



MINUTES
OCTOBER 9, 2018
LAURENS COUNTY COUNCIL
HISTORIC COURTHOUSE – COUNCIL CHAMBERS

ATTENDANCE: **COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT** - County Council Chairman Joe Wood and Vice Chairman Keith Tollison; County Council Members: Stewart Jones, Ted Nash and David Pitts.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT- Councilman Garrett McDaniel (out of country).

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: Debi Parker, Human Resources Manager; Greg Lindley, Director of Fire Services; Joey Avery, Director of E911 and Communications; Chris Gurga, Manager, Solid Waste and Matt Pennington, Director, Laurens County EMS.

INVITED GUESTS – Dr. David O’Shields, Superintendent, School District #56; Scott Nelson, ZF Transmissions; Matthew Hughes and Steve Arsenault Chief of Western Laurens Fire Department; Laurens County EMS employees Kevin Uldrick, Rick Hequembough, Troy Aldridge, Apryle James and Jenna Brooks.

PRESS: Vic MacDonald, *The Clinton Chronicle* (5:50 P.M.); Iva Cadmus, WLBG Radio and John Clayton, *The Laurens County Advertiser* (5:45 P.M).

SCHEDULED AGENDA ITEMS – OCTOBER 9, 2018 – 1.) Call to Order; 2.) Invocation – Councilwoman Anderson; 3.) Pledge of Allegiance; 4.) Approval of Agenda – October 9, 2018; 5.) Approval of Minutes – a.) September 25, 2018 Committee on Health, Welfare, and Public Safety; b.) September 25, 2018 Committee on Planning and Intergovernmental; c.) September 25, 2018 Regular Session; 6.) Reports to Council – Hurricane Florence; 7.) Old Business: Second Reading Ordinance # 853, Amending Ordinance #830 section 3.3 Detitling Mobile Homes; 8.) New Business: a.) Council Meeting Schedule for November and December; 9.) Public Comment; 10.) County Council Comments; 11.) Executive Session: a.) Contractual Matter - Solid Waste b.) Employment Matter - Public Works Director; c.) Legal Matter – Procurement Cards; 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 and Amended 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. Councilwoman Anderson provided the invocation and all were invited to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA –OCTOBER 9, 2018 – Chairman Wood asked for approval of the agenda with any additions to or deletions from the agenda. Administrator Caime asked to add the County Council Minutes from October 8, 2018. Chairman Wood noted the addition of a request from the Sheriff about a firing range; Vice Chairman Tollison requested a personnel matter for executive session and Councilwoman Anderson requested adding the discussion of July and August meetings.

COUNCILMAN PITTS made the MOTION to approve the October 9, 2018 agenda with the additions and VICE CHAIRMAN TOLLISON SECONDING; VOTE 6-0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a.) **SEPTEMBER 25, 2018 COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, WELFARE, AND PUBLIC SAFETY;**
- b.) **SEPTEMBER 25, 2018 COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS;**
COUNCILMAN JONES made the MOTION to approve the two (2) Committee meeting sets of minutes with COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON SECONDDING; VOTE 6-0.
- c.) **SEPTEMBER 25, 2018 – REGULAR SESSION** - COUNCILMAN JONES made the MOTION to approve with COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON SECONDDING; VOTE 6-0.
- d.) **ADDED – OCTOBER 8, 2018 CALLED SESSION** – VICE CHAIRMAN TOLLISON made the MOTION to approve the added October 8th called session of minutes with COUNCILMAN PITTS SECONDDING; VOTE 6-0

REPORTS TO COUNCIL:

- a.) Chairman Wood announced that Mr. Dale Satterfield has accepted the job as the new Public Works Director for Laurens County.
- b.) **HURRICANE FLORENCE UPDATE** – Mr. Greg Lindley, Director of Fire Services; Mr. Joey Avery, Director of E911 and Communications; Mr. Matt Pennington, Director, Laurens County EMS and Sheriff Don Reynolds, approached Council to provided their comments regarding the local and coastal assistance provided following the recent Hurricane Florence.

Mr. Avery began by saying, “There is a lot that people take for granted while more is involved than what meets the eye in events like this. The process is to plan, respond and recover. There is a lot of planning behind the scenes to include coordinating with state agencies, shelters to be obtained, decisions of closing temporally or even shutting down for a designated time. Decisions made by schools, industry and government entities. We do have a County Team where we all talk plans and all knew what to do and who was doing it. We will talk about planning first. In our planning meetings, we had forty nine (49) attending”.

Mr. Scott Nelson, of ZF Transmissions said, “As to us closing, that means one million dollars (\$1,000,000) per shift lost in production. ZF has a direct impact on production, employees, the community and other industrial plants. It also has a trickle-down effect within a community and industrial aspects. We have been working close with those present here today and it has afforded much success overall”.

Dr. David O’Shields, Superintendent of School District #56 said, “I am so thankful for this team within Laurens County. It is a blessing to have Mr. Avery and Department Heads all working towards keeping Laurens County safe during emergency situations like this. The School District alone had four hundred thirty (430) employees and three thousand eighty two students (3,082) to consider. The entire emergency agency is very good with communication and all coming together. I thank this County Council for allowing and funding this team”.

Sheriff Don Reynolds added that all vehicles are gassed up and are ready to go.

Mr. Greg Lindley said, “The next part of the puzzle is response. Our main response was with the swift water team. With no true bad weather locally, we then sent this team to the Coast”.

Mr. Matthew Hughes, volunteer from the Western Laurens Fire Department said, “I am a volunteer with this fire station and presently serve as Assistant Chief and am a team leader in the swift water rescue. I work full time with Greenville County Fire Department. The Swift Water Team is at a place that we can respond anywhere in the State. We have never had the opportunity to present to Council of our local rescue efforts. In about 2005, as a volunteer fire department sitting on the banks of the Saluda and Reedy Rivers we created a swift water rescue unit for Laurens County. On the Saluda, there were four (4) adults that decided to have some fun during a flooding event and became stranded. At the time we did not have the means of any form of rescue for them so we had to call on our closest alia to help with rescue. At this point, we had a conversation among ourselves to organize and put in place a swift water rescue team. We had to go to Tennessee to get the training on weekends. Not having any of the equipment to put the team in place, Representative Mike Pitts secured grants to help start our team. Not only Volunteer Fire, we also have Laurens County EMS volunteers involved with this unit”.

Recognized during this report to Council were the following: Fire – Matthew Hughes and Steve Arsenault Chief of Western Laurens Fire Department; EMS recognized employees were Kevin Uldrick, Rick Hequembough, Troy Aldridge, Apryle James and Jenna Brooks.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a.) **SECOND READING ORDINANCE # 853, AMENDING ORDINANCE #830 SECTION 3.3 DETITLING MOBILE HOMES** - COUNCILMAN JONES made the MOTION to approve Ordinance #853 upon second reading with COUNCILMAN PITTS SECONDING; VOTE 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a.) **COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULES FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER** - Administrator Caime asked for comments from Council as to the meeting dates for November and December.

COUNCILMAN PITTS made the MOTION for Council to only hold one (1) meeting in November and December due to the holidays. And as to the November meeting to conduct Council business only if the Chairman declares it is needed. COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON SECONDING; VOTE 3-0-3 (Council Members Jones, Nash and Wood abstained).

Councilwoman Anderson also asked for comments towards the July and August meetings. Vice Chairman Tollison stated that of the present Council, two (2) will not be on Council starting next year and advised to wait allowing the new Council to make that decision.

Councilman Pitts agreed to the statement made by Vice Chairman Tollison.

COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON made the MOTION for Council to hold the month of July as a vacation month for all. COUNCILMAN PITTS SECONDING for comments. VOTE 1 (Council Member Anderson); -2 (Council Members Jones and Pitts); -3 (Council Members Nash, Tollison and Wood).

Council requested me to put this before Council and now Council does not want to take any action. Councilman Pitts stated, “I did ask for this to come before the full Council but after hearing the statement from Councilman Tollison, I have had a change of heart”.

Chairman Wood stated that this will be back on the agenda in January.

- a.) **ADDED AGENDA ITEM – FIRING RANGE** – Sheriff Don Reynolds approached Council asking for their approval to start the process of improving and constructing a firing range for the Sheriff's Department. A proposal was submitted as noted below:

**PROPOSAL LAURENS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
COUNSEL SERVICES**

I. Introduction

The purpose of this proposal is to start the process of creating a training facility for Laurens County Sheriff's Office.

The firing range will be used for teaching basic recruits and advanced Officers. The firearms portion of the training facility will require a qualification type range with the ability to conduct realistic live fire training at both moving and stationary targets. The range will require a classroom facility for a minimum of 30 student's and maximum of 50 students. The range would also require 10 lanes of turning targets with shooting distances of 3, 7, 12, 15, 25 and 50 yards for Handguns and up to 100 yards for Patrol rifles. Law enforcement will instruct Officers in gun-handling fundamentals such as stance, grip, sight alignment, trigger pull, target identification, communication, teamwork and movement drills.

The range must be built with added dimensions of training grounds, along with a proper needs' assessment for future growth. The ability to increase the size and equipment requirements over time will be key to the success of the training facility and make a significant impact on Laurens County Training for years to come.

Some of the elements we must consider for the Firearms portion of the training facility are lighting, visual exclusion barriers, the ability to offer targets at varied distances and positions, safe and properly built backstop or bullet catch (minimum height of 25 feet), and a Range tower with audio and video equipment.

II. Scope of Work

This will be a 7 Step Process to be completed in 3 Years.

Step One (Year One)

Survey the property to insure the property can meet all requirements needed to build all elements in the plan to include the Driving track and buildings with proper utilities (Power and Water)

Step Two (Year One)

Cut trees and clear the proper area, leaving a tree line as a sound buffer and visual barrier to the training facility

Step Three (Year One)

Break ground on the firing range, moving dirt and building the backstops. Make the range operational, not complete.

Step Four (Year One/Two)

Secure the area with a fence to stop any vandalism and/or theft on the property while under construction and start construction. Cut Track and Parking area and complete firing range concrete work.

Step Five (Year Two/Three)

Using the 1033 program acquire equipment to supply the facility. 1033 can be used to get anything needed for the facility such as desk, tables, chairs, etc. Everything for the bunkhouse can also be requested and acquired.

Step Six (Year Two/Three)

Power, Water, Paint and finishing details to the property. Planting grass and beautification of the area.

Step Seven (Year Two/Three)

Open full training facility for the first time, project completion.

III. Funding

This project can be funded by using the 1033 program to acquire equipment, buildings, lights, furniture, Office equipment and many more items to cut the cost of the project.

Fundraisers in the community can be another source of income.

Grants can be used for specific portions but is the slowest and less guaranteed form of funding. Applying for a Grant in 2018 will try to secure funding for 2019 and 2020. If we are going to start using grants we must have a person putting maximum effort into a grant program.

Informing local community leaders and business owners about the benefits of a First Responder Training Facility in Laurens County would create an incentive to donate. We must insure they are aware of the positive impact on all first responders in Laurens County.

All we need is the OK to start the project. Once we get a proper survey of the proposed land we will know which direction to go. If the land does not pass the proper test and meet the needs for the training facility we can start looking at alternate locations, however I can't see any reason the property won't meet the needs at this time. This is not an uninformed decision and my goal is to make a well thought out plan of action for Laurens County's future.

IV. Proposal Requirements

Approval

With Approval of this project most of the work will be done by current county staff. We can also request the South Carolina National Guard combat engineer units to handle tasks we might not have the equipment to handle. A request with the guard will only require us to pay for fuel used by their equipment.

Long term budget planning for the main building will be our only concern. Our short-term plan will be to use the 1033 program and obtain buildings and other structures to get the project up and running; we have already secured several of the items and have them on hand.



Continuing, Sheriff Reynolds said, “This will be a seven (7) step process with us beginning with surveying the property in order to meet all of the requirements needed to build all elements, including a driving track with necessary utilities. The project can be funded using the 1033 program, fund raisers and grants. This will be considered a First Responders Training Facility for the County with possible funding coming from other agencies within the County. If the land does not meet requirements for this, we will need to look for alternate locations. Most of the work will be done by County Staff, possibly the South Carolina National Guard Engineer Units. The actual building is a concern but we do have some of the items already”.

Councilwoman Anderson asked if this Council could be reassured that they would not be approached for funding? Sheriff Reynolds stated that berms would be built and that there were plenty of trees in the area.

COUNCILMAN JONES made the MOTION to approve the requested firing range with VICE CHAIRMAN TOLLISON SECONDING.

Councilwoman Anderson asked how this would be accepted by Bellview Church congregation. Sheriff Reynolds replied that it was not that close to the Church and that any training would not be conducted on Sunday.

COUNCIL VOTED 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

COUNTY COUNCIL COMMENTS:

- 1.) Councilman Pitts again thanked all of the volunteers and paid staff for their dedication during the recent Hurricane.
- 2.) Councilman Nash stated that he was proud that the County was moving forward and that we all need to respect each other.
- 3.) Councilman Jones echoed the appreciation towards all emergency departments for a great job.

- 4.) Vice Chairman Tollison expressed his thankfulness towards all that helped during the inclement weather.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Upon a MOTION by COUNCILMAN JONES and a SECOND from COUNCILMAN NASH; VOTE 6-0, Council moved into Executive Session at 6:24 P.M. to discuss a Contractual Matter - Solid Waste b.) Employment Matter - Public Works Director; c.) Legal Matter – Procurement Cards; and, an added Personnel Matter.

There was a COUNCIL CONSENSUS to reconvene in open session at 7:20 P.M.

VICE CHAIRMAN TOLLISON made the MOTION to allow the Administrator to continue with negotiations per option one (1) as it relates to Solid Waste. COUNCILMAN PITTS SECONDING; VOTE 6-0.

Chairman Wood reported that no action was taken on the other executive session matters discussed.

ADJOURNMENT – By CONSENSUS the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,


Betty C. Walsh
Laurens County Clerk to Council