



MINUTES
JANUARY 8, 2019
LAURENS COUNTY COUNCIL
HISTORIC COURTHOUSE – COUNCIL CHAMBERS

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT- None.

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; Lesa Inabinette, Judge, Magistrate Courts; Matt Pennington, EMS Director; Ann Szypulski, Director of the Library; Billy Wilson, Vehicle Maintenance / Procurement Manager; Joey Avery, Director of E/911 – Communications; Andy Howard, Director of Parks, Recreation and Tourism; Lisa Kirk, Director of Finance; Greg Lindley, Director, Laurens County Fire Service; Dale Satterfield, Director of Public Works and Chuck Bobo, County Codes Officer.

INVITED GUESTS – Amy Bagwell, Laurens County Litter / Humane.

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

SCHEDULED AGENDA ITEMS – JANUARY 8, 2019 – 1.) Call to Order; 2.) Invocation – Councilman Jones; 3.) Pledge of Allegiance; 4.) Council Chairman and Vice Chairman Election – County Attorney Cruickshanks; a.) Nomination(s) and Vote for Chairman; b.) Nomination(s) and Vote for Vice Chairman; 5.) Approval of Agenda – January 8, 2019, 6.) Approval of Minutes – December 11, 2018 Regular Meeting; 7.) Reports To Council: a.) Portrait Presentation by Marion Carnell Family to Laurens County; b.) Capital Improvement Plan Second Version - Administrator Caime, c.) Fiscal Year 2019/2020 Budget Review Schedule; 8.) Old Business: a.) Public Hearing Ordinance #855 - Project Autumn; b.) Third Reading, Ordinance #855 - Project Autumn; c.) Public Hearing Ordinance #856 - Project Gator; d.) Third #856 - Project Gator; e.) Second Reading Ordinance #857 - Flame Spray; f.) Further Discussion, Council Meeting Schedule for July or August – Council Meeting; 9.) New Business: a.) First Reading, Ordinance #858, by title only, Amend Hunter Park Agreement; b.) Appointment – County Representative, Main Street Laurens; c.) Change Order, Hillcrest HVAC – Dale Satterfield; d.) Swearing In – Litter Humane Officer; 10.) Public Comment- Fifteen (15) Minute Period for Public Comment; 11.) County Council Comments; 12.) Executive Session: a.) Solid Waste Contractual Matter – Transfer Station; 13.)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. Councilman Jones provided the invocation and all were invited to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

ELECTION OF COUNTY COUNCIL OFFICERS - 2019 – Before proceeding with the scheduled meeting, Chairman Wood turned the meeting over to the County Attorney for the election of officers - Chairman and Vice Chairman.

Attorney Cruickshanks stated that both positions would be considered elected positions among their peers with four (4) votes from the attending Council and that the terms would be for two (2) years. Attorney Cruickshanks then asked for nominations for the position of Chairman.

A.) **CHAIRMAN** - Attorney Cruickshanks opened the floor for nominations for the position of Chairman.

Councilman Wood made the nomination of Councilman Pitts as Chairman. Councilman McDaniel seconding the nomination.

With no further nominations being made, Attorney Cruickshanks asked for a vote from Council to close the nominations and to approve the noted Chairman nominee.

COUNCILMAN WOOD made the MOTION to close the nominations and to approve the nomination of Councilman Pitts as Chairman with COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL SECONDING. COUNCIL VOTED 4-2-1 (Council Members Anderson and Jones in objection with Councilman Pitts abstained).

B.) **VICE CHAIR** – Attorney Cruickshanks opened the floor for nominations for the position of Vice Chairman.

Councilman Pitts made the nomination of Councilman Wood as Vice Chairman. Councilman Younts seconding the nomination.

With no further nominations being made, Attorney Cruickshanks asked for a vote from Council to close the nominations and to approve the noted nominee. COUNCILMAN PITTS made the MOTION to close the nominations and to approve the nomination of Councilman Wood as Vice Chairman with COUNCILMAN YOUNTS SECONDING. COUNCIL VOTED 4-2-1 (Council Members Anderson and Jones in objection with Councilman Wood abstained).

Chairman Pitts now presiding over the meeting (5:43 P.M.) thanked Council for their trust in electing him as Chairman. Chairman Wood said, “This Council is just before facing a lot of challenges with budgets and the continuation of business. You will find that failure is not in my vocabulary. This Council was elected to provide a variety of services for the citizens of Laurens County and it will continue under my Chairmanship and not skip a beat”.

Continuing, Chairman Pitts, recognized Jeff Carroll and Kemp Younts as new Members of Council.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – JANUARY 8, 2019 – Chairman Pitts asked for approval of the agenda with any additions to or deletions.

Administrator Caime asked for the addition of an executive session for personnel matters. VICE CHAIRMAN WOOD made the MOTION to approve the January 8, 2019 agenda with the one executive session matter; COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL SECONDING; VOTE 7-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – DECEMBER 11, 2018 – COUNCILMAN JONES made the MOTION to approve the minutes with COUNCILMAN CARROLL SECONDING; VOTE 7-0.

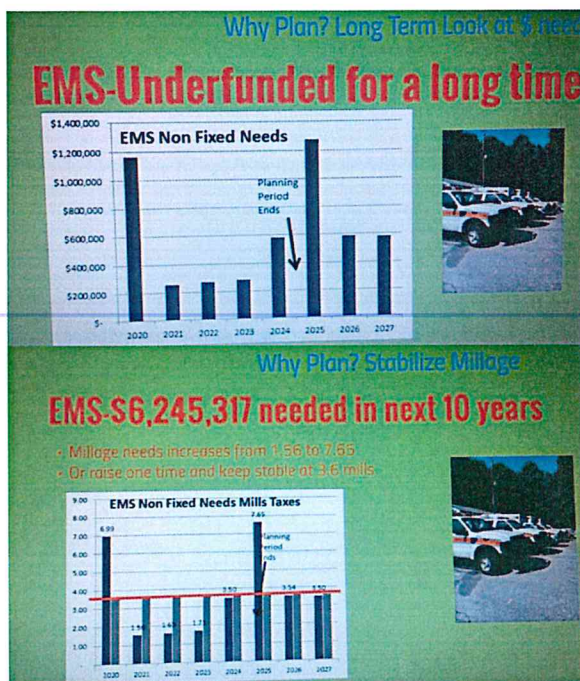
REPORTS TO COUNCIL:

PORTRAIT PRESENTATION BY MARION CARNELL FAMILY TO LAURENS COUNTY – Councilman Joe Wood, reported to Council, “The Marion Carnell family has presented to Laurens County, a portrait of former Governors of South Carolina. This portrait was a fixture in Representative Carnell’s Office in Columbia for many years. This Council needs to determine where to place the portrait”.

Chairman Pitts acknowledged the portrait with appreciation and asked if there were any suggestions as to where to locate the portrait. Councilman Carroll suggested placement of the portrait in the Atrium area of Hillcrest. Councilwoman Anderson stated as long as it was visible to the public. The FULL COUNCIL agreed to the placement and added that a small plaque honoring the donation be placed there as well.



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN SECOND VERSION – Administrator Caime reviewed his perception



of a second version of a capital improvement plan for the county as follows. Administrator Caime said, “As Council recalls, there was a major reshuffling of the budget last year. This County needs to focus on a long range capital plan in order to keep up with the needs and not fall behind in planning. Vehicles are a major part of the capital plan and it needs to be advanced planning. Last year it was determined that sixty two (62) police vehicles were needed over a five (5) year period. EMS has been underfunded for a number of years. They need at least one million dollars of ambulances and QRV’s. Three hundred thirty eight thousand dollars (\$338,000) of capital was not funded last year and they will need seven (7) mills to cover capital next year”.

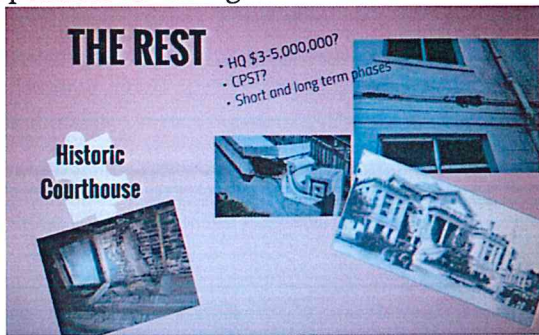
Continuing, Administrator Caime said, “Fire needs over one million two hundred thousand dollars (\$1.200,000) for capital purchases. The special purpose district monies is healthy. Capital monies are separate from operation and

maintenance line items. Keeping the millage the same during this next cycle but we may have to go back in and look at the operations funding part. Solid Waste is not self-sufficient. We are going to need new operations with the transfer station closing. Animal Controls revenue does not cover operations”.

Continuing Administrator Caime said , “In E911 we have spent one million nine hundred thousand dollars (\$1.900,000) in the past three (3) years. To advance to a five year capital plan, we need at least another one million five hundred dollars (\$1,500,000) for the needed equipment over the next five (5) years”.



Continuing, Administrator Caime said, “The other things that need a capital investment plan include a new EMS Headquarters and substations. Our roads and bridges need repaired and repaving. Our buildings – the Historic Courthouse – this County Council is responsible for taking care of.



Our next step is financing all of this, planning, prioritizing and taking the next step.

Councilman Younts asked if grants were not available. Administrator Caime replied that there is potential for some.



Our many Parks and we are blessed to have at least three (3) rivers running through Laurens County. Lake Greenwood, we need better swimming areas for our citizens to use; not a boat landing.



FISCAL YEAR 2019/2020 BUDGET REVIEW SCHEDULE - Administrator Caime provided the following schedule for upcoming budget deliberations.

January 15 – Completed budget worksheets returned to Administration.

March (goal) – Administration will present first draft to Council for information purposes only. Administration will also distribute first drafts to the department heads.

April – June – Council works on budget.

April 23, 2019 (target) (May 14th backup date) – First Reading of Budget Ordinance.

May 14, 2019 (target) (May 28th backup date) – Second Reading of Budget Ordinance.

June 11, 2019 (target) (June 25th backup date) – Public Hearing and Third Reading / Adoption.

OLD BUSINESS:

PUBLIC HEARING ORDINANCE #855 - PROJECT AUTUMN – Chairman Pitts opened the public hearing at 6:08 P.M. With no one wishing to address the Ordinance, Chairman Pitts closed the public hearing at 6:09 P.M.

THIRD READING, ORDINANCE #855 - PROJECT AUTUMN – COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL made the MOTION to approve Ordinance #855 upon third reading as presented with COUNCILMAN JONES SECONDING; VOTE 7-0

PUBLIC HEARING ORDINANCE #856 - PROJECT GATOR - Chairman Pitts opened the public hearing at 6:10 P.M. With no one wishing to address the Ordinance, Chairman Pitts closed the public hearing at 6:11 P.M.

THIRD #856 - PROJECT GATOR - COUNCILMAN JONES made the MOTION to approve Ordinance #856 upon second reading, as presented with COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL SECONDING; VOTE 7-0.

SECOND READING ORDINANCE #857 - FLAME SPRAY – COUNCILMAN JONES made the MOTION to approve Ordinance #857 upon second reading, as presented with COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL SECONDING; VOTE 7-0.

FURTHER DISCUSSION, COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE FOR JULY OR AUGUST – COUNCIL MEETING – Chairman Pitts noted that historically Council omits a meeting date in November and December due to the holidays. Councilman Woman Anderson stated that she hoped by omitting one of the meeting in July or August would create a better flow of meetings. Vice Chairman Wood stated that he felt that in doing so, it would be cutting the public short and that he had no problems with meetings during those months. Councilman Jones noted that if there was problems with meetings in those months for Council Members to attend Conferences, then this Council should select two (2) members to attend.

There was not a motion nor a second to modify the schedule but it was understood that the normal schedule for July and August would remain as is – two (2) meetings a month on the second and fourth Tuesday.

NEW BUSINESS:

FIRST READING, ORDINANCE #858, BY TITLE ONLY, AMEND HUNTER PARK AGREEMENT – Attorney Cruickshanks stated that this was adding Project gator to the multi county industrial park agreement.

VICE CHAIRMAN WOOD made the MOTION to approve with COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL SECONDING; VOTE 7-0.

APPOINTMENT – COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE, MAIN STREET LAURENS - VICE CHAIRMAN WOOD made the MOTION agreeing to appoint Dale Satterfield as the County Representative on the Main Street Laurens Board. COUNCILMAN JONES SECONDING for discussion.

Councilwoman Anderson noted that she felt it was premature in selecting Mr. Satterfield as he has only been in his position for several months. Administrator Caime asked Mr. Satterfield if he thought this appointment would be a burden to his normal schedule. Vice Chairman Wood noted that he was very qualified for this seat.

COUNCIL VOTED 6-1 (Councilwoman Anderson objected).

CHANGE ORDER, HILLCREST HVAC – Dale Satterfield, Public Works Director, brought to Council, a proposal to provide more insulation to the ceilings at Hillcrest while undergoing the upgrades to the HVAC system.

Mr. Satterfield said, “The project as a whole is moving along very well although it is complex and difficult due to the displacement of the various offices and employees while the renovations are going on. The main goal for this project is to present a strong, long term investment. The present lighting at Hillcrest is poor and now presents a problem with purchasing replacement bulbs. The present bulbs are being discontinued by the manufacturer”.

Mr. Satterfield introduced Mr. Brick Drummond from a lighting company in Greenwood to address what he is proposing the County to move to. Mr. Drummond said, “The present panels are twenty plus (20+) years old. The panel I am proposing has a twenty five (25) year service warranty. It is a two foot by two foot (2’X2’) panel that will provide better white light, reduce electrical costs and will reduce the need for maintenance and changing of the bulbs. The County should see an annual savings of about twenty seven thousand dollars (\$27,000) a year. The costs to convert existing panels would be approximately ninety eight thousand eight hundred fifty dollars (\$98,850). We would be

replacing twenty five (25) with only twelve (12) panels. The County is at a good place now while the ceilings are being removed for heat and air ducts. This is a strong return on the investment”.

Chairman Pitts asked if approving this change order, it would include the roofing, HVAC and lighting and at a total of three million six hundred thousand dollars (\$3,600,000). Administrator Caime replied that he thought it to be right at three million three hundred thousand dollars (\$3,300,000). There is three hundred thousand (\$300,000) left over from Hillcrest Administrative Offices and resulting in not financing the entire costs.

Vice Chairman Wood asked if this was turnkey, if the panels had ballasts and if this was for the entire building. Mr. Drummond replied that it was turnkey; that the panels did not have ballasts and it was for the whole building known as the Judicial / Services Building.

VICE CHAIRMAN WOOD made the MOTION to approve the change order for an additional cost of ninety eight thousand eight hundred fifty dollars (\$98,850) for the lighting panels. COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL SECONDING; VOTE 7-0.

Vice Chairman Wood asked if a discussion was going to be held regarding insulation situation. Administrator Caime said, “What we have is an older building that was renovated to include eight foot (8’) ceilings and thirteen feet (13’) of space to the roof. On the bottom of the new roof will be R24 insulation. It seems logical to me that insulation needs to be placed on that drop down ceiling space so heating and cooling will not be including that additional space. There is some debate over this and I am not prepared to provide any cost factors. We can not get the engineers to give us what the return on an investment would be. But if we are going to do it, now is the time to do it”.

Vice Chairman Wood stated that heating that extra thirteen feet (13’) of space above the ceiling is not a good thing to do.

It was concluded that the discussion of insulation would be on the agenda for the next meeting of Council.

SWEARING IN – LITTER HUMANE OFFICER – Attorney Cruickshanks swore in Ms. Amy Bagwell as a Laurens County Litter / Humane Officer.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Chairman Pitts called for public comments. There was one (1) individual in the audience that wished to speak to Council that did not sign up prior to the meeting. Chairman Pitts allowed him to speak.

1.) David Kelley, owner of CD’s BBQ and Catering on the Square in the City of Laurens, approached Council with concerns over his business not doing well and that he had spent his life savings to open and conduct business in Laurens County. His main concern appeared to be one of catering opportunities going towards Greenwood County and elsewhere than being spent in and remaining in Laurens County.

COUNTY COUNCIL COMMENTS:

1.) Councilman Carroll stated that he felt it an honor to be elected to this Council and will work towards the prosperity of the whole County.

2.) Councilman Younts stated that he felt it to be an honor to represent Council District #1 and that he has spent thirty seven years in the County and knows that there is potential for great things to happen here.

3.) Councilman McDaniel welcomed the new Council Members and encouraged attendance to the upcoming NAACP Banquet.

4.) Vice Chairman Wood welcomed Council Members Carroll and Younts and said, “As your Chairman, I did my best over the years. There is a lot of responsibility in this position. I always tried to address both sides of the issues. I support Councilman Pitts as Chairman”.

5.) Chairman Pitts welcomed Council Members Carroll and Younts as member of Council and thanked Vice Chairman Wood for his service as Chairman.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL made the MOTION to move into executive session at 6:50 P.M. to discuss a solid waste contractual matter and a personnel matter. COUNCILMAN CARROLL SECONDING; VOTE 7-0.

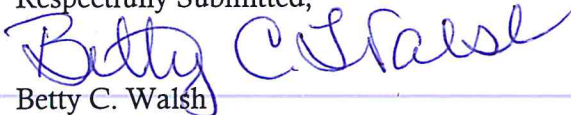
a.) **SOLID WASTE CONTRACTUAL MATTER – TRANSFER STATION** – Chairman Pitts reported that no action was taken.

b.) **ADDED – PERSONNEL MATTER** – Chairman Pitts reported that no action was taken.

There was a COUNCIL CONSENSUS to reconvene in open session at 8:37 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT – There was a COUNCIL CONSENSUS to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Betty C. Walsh
Laurens County Clerk to Council