



**MINUTES  
MARCH 12, 2019  
LAURENS COUNTY COUNCIL  
HISTORIC COURTHOUSE – COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

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**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 COUNCIL 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, Director of EMS; Joey Avery, Director of E/911 – Communications; Greg Lindley, Director of County Fire Services; Lisa Kirk, Finance Director; Chris Gurga, Superintendent, Landfill / Rural Collections; Andy Howard, Director of Parks, Recreation and Tourism; David Satterfield, County Assessor; Lynn West, Director of Registration and Elections and Dale Satterfield, Director of Public Works.

**INVITED GUESTS** – County Assessor David Satterfield.

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

**SCHEDULED AGENDA ITEMS –MARCH 12, 2019** – 1.) Call to Order – Chairman Pitts; 2.) Invocation – Council Woman Anderson; 3.) Pledge of Allegiance; 4.) Approval of Agenda – March 12, 2019; 5.) Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings: a.)February 26, 2019 Regular Session b.) February 26, 2019 – Council Committee on Health, Welfare and Public Safety; 6.) Reports To Council: a.) Report to Council - Assessors Department; b.) Fiscal Year 2019/2020 Budget and Long Term Financial Plan Introduction - Jon Caime; c.) Fiscal Year 2019/2020 Preliminary Long Term Debt and Capital Plan - Jon Caime; 7.) Old Business: a.) #210 Solid Waste Capital Improvement Plan - Financial Plan and Transfer Station RFP; b.) Approval - Final HVAC phase Hillcrest; c.) Long Range Capital Plan -\$3.5M Fire Lease/Purchase; d.) Public Hearing, Ordinance #859- Conveyance of 13 Acres of Land to Laurens County Disability and Special Needs Board; e.) Third Reading, Ordinance #859- Conveyance of thirteen (13) Acres of Land to Laurens County Disability and Special Needs Board; f.) Second Reading, Ordinance #861 - Project Needle Punch; 8.) New Business: a.) Resolution #2019- 06 - Project Blueberry; b.) First Reading of Ordinance #862 - Project Blueberry; c.) Appointment – Laurens County Parks, Recreation and Tourism – Andy Howard, Director; d.) Appointment – Planning Commission – Councilman Carroll; 9.) Public Comment- Fifteen (15) Minute Period for Public Comment; 10.) County Council Comments; 11.) Executive Session: a.) Employment Matter – EMS; b.) Employment Matter - County Administrator; c.) Employment Matter - Litter/Humane Office; 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 Pitts called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. and invited all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilwoman Anderson provided the invocation.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA – MARCH 12, 2019** – Chairman Pitts asked for approval of the agenda with any additions to or deletions.

Chairman Pitts requested for the appointment to the South Carolina Association of Counties Legislative Commission. And, Councilman McDaniel asked for the addition of a Resolution of Accommodation.

COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL made the MOTION to approve the March 12, 2019 agenda with the two (2) additional items. COUNCILMAN JONES SECONDDING; VOTE 7-0.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

a.) **FEBRUARY 26, 2019 REGULAR SESSION** - Chairman Pitts asked for approval of the February 26, 2019 minutes of the regular Council. COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON made the MOTION to approve the minutes with COUNCILMAN JONES SECONDDING.

Councilman Jones asked that his comments from the last meeting concerning the proposed one cent sales tax be addressed in the minutes His comments were, “The State has proposals to lower the six percent (6%) sales tax to three percent (3%) as part of their sales tax reform and I cannot support an additional sales tax on the local level until that reform is completed allowing to give local governments the head room to provide for things needed on the local level”.

The addition was accepted by Councilwoman Anderson with COUNCIL VOTING 7-0 with the request of added comments from Councilman Jones.

b.) **FEBRUARY 26, 2019 – COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, WELFARE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** - Chairman Pitts asked for approval of the February 26, 2019 minutes of the Council Committee on Health, Welfare and Public Safety. COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL made the MOTION to approve the Committee minutes with COUNCILMAN CARROLL SECONDDING; VOTE 7-0.

**REPORTS TO COUNCIL:**

**ADDED AGENDA ITEM – RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION** – As a MOTION and as an added agenda item, COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL asked for Council approval of a Resolution to congratulate the Laurens Academy Basketball Team for winning their second straight SCISA Class A State Championship. COUNCILMAN CARROLL SECONDDING; VOTE 7-0.

Councilman McDaniel read the Resolution and presented it to Jason Mariett, Head Coach; Sandy Moore, Assistant Coach; and players Reagan Williamson and Ruthie Moore.

**ASSESSORS DEPARTMENT** – Chairman Pitts stated that he is asking for all departments to provide reports to Council, and at each meeting one department will be reporting thus increasing transparency and we will begin with the Assessor’s Office tonight. Mr. David Satterfield, County Assessor, approached Council providing and update on the activity within the Assessor’s Office.

Mr. Satterfield began by saying, “I’ve been working in the Assessor’s Office for twenty three (23) years and have been the County Assessor for eight (8) years. I also want to thank Council for all of the needs within the Assessor’s Office being recognized with some accommodated. In 2018, a total of thirty eight million three hundred twenty eight thousand dollars (\$38,328,000) was in new construction. And in 2019 as of March 12, 2019 there has been forty six million seven hundred thousand dollars (\$46,700,000). Our next project will be the formation of reassessment in 2021”.

Chairman Pitts asked Mr. Satterfield to review, for the public, please tell us how assessed value works for a regular homeowner with a one hundred thousand dollar (\$100,000) home. Mr. Satterfield replied, “There are three classes – four percent (4%) on primary residential ownership – six percent (6%) on rental properties and secondary homes and ten and a half percent (10 ½%) on manufacturing. Chairman Pitts added that anything above a certain amount, that is where we, as a Council, through the Development Corporation comes into play with possibly a Fee in Lieu of Tax. Act #388 changed a lot of things in the State of South Carolina with one being the assessable transfer of interest.

Chairman Pitts asked Mr. Satterfield to elaborate on the where the increase of new construction is taking place and to address the boundary changes being implemented. Mr. Satterfield noted that the increased new construction is in the Fountain Inn area and that the boundary changes are being implemented on the northern boundary of Laurens County and Greenville County.

Mr. G. W. Daley, Deputy Assessor, reaffirmed the increase in new construction from 2018 as being an increase of twenty eight million dollars (\$28,000,000).

Continuing, Mr. Daley said that he has been with the Assessor’s Office for the past eight (8) years and I have been the Deputy Assessor for the past four (4) years. I will be giving you a review of our reassessment program.

Mr. G. W. Daley, Deputy Assessor, reaffirmed the increase in new construction from 2018 as being an increase of twenty eight million dollars (\$28,000,000). The current new construction numbers which are still to be finalized, will be an increase from in new construction for the tax year.”

Mr. Daley said, “Act 208, established in 1975, stated that the Assessor’s Office had to establish market value for all marketable property for taxes. The State of South Carolina then decided that reassessment should happen every five (5) years. Those years were 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016 and in 2021. The 2016 reassessment changed things drastically. Market value is important in our reassessment process because it establishes what the homeowner’s taxes will be. We try to insure accuracy for the people of Laurens County. The taxes can not be listed fairly unless the true value of each property is appraised.

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Councilman Jones asked what kind of capital he was referencing. Mr. Daily stated that the last flyover was in 2014 for a flyover and we like to get these as they occur with our reassessments as we do miss some areas. For the future, we are talking with some others that join our county and we would like to do waterfront flyovers. Some people add on and upgrade without securing permits. Administrator Caime added that a flyover is scheduled for the Fall and will cost ninety thousand dollars (\$90,000).



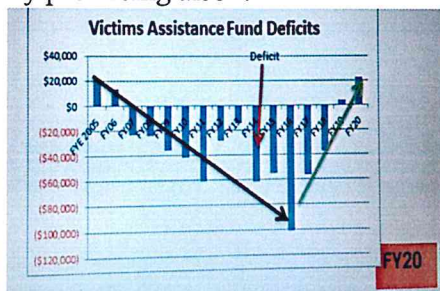
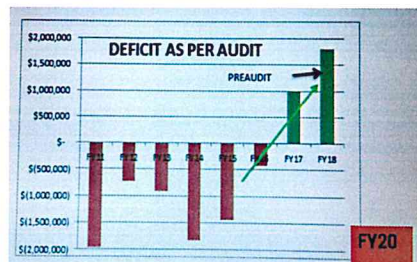
Chairman Pitts asked if John Q. Public wanted to know their assessed value, what do they need to do? Mr. Daily replied, “They can start by going to the web site and filling out the appeal application and stating why you think we are wrong”.

Councilman Jones stated that he had seen on other County web sites where they have included a calculation method where the homeowner could go on line to see the rates for property (i.e. \$100,000 house and \$200,000 house) and suggested including this on our website. Mr. Daley replied that that was not possible as we don’t know the millage to provide to do so.

**FISCAL YEAR 2019/2020 BUDGET AND LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN INTRODUCTION** – Administrator Caime began by saying that the four million seven hundred thousand dollars (\$4,700,000) in new construction results in a one hundred twenty thousand (\$120,000) new revenue that we really can’t bank on.

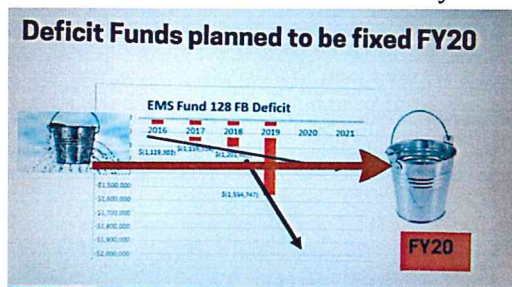
Continuing Administrator Caime said, “When I first got here, I put together a three year, three phase-in financial plan for restructuring. I know fiscal year 2018 was a difficult year for all with all the rearranging of finances. Transparency was the reasoning behind it and that there were so many comingling of funds. The other things introduced that first year was the many inefficiencies. The second year, I introduced even more inefficiencies and carved out more operations and maintenance and capital items. More transparency was made in 2019. Phase three will be part of the budget deliberations in the coming weeks, geared towards long range plans. No with having these separate fund balances, we will be able to make better predictions”.

**Phase 1 - 2018 – Fund Transparencies:** Administrator Caime said, “The funds were a mess with all funds in one bucket filled with holes – spending more money than we took in. This, I am not sure why. We have now sorted out many funds and applied them their own account numbers – buckets. The general fund, as per our audits, ran deficits prior to fiscal year 2017. Our pre-audit books for 2018 look very promising also”.



Continuing, Administrator Caime said, “Another deficit fund was the Victim Assistance fund. This is a state funded mandate. There are revenues associated with it and unfortunately significant deficits were the Victims Assistance fund. I now predict that in 2020 we should break even and will be able to pay back the negative fund balance. The Solid Waste Fund, it really was not a leaky bucket. The fee was increased last year for

the first time in twelve (12) years - sixty dollar (\$60.00) solid waste fee was to seventy two dollars (\$72.00). The Emergency Medical Services, I will present this as a stand-alone budget. When you get your first draft budget, you will not have a 128 fund. We will be spending a lot of time discussing the Emergency Medical Services”.



Administrator Caime said, “In brief to recap Phase one, we corrected a lot of efficiencies. Utilities a sixty four percent (64%) reduction at Hillcrest; Telephones an eighteen percent (18%) overall reduction; Retiree Health Insurance a thirty four percent (34%) less (2017-2018) (\$174,000); Retiree Health Insurance a long term liability reduction (\$2,502,426); Health Insurance Subsidy annually a nineteen percent (19%) less (\$43,000); Health Insurance Subsidy, long term one hundred percent (100%) (\$232,000); A thirty five (35) hour work week increase to thirty seven five (37.5) annually (\$300,000); health Insurance markup – annual total \$800,000 less in 2017-2020; Health Insurance Markup – taxpayer portion \$650,000 per year; 210 Fund savings at twenty one percent (21%) (\$394,000)”.

Continuing Administrator Caime said, “When I first got here, I couldn’t make much sense of it all. It was largely because of the co-mingling of capital funds. Since I’ve made some changes, it is a much easier transition on how costs are going to be. There was a lot of capital and operations and management funds mingled. Year two (2) is where we are now. There is more fund transparency. Now we have plans to look at. We have done the compensation study, version one and we still have version two to complete. Version one involved the head count of positions. We did not know how many Clerks we had. We classified all of the positions. We still have two more parts of the puzzle and we need to keep moving forward”.

**FISCAL YEAR 2019/2020 PRELIMINARY LONG TERM DEBT AND CAPITAL PLAN** - Administrator Caime provided a brief overview by saying, “Laurens County now has a long range Capital Improvement Plan that is much more costly than we can currently afford. However we can take actions to start making positive progress on reducing our Capital Improvement Plan backlog. There are two top Capital Improvement Plan projects identified by Council and three more that need to be funded now. The estimates of millage noted in the following breakouts are speculative at this point. This is just an overall framework for guidance only and needs to be further researched.

**Proposed Debt:**

- Item #1: Hillcrest HVAC, Lighting, Roofing. (fixed capital assets) - Total Cost: \$3,380,000  
Funding Source: \$3,130,000 GO backed debt (assumed 15 year)
- Item #2: Historic Courthouse phase 1 (assumed fixed capital asset) - Total Budget: \$700,000  
Funding Source: \$700,000 General Obligation backed debt (assumed 15 year)
- Item #1 and 2 guestimate on millage combined: 4 mills 10 year, 2.5 15 yr (\$4M)
- Item #3: Solid Waste Fixed Capital Assets (transfer station/operations space) - Total Budget: \$1,200,000  
Funding Source: Revenue backed bond (fund 210), 15 year, \$105,000/year  
Structure Lease /Purchase so pre-payable without penalty (5-8 basis points)
- Item #4: Solid Waste Rolling Capital FY20 - Total Budget: \$500,000  
Funding Source: 5 year L/P (fund 210), \$108,000/yr
- Item #5: Fire Equipment, payment start FY21 Total Budget: \$3,500,000  
Funding Source: 10 year L/P (fire SPTD millage), \$425,000/year

**NOTES:** Assumed current available General Obligation bonding capacity:  
\$8,434,238 Current Debt (millages are estimates):

1. 2010 Bonds- \$700,000 annually, matures 2025 (est. 4 mills) (GO)
2. 2010 Fire L/P- paid off FY20 (\$400,000 annually) Fire SPTD annual millage
3. 2013 Bonds- \$420,000 annually, matures 2023 (est. 2.5 mills) (GO)
4. 2015 Fire Bond- paid off 2025 (\$275,000 annually) (GO Millage) (4 mills)
5. 2018 L/P-Paid off FY22 (\$98,000 annually) E911 O&M GF budget
6. 2019 L/P-paid off FY21 (\$355,000 annually) Cap fund 600 (app. 2 of the 6 mills)

**Questions:**

1. Can existing GO debt be refinanced to stabilize GO millage increase?
2. Can L/P be paid off earlier for the 15 year L/P? Yes 5-10 basis points add.
3. What is actual current bond capacity?

4. Is Courthouse phase 1 fixed asset capital allowing GO (vs O&M)?
5. Should financial vehicles be spread out for federal tax purposes?
6. Assumed items #3,4 and 5 above do not count towards bonded capacity?

#### DETAILED PLAN

Item #3: Solid Waste Fixed Capital Assets (transfer station and operations space) - Total Budget: \$1,200,000

Funding Source: Revenue backed bond (fund 210), 15 year, \$105,000/yr

Structure so pre-payable without penalty (5-8 basis points)

Item #4: Solid Waste Rolling Capital FY20 - Total Budget: \$500,000

Funding Source: 5 year L/P (fund 210), \$108,000/yr

We only have one month under this new arrangement with Twin Chimneys. Our tipping fees will reduce from \$37 to \$17 per ton. We also expect a drop in the tons of trash we have to dispose of now that we are no longer subsidizing private haulers.

Item #5: Fire Equipment, payment start FY21 Total Budget: \$3,500,000

Funding Source: 10 year L/P (fire SPTD millage), \$425,000/yr

Two funds are interrelated in the Fire special purpose tax district. Fund 123 is the O&M budget. Fund 134 is the capital budget. These two funds assume a 1% increase in revenues and a 2.5% increase in expenses for fund 123 and a transfer of \$153,000 annually from fund 123 to fund 134 to cover capital. Currently we have \$153,000 in fund 123 to cover a portion of the 10 year Lease/Purchase.

We do not anticipate a problem (if any) until Fiscal Year 2027 however as shown with the model for fund 134 we have the ability to throttle down any transfer from fund 123 to fund 134 to keep fund 123 stable.

We anticipate additional expenses in fund 134 in 3-5 years for additional but with the projections we anticipate that we will be able to absorb additional capital costs without a tax increase for the foreseeable future. Attorney Cruickshanks suggested borrowing from ourselves and save three hundred sixty thousand dollars (\$360,000) in interest.

EMS (#128) problems were deficit spending. At one point it had reached two million dollars (\$200,000).

Vice Chairman Wood said, "Several years ago, we paid for EMS out of our general fund. I wanted people to see on their tax notices the breakout of tax dollars. If you don't have enough in one fund it has got to come from the general fund to pay for it. It was always general fund and never set up as seven mills".

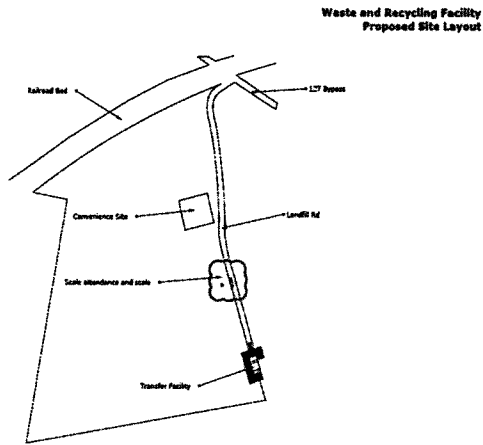
Councilman Carroll asked if the costs for EMS were after collections? Administrator Caime replied that it does carry a negative fund balance.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

#210 SOLID WASTE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN - FINANCIAL PLAN AND TRANSFER STATION REQUEST FOR QUOTES - Public Works Director, Dale Satterfield approached Council saying, "Council now has a contract with Twin Chimneys for solid waste disposal and now needs to construct a Laurens County Transfer Station. In your package, I have provided a conceptual design of a proposed transfer station. There are four (4) components to construct a transfer station: 1.) Design / Function of Transfer Station; 2.) Relocation of Scales and Scale Attendance Building; 3.) Relocation of the Landfill Road Residential Convenience Center and 4.) Economic impact/savings with a transfer station".

Continuing Director Satterfield reviewed the building components as a tipping floor; a drive thru depressed tunnel for dump trailers and office space with restroom and parts and inventory storage.





Director Satterfield asked for Councils approval to proceed with securing proposals to design and build.

Vice Chairman Wood asked where the money would be coming from. Administrator Caime replied that it would be taken from all the revenues from solid waste; borrowing from ourselves and no fee increase. Director Satterfield stated that we have and intend to utilize all that we can without having to rebuild and keeping it low cost as much as we can.

Vice Chairman Wood asked Director Satterfield if he saw any foreseeable problems with this between now and when it is complete. Director Satterfield replied that he did not but the possible failure of the equipment used.

Vice Chairman Wood asked if the trucks were actually getting more mileage on them now by going to Twin Chimneys? Director Satterfield replied that they were actually getting less miles. Everything on the Western side of the County will go directly to the Landfill on Highway #25. The Joanna sites will be coming directly the Transfer Station.

Councilman Jones noted that he understood the overall concept of what is being requested for the transfer station and how we are making the best from a worse situation.

Councilman Jones questioned the clearing of the trees at the County site on Landfill Road. Director Satterfield replied that the County does not own that property and that the property owner is clear cutting.

Councilman McDaniel questioned if a rate of return had been determined on a trash compactor. Director Satterfield replied that it is estimated that we can get two to three (2-3) tons in a forty eight foot (48') truck. That is seventeen dollars (\$17.00) a ton versus a two hundred thousand dollar (\$200,000) compactor.

COUNCILMAN JONES made the MOTION to authorize the County Administrator to proceed with securing a request for proposals to design and build the necessary transfer station. COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL SECONDING.

Vice Chairman Wood asked if actual architectural drawings were necessary. Director Satterfield replied that the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services required it. COUNCIL VOTE 7-0.

**APPROVAL - FINAL PHASE HVAC HILLCREST** – Public Works Director Dale Satterfield approached Council concerning Phase 2 as being higher than initially thought. The East wing has more square footage, more HVAC units and more offices. There are thirty (30) more indoor units and four (4) more outside units versus the Wests wing. This means more electrical, more ductwork and more labor. The amount we need is approximately one million five hundred four thousand, four hundred thirty six dollars (\$1,504,436).

VICE CHAIRMAN WOOD made the MOTION to move forward with Phase II for the Hillcrest project. COUNCILMAN JONES SECONDING: VOTE 7-0.

**LONG RANGE CAPITAL PLAN - \$3.5M FIRE LEASE/PURCHASE** – Greg Lindley, Director of Fire Services approached Council requesting Council to approve for him to proceed with receiving bids for newer equipment to not exceed three million five hundred thousand dollars (\$3,500,000) in a lease / purchase program. This continues the previous plan for purchasing every ten years. This will allow us to purchase ten pumper/tankers and two rescue trucks. This will not require a tax increase to be allowed to do a new lease on fire apparatus using the current lease being paid off in 2020. The current budget and funds will pay for the lease with the first payment due in 2021.

Chairman Pitts asked if his request was for authorization to go out for requests for quotes or to actually spend the money to purchase. Mr. Lindly replied that it was to approve the funds with the existing lease / purchase.

Attorney Cruickshanks stated that as a matter of procedure, there was not a lease purchase proposal on the table. Administrator Caime noted that this was to just get pricing now and involving no funds.

COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON made the MOTION to allow Mr. Lindley to seek needed equipment. COUNCILMAN CARROLL SECONDING for discussion.

Councilman Carroll said, “We all know that asking for RFPs is the same as saying that equipment is intended to be purchased. I would prefer offering you the option of going out and asking for bids or estimates”.

Chairman Pitts agreed and said, “The Fire Service will be spending seven million dollars (\$7,000,000) over the twenty (20) years for equipment. And not all of it benefits all citizens of Laurens County. There are needs in every department for a variety of things for the services Laurens County provides”.

Councilman Jones said that he felt like some of these expenses could be covered with grants? Mr. Lindley said, “We have received three million eight hundred thousand dollars (\$3,800,000) in federal grants. Twelve of our fourteen rescue trucks were replaced through grant funding. I am not asking for an increase in spending nor taxes. This is not increasing anything - other than what we (already) pay in taxes. If we wait until October or November, it could be four million two hundred thousand dollars (\$4,200, 000) instead of three million five hundred thousand dollars (\$3,500, 000). We have a countywide ISO rating of five (5) now and I’m looking at and working towards a four or a three (4 or a 3) ISO rating. This can’t be done with some of the equipment we have now.”

Councilman Younts asked if the three million five hundred thousand (\$3,500,000) would affect EMS? Administrator Caime replied that it would not and that it was only fire.

Councilman Younts asked if the three million five hundred thousand (\$3,500, 000) would affect taxes? Administrator Caime replied that it would not.

Councilman Younts asked if the three million five hundred thousand (\$3,500,000) would affect the debt limits? Administrator Caime replied that it is an obligation and that the problems will not go away.

Councilman Younts asked Mr. Lindley if his department had any more plans to come back to Council for more money. Mr. Lindley replied, “The three million five hundred thousand dollars (\$3,500,000) is within a ten (10) year cycle to replace and keep us up to par. The next big request would be in 2030 or 2031”.

Councilman Jones wished to revisit during the capital budget discussions.

Councilman Carroll repeated his earlier statement that an RFP is an intent to purchase.

Chairman Pitts asked Councilwoman Anderson is she wished to rescind her motion. Councilwoman Anderson replied that she did not.

COUNCIL VOTED 4-3 (Council Members Carroll, Pitts and Jones were in opposition).

**PUBLIC HEARING, ORDINANCE #859- CONVEYANCE OF 13 ACRES OF LAND TO LAURENS COUNTY DISABILITY AND SPECIAL NEEDS BOARD** – Chairman Pitts opened the floor at 7:14 P.M. for the public hearing. Having none, Chairman Pitts closed the hearing at 7:15 P.M.

**THIRD READING, ORDINANCE #859- CONVEYANCE OF THIRTEEN (13) ACRES OF LAND TO LAURENS COUNTY DISABILITY AND SPECIAL NEEDS BOARD** – VICE CHAIRMAN WOOD made the MOTION to approve Ordinance #859 upon third reading with COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL SECONDING; VOTE 7-0.



**SECOND READING, ORDINANCE #861 - PROJECT NEEDLE PUNCH** – Attorney Cruickshanks reported that this was an existing industry with the intent to create twenty five (25) new full time jobs and with a twelve million one hundred thousand dollar (\$12,100,000) investment.

COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON made the MOTION to approve Ordinance #861 upon Second reading as requested with COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL SECONDING; VOTE 7-0.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTION #2019-06 - PROJECT BLUEBERRY** – Johnathon Coleman, Executive Director, Laurens County Development Corporation, asked for Council approval of a Resolution for a new industry that will be adding one hundred fourteen (114) new jobs with an investment of eighteen million dollars (\$18,000,000).

COUNCILMAN JONES made the MOTION to approve with COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON SECONDING; VOTE 7-0.

**FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE #862 - PROJECT BLUEBERRY** – COUNCILMAN JONES made the MOTION approve with COUNCILMAN CARROLL SECONDING; VOTE 7-0.

**APPOINTMENT – LAURENS COUNTY PARKS, RECREATION AND TOURISM** – Mr. Andy Howard, Director, Laurens County Parks, Recreation and Tourism Commission stated that this is actually a request being made by Councilman Jones. COUNCILMAN JONES asked as a MOTION for the appointment of Mr. Michael Bhurmaster to the Parks, Recreation and Tourism Commission with COUNCILMAN CARROLL SECONDING; VOTE 7-0.

**APPOINTMENT – PLANNING COMMISSION** – AS A MOTION, COUNCILMAN CARROLL asked for Council approval of appointing Mr. Jim Royer to the Laurens County Planning Commission from his District. COUNCILMAN JONES SECONDING; VOTE 7-0.

**ADDED AGENDA ITEM – APPOINTMENT – SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE** - Chairman Pitts stated that an appointment from Council was needed for the Legislative Committee of the South Carolina Association of Counties.

Councilwoman Anderson noted that she has always served on that Committee and wishes to remain. Chairman Pitts asked is that was in the form of a motion, Councilwoman Anderson replied that it was. With the request a MOTION was made from CHAIRMAN PITTS for Councilwoman Anderson to remain; SECOND from VICE CHAIRMAN WOOD; VOTE 7-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – Chairman Pitts called for public comments. No one had requested to address Council.

**COUNTY COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

- a.) Vice Chairman Wood reminded all that the ethics reports were due in two (2) weeks.
- b.) Chairman Pitts reminded Council of the upcoming meetings / banquets – Spotlight on Agriculture, Life at the Lake Summit. As to the Laurens United, we are waiting on confirmation from Congressman Dunkin.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – COUNCILMAN CARROLL made the MOTION to move into executive session at 7:27 P.M. to discuss an Employment Matter – EMS; Employment Matter - County Administrator; Employment Matter - Litter/Humane Office. COUNCILMAN JONES SECONDING; VOTE 7-0.

Chairman Pitts declared a five (5) minute break.

Council went into Executive Session at 7:35 P.M.

There was a COUNCIL CONSENSUS to reconvene in open session at 8:30 P.M.

Chairman Pitts reported:

- a.) Employment Matter – EMS – No action taken.
- b.) Employment Matter - County Administrator – No action taken.
- c.) Employment Matter - Litter/Humane Office – No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT – There was a COUNCIL CONSENSUS to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 P.M

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Betty C. Walsh".

Betty C. Walsh  
Laurens County Clerk to Council