wood delayed any discussion and assigned the County Council Committee on Planning and Intergovernmental Affairs the task of reviewing and back to the full Council their recommendations.

Administrator Caime said, “The provided information is for one (1) manager and two (2) technical support members and this is part of the approved budget. Mr. Anderson has done an excellent job for the County since 1994 when he retired from IBM. If a consultant is placed, a transition time would be required to learn the systems”.

PLANNING POSITION – APPROVAL OF JOB DESCRIPTION - Chairman Wood delayed any discussion and assigned the County Council Committee on Planning and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Administrator Caime noted that he had been informed of two (2) new subdivisions being planned for the Northern portion of Laurens County and that this position is necessary to help manage growth in that area.

BUILDING CODES – Briefing Council, Mr. Bobo said, “The City of Laurens is asking the County to provide inspection services for commercial property only within the City Limits of Laurens. We will work closely with the City Fire Marshal.

Councilman Jones asked if this would add an additional permitting. Mr. Bobo replied that it would for commercial property but not for residential.

Councilwoman Anderson questioned why they have asked and if it was because of reducing staff? Mr. Bobo replied that there were two (2) inspectors with the City of Laurens and that commercial inspections was very time consuming.

COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL made the MOTION to accept the Intragovernmental Agreement with the City of Laurens for commercial inspections only. COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON SECONDING; VOTE 5-1 (Councilman Jones opposed).

Councilman Pitts asked if the motion could be restated and making the contract for a longer period of time like five (5) years rather than just one (1). Councilman Pitts withdrew his suggestion.

NOTIFICATION – DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE – FEDERAL GRANT (JAG) - Mrs. Lisa Kirk, Finance Director and Mr. Mickey Coates of the Sheriff's Department approached Council asking for approval to enter into the grant process for the Department of Justice Federal Grant (JAG) for the following items:

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| \$2,500.00 | Purchase a child identification and fingerprinting system for the Laurens County Sheriff's Office Community Services Division to be able to continue the Kid Print program. This program allows our deputies to schedule events where children are photographed, physical descriptors are taken- height, weight, hair/ eye color, and other information is collected and printed on an easy to carry/ store card. This card also contains the child's fingerprint for identification if for some reason the child becomes missing. |
| \$5,700.00 | Purchase a Cyanoacrylate Fuming Chamber to assist in preparing items used as evidence for fingerprinting. This valuable tool will assist our crime scene investigators in lifting latent prints, shoe impressions, and other type prints from surfaces that cannot be collected with regular fingerprint powder. This item will allow our investigators to identify, preserve, and collect these prints, in-house, and then send off for comparison and identification, in turn saving time and money for the agency. |
| \$7,167.00 | Purchase mobile handheld identification devices specifically designed for law enforcement use. The devices will be assigned to a supervisor on each of our uniform patrol shifts to have available to offer real-time identification of suspects law enforcement officers encounter. |

Mr. Coates stated that the submission date was August 17, 2018 for a total amount of fifteen thousand three hundred sixty seven dollars (\$15,367.00) for computers (hardware and software), forensic equipment and officer safety.

Councilwoman Anderson inquired about the date of submission as being August 17, 2018 and today's date being August 28, 2018. Mr. Coates replied that it was a yearly given fact. Mrs. Kirk replied that they have only applied the application.

COUNCILMAN PITTS made the MOTION to approve with COUNCILMAN JONES SECONDING; VOTE 6-0.

HICKORY TAVERN YOUTH RECREATION ASSOCIATION, NEW LEASE AGREEMENT REQUEST – Mr. Andy Howard, Director of County Parks, Recreation and Tourism and Mr. Russ Poulson approached Council to discuss a possible renewal of the Hickory Tavern Youth Association Park Agreement.

Mr. Howard began by saying "The previous agreement has expired. To receive grants, an agreement is required between the County and the Association. The former agreements allowed for PARD grant monies to be used to upgrade the park. The PARD grant requires that there be permanent improvements made towards the park for public use for community recreation and meet the requirements of several classifications. Projects valued at five thousand dollars (\$5,000) or less, the agreement period will be at least five (5) years; Projects valued at five thousand one to twenty thousand dollars (\$5,001 - \$20,000), the agreement period will be for at least five (5) years, plus one (1) additional year for each one thousand (\$1,000) with a maximum of twenty (20) years; Projects valued at twenty thousand one dollars (\$20,001) and above, the agreement period will be for twenty (20) years".

Continuing Mr. Howard said, "The South Carolina Park Grants are an eighty percent (80%) State and twenty percent (20%) County match. In 1991 \$7,330.70; 1992 – \$8,000; 1993 - \$20,000; 2002 - \$10,000. The previous lease arrangements called for the County to maintain the grounds, utilities and the fact that the park had to be open to the public for use. Hickory Tavern Youth Association was responsible for maintaining the buildings. The buildings are becoming unsafe and the County is responsible for the liability of users of the common public use of the park (not any organized sports). Utility expenses alone would run approximately two thousand four hundred dollars yearly and not to forget the equipment usage and manpower needed".

Mr. Howard stated that he recommends repairs / upgrades to include, replacing roofing on buildings, concession stand repairs to structure; Picnic Shelter repairs; restroom upgrades (ADA); Demo storage building; remove tractor trailer from property (hazard). Approximate total of \$20,000.

Mr. Russ Poulson said, "I am in the catch up mode as to the previous park operations. I am truly appreciative of the help provided by Mr. Howard thus far. What we are requesting is for Council to renew the agreement for one (1) year. We have a total slate of new officers on the board since February of 2018. The soccer sign up and events, we have had over five hundred (500) youth and with all the families totally and attendance of well over two thousand (2,000) ".

Chairman Wood thanked Mr. Poulson for his dedication to the kids in the Hickory Tavern Community and noted that he would be assigning the County Council Committee on Parks, Recreation and Tourism the task of reviewing this and making a recommendation to the full Council.

Chairman Wood asked if there were any other communities like this? Mr. Howard replied that there were several in the past but all had expired.

Councilwoman Anderson asked where they received their funds from. Mr. Poulson replied that he knew there was several certificate of deposits.

Councilman McDaniel stated that the question intended by Councilwoman Anderson was where do you get your revenue. Mr. Poulson replied that the sign up fees, sponsors and soccer camps.

Councilman Jones asked if the Council were to renew the agreement would all of the present shelters and need to be fixed? Mr. Howard replied yes, as the County would be liable for any and all accidents.

VARIANCE REQUEST – SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE – CROSS HILL COMMUNITY - In review, Attorney Cruickshanks said, “In this case, the present Subdivision Ordinance is not functioning as planned. Road frontage is posing the problem area with this land in the Cross Hill Community. A variance is required to be approved to allow the company buying the properties from various owners the correct road frontage”.

Representing the three (3) landowners, Mr. Reid Cox, Attorney at Law, said, “I represent the three (3) landowners – White Plains Club, LLC, Jake Rasor, Jr. and Murdlick Creek Properties. All three (3) property owners have agreed to sell their properties to Open Space Institute Land Trust, Incorporated, a non-profit New York based business. The three (3) properties contain respectively sixty five (65) acres, forty four (44) acres and one thousand two hundred eighty four acres. In order to sell, each property must have road frontage of at least one hundred twenty feet (120’). The sixty five (65) acre property does not front on a public road. A variance for this one (1) property is necessary in order to sell as per the present County Ordinance. The purchaser is a nonprofit agency that preserves space. This is for the South Carolina Department of Transportation”.

Councilwoman Anderson expressed her concerns towards the request being made on the twenty eighth (28) with the proposed closing on the thirty first (31) and that bypassing the Planning Commission is not the way this should work. Chairman Wood stated that this was not overstepping the Planning Commission as the County Council would actually have the final say on the matter.

Administrator Caime stated that the Planning Commission would be working on amending this part of the Subdivision Ordinance which would then again require a public hearing and third reading.

COUNCILMAN JONES made the MOTION to approve the variance request towards the subdivision ordinance with COUNCILMAN NASH SECONDING; VOTE 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT- None.

COUNTY COUNCIL COMMENTS:

- 1.) Councilman Jones thanked Mr. Poulson for his work in bringing back the Hickory Tavern Youth Association.
- 2.) Chairman Wood asked for all to keep the family of John McCain in prayer as he was a very admired man by many.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – PERSONNEL MATTERS (PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR AND ASSISTANT PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR POSITION) – COUNCILMAN NASH made the MOTION for Council to move into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters towards the Public Works Director position and the Assistant Public Works proposed position. COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL SECONDING; VOTE 6-0.

There was a COUNCIL CONSENSUS to reconvene in open session at 6:25 P.M.

Chairman Wood reported that no action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT – By CONSENSUS the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,


Betty C. Walsh, Laurens County Clerk to Council