



**MINUTES**  
**OCTOBER 24, 2018**  
**LAURENS COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**HISTORIC COURTHOUSE – COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

---

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

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT**- Vice Chairman Keith Tollison (out of state / work) and Councilman Ted Nash (illness)

**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; Andy Howard, Director, Laurens County Parks, Recreation and Tourism; Billy Wilson, Superintendent, Vehicle Maintenance/Procurement; Lesa Inabinette, Judge, Magistrate Courts; Chris Gurga, Manager, Solid Waste and Matt Pennington, Director, Laurens County EMS.

**INVITED GUESTS** –

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

**SCHEDULED AGENDA ITEMS – OCTOBER 23, 2018** – 1.) Call to Order; 2.) Invocation – Councilman Jones; 3.) Pledge of Allegiance; 4.) Approval of Agenda – October 23, 2018; 5.) Approval of Minutes – October 9, 2018 Regular Session; 6.) Reports To Council – NONE; 7.) Old Business: a.) Resolution #2018-36, Extending Ordinance #698 for the Temporary Suspension of Blue Laws to April 1, 2019; b.) ISO Corporate Sublease - Minor Modification; 8.) New Business: a.) First Reading, Ordinance #854 amending Ordinance #831 Subdivisions (in title only); 9.) Public Comment- Fifteen (15) Minute Period for Public Comment; 10.) County Council Comments; 11.) Executive Session: a.) Contractual Matter – Solid Waste Transfer Station; b.) Personnel Matter; 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. Councilman Jones provided the invocation and all were invited to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA –OCTOBER 23, 2018** – Chairman Wood asked for approval of the agenda with any additions to or deletions from the agenda.

The following was added to the Agenda:

- a.) Administrator Caime requested a report to Council from Billy Wilson on the Public Works;
- b.) Executive Session, Employment Matter, Public Works
- c.) Executive Session, Employment Matter, Reclassification of position.

COUNCILMAN MCDANINEL made the MOTION to approve the October 23, 2018 agenda with the additions; COUNCILMAN JONES SECONDING; VOTE 5-0

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES - OCTOBER 9, 2018 REGULAR SESSION – COUNCILMAN JONES** made the MOTION to approve the October minutes as presented. COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL SECONDING; VOTE 5-0.

**REPORTS TO COUNCIL: ADDED AGENDA ITEM** – Mr. Billy Wilson, Superintendent of Vehicle Maintenance and Procurement, approached Council providing updates on activity within the Public Works Department as follows:

- 1.) Litter/Humane – New kennels are complete with only cosmetic detail requiring completion (fencing and painting).
- 2.) Roads and Bridges – Due to the bad weather conditions, this department was getting to be about two (2) months behind; now there is a two to three (2-3) week delay time.
- 3.) Solid Waste – This Department is up and running very well.
- 4.) Buildings and Grounds – This Department is down with employees and continues to work hard with the staff that they have.
- 5.) Magistrates Office moves are completed with only cosmetic changes needed.
- 6.) E/911 Center – The vacant house next to this Department had overgrown trees and vines taking over and coming over to our tower structure. It took three (3) working days to clear having several departments coming together to make it happen.
- 7.) Hillcrest – Six (6) bids for roof construction were received and has been awarded with repairs starting next week or so. Completion is predicted to take two to three (2-3) weeks. Also, the HVAC situation will have bid openings soon as we just had pre-bid prepping with six (6) vendors attending.

Chairman Wood asked if it was still on track with the HVAC units to not be on the roof. Mr. Wilson replied that they will not be on the roof but will be staged around the building. Exhaust vents will be on the roof.

Councilman Pitts asked when the roof contract was awarded and how much. Mr. Wilson replied that it was awarded to Watts and Associates out of Columbia for five hundred eighty six thousand dollars (\$586,000).

- 8.) Historic Courthouse – We recently had an engineering firm conduct a walk thru and hope to have results soon.

Councilman Pitts questioned who the firm was and how it was conducted? Mr. Wilson replied that this was brought to Council by Mr. Russian and is to be only a study.

Councilman McDaniel questioned if they will actually be making the repairs and what will be the costs. Mr. Wilson replied that this was only a study by the engineering firm as to how to approach conserving the Historical Courthouse and that no costs have been provided.

- 9.) Detention Center – Mr. Wilson said, “We have two (2) generators out there - one (1) from when the Detention Center was built (1995) and one (1) when the addition was added. The original one has expired and needs to be replaced. The newer one will not carry the load for the older one. We’ve tried adding new parts to it and it is just not holding up. The cheapest would be forty two thousand dollars (\$42,000) and the most expensive would be fifty nine thousand dollars (\$59,000). We are

asking for the cheapest one at forty two thousand dollars (\$42,000). This would be a natural gas unit”.

Chairman Wood asked if inmate welfare money could be used to purchase the generator. Attorney Cruickshanks replied that he would have to research that.

Councilwoman Anderson asked if there was any monies available within their budget to purchase. Administrator Caime replied that the inmate account is north of a quarter million dollars.

Mr. Wilson added that they are presently using a rental unit now at a cost of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) per month.

Councilman Pitts asked for Administrator Caime to review the county budget, especially the Sheriff's Department, to see if there were any county funds that could be used and if so, to transfer the funds needed. Attorney Cruickshanks replied, “Per state statute, reclassification of funds can not be done. Especially the food and medical line items. That is the Sheriffs call and I will be glad to assist in researching”.

Attorney Cruickshanks asked if a bid process and contract has already been conducted. And, stated if not, we are getting way ahead of things now.

Councilman Pitts reminded Council that funds are being received from Newberry County for housing their inmates

COUNCILMAN PITTS made a MOTION to authorize the County Administrator to proceed per procurement, a generator for the Johnson Detention Center, not to exceed fifty nine thousand dollars (\$59,000 and, to be paid for out of even, inmate welfare, the Sheriffs budget or inmate funds from Newberry County. COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON SECONDING; VOTE 5-0.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- a.) **RESOLUTION #2018-36, EXTENDING ORDINANCE #698 FOR THE TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF BLUE LAWS TO APRIL 1, 2019** – Attorney Cruickshanks said, “Per Section 53-1-160 of the Code, this temporarily suspends Sunday work, allowing businesses in the unincorporated areas of Laurens County to open prior to 1:30 P.M. on Sundays ending April 1, 2019.

COUNCILMAN PITTS made the MOTION to approve the Resolution with COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL SECONDING; VOTE 5-0.

- b.) **ISO CORPORATE SUBLEASE - MINOR MODIFICATION** – Attorney Cruickshanks said, “Valley National Bank is the lender to ISO Poly. They have an old lease back agreement with the County giving consent to borrow because the property remains in our name. This now needs to be converted to a simple fee. Council approved this in a different format two meetings ago and due to some changes to simplify things for ISO Poly, they have asked that we reapprove this. There is no obligation on the County's part and is a pure formality”.

COUNCILMAN PITTS made the MOTION to approve with COUNCILMAN JONES SECONDING; VOTE 5-0.

#### **ATTORNEY CRUICKSHANKS EXCUSED HIMSELF FROM THE MEETING (6:00 P.M.)**

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a.) **FIRST READING, ORDINANCE #854 AMENDING ORDINANCE #831 SUBDIVISIONS (IN TITLE ONLY)** - Administrator Caime said, “There are several areas of the Subdivision Ordinance that needs reclassification as it relates to the subdivision of land. The intent of the wording is to promote better development and to prevent the addition of new tax payer funded roads for private developments”.
- 1.) The combination of existing or recombination of existing parcels that are already recoded allows land owners to clean up parcels of land that may have been subdivided in such a way that is no longer appropriate. This does not increase the number of parcels but allows for owners to have better lot configurations that meet their needs. This also allows parcel owners to purchase parts of adjacent lands and combine them with their own.
  - 2.) **Proposed Exemption wording** – “The combination of portions of previously platted lots were the total number of lots is not increased and the resultant lots are equal to the standards of this chapter”.
- b.) This allows for families to give land to other immediate family members. We have generational land owners here in Laurens County and it is a part of our community fabric that family desire to stay intact on land owned by families for several generations. This will allow that to happen.
- a.) **Proposed Exemption Wording**- A parcel of land that is divided into five or fewer parcels, each parcel being of sufficient size to meet the requirements of the health department and each parcel is deeded to a member of the owner’s immediate family. For the purposes of this paragraph, immediate family is defined as the owners spouse, mother, father, sister, children grandchildren”.

COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON made the MOTION to approve the exemption wording with COUNCILMAN JONES SECONDING for discussion.

Councilman Pitts stated that he wanted a clear description / definition of family member.

COUNCIL VOTED 5-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**COUNTY COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

- 1.) Councilman Jones acknowledged the note included in the agenda package towards Mrs. Angela Leopard, Treasurer’s Office. Mrs. Walsh added that Mrs. Leopard has kept up her certifications through the Gray Court Fire Department and currently resides on a State Agency Commission where she was asked to attend and help with the recent Hurricane Florence devastation in the lower part of the State.
- 2.) Chairman Wood asked what the status of the EMS land purchase was. Administrator Caime stated that he is working on the matter still and will provide Council with a full report soon.

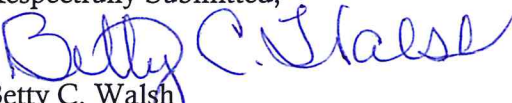
**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Upon a MOTION by COUNCILMAN JONES and a SECOND from COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL; VOTE 5-0, Council moved into Executive Session at 6:11 P.M. to discuss: a.) Contractual Matter – Solid Waste Transfer Station; b.) Personnel Matter – County Employee Reclassifications; c.) Employment Matter – Employee – Public Works Department.

There was a COUNCIL CONSENSUS to reconvene in open session at 7:01 P.M.

- a.) Contractual Matter – Solid Waste Transfer Station - COUNCILMAN PITTS made the MOTION to allow the Administrator to continue with negotiations per option one (1) as it relates to Solid Waste. COUNCILMAN JONES SECONDING; VOTE 5-0.
- b.) Personnel Matter – County Employee Reclassifications - Chairman Wood assigned this to the County Council Committee on Planning and Intergovernmental Affairs.
- c.) Personnel Matter – Employee – Public Works Department - COUNCILMAN PITTS made the MOTION to allow a one-time allocation to the employee of three thousand dollars (\$3,000). COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL SECONDING; VOTE 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT – By CONSENSUS the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Betty C. Walsh  
Laurens County Clerk to Council