



**MINUTES**  
**MAY 14, 2019**  
**LAURENS COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**HILLCREST SQUARE – ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

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**ATTENDING COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS** – Chairman David Pitts and Vice Chairman Joe Wood; Council Members Diane Anderson, Jeff Carroll, Stewart Jones (arrived 5:11 P.M.), Garrett McDaniel and Kemp Younts.

**ABSENT COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS** – Stewart Jones (resigned due to SC House election).

**ATTENDING ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF** – County Administrator Jon Caime, Betty Walsh, Clerk to Council and County Attorney Sandy Cruickshanks.

**ABSENT ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF** - None

**ATTENDING DEPARTMENT HEADS** - Laurens County Fire Service Director, Greg Lindley; Laurens County Public Works Director, Dale Satterfield; Laurens County Communications Director, Joey Avery; Laurens County EMS Director, Matt Pennington; Laurens County Probate Judge, Kay Fridy; Laurens County Finance Director, Lisa Kirk; Chris Gurga, Supervisor, Laurens County Landfill; Chuck Bobo, Codes Enforcement Official; Andy Howard, Director of Laurens County Parks, Recreation and Tourism; David Satterfield, Laurens County Assessor; Debi Parker, Laurens County Director of Human Resources;

**INVITED GUESTS** – Jonathan Coleman, Director, Laurens County Development Corporation; Jim Coleman, Laurens County Auditor; Mike Pitts, former South Carolina House #14; James Gambrell; John Carter, former Mayor of Gray Court and Stewart Jones, South Carolina House #14 and former Councilman.

**ATTENDING PRESS** – Laurens County WLBG Radio, Iva Cadmus and *The Clinton Chronicle*, Vic McDonald,

**AGENDA ITEMS – MAY 14, 2019** – 1.) Call to Order; 2.) Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation; 3.) Approval of Agenda – May 14, 2019; 4.) Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings: a.) April 23, 2019 - Regular Meeting; b.) April 23, 2019 - Budget Meeting #1; 5.) Reports To Council: a.) Presentation of Commendation Resolution to Mike Pitts; b.) Presentation of Commendation Resolution to Stewart Jones; c.) Presentation of Henry Laurens Award to James Gambrell; d.) Presentation of Henry Laurens Award to John Carter; 6.) Resolution #2019-14 – Emergency Medical Services Week; 7.) Jonathan Coleman, Director, Laurens County Development Corporation - County Wage Growth; 8.) Review - Laurens County Auditor's Office ; 9.) Old Business: a.) Public Hearing, Ordinance #864 - Purchase of 0.29 Acres for Solid Waste Convenience Center; b.) Third Reading, #864 - Purchase of 0.29 Acres for Solid Waste Convenience Center; c.) Second Reading, Ordinance #865, Fiscal Year 2019/2020 Budget ; d.) Second Reading, Ordinance #866, Fiscal Year 2019/2020 Fire Special Purpose Tax District Budget; e.) Second Reading, Ordinance #867, Fiscal Year 2019/2020 Local Option Sales Tax; f.) Second Reading, Ordinance #869, Amend Hunter Park Agreement to include Muffin Mam ; 10.) New Business: a.) Oath of Office – County Litter Humane Officers; b.) Approval of Clemson Extension Contract; c.) Acceptance of Ora Community Park Property; 11.) Public Comment - Fifteen (15) Minute Period for Public Comment); 12.) County Council Comments: 13.) Executive Session: a.) Employment Matters - Deputy Director Positions (911, HR, Finance); b.) Legal Briefing – Potential Negotiations for acquisition of property by Laurens County; 14.) 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** – Alan Rickard, Woodmen of the World Representative.



**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 – MAY 14, 2019** – Chairman Pitts asked for approval of the agenda with any additions to or deletions.

Chairman Pitts asked to add 1.) letter “h” under reports to Council for Animal Control and; 2.) Executive Session County Administrator Contract.

COUNCILMAN CARROLL made the MOTION to approve the May 14, 2019 agenda with the two (2) added items. COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL SECONDING; VOTE 6-0.

**APPROVAL OF APRIL 9, 2019 MINUTES** – Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings:

- a.) April 23, 2019 Minutes - Regular Meeting - COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON made the MOTION to approve with COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL SECONDING; VOTE 6-0.
- b.) April 23, 2019 - Budget Meeting #1 - COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL made the MOTION to approve with COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON SECONDING; VOTE 6-0.

**REPORTS TO COUNCIL:**

**PRESENTATION OF COMMENDATION RESOLUTION TO MIKE PITTS** – Chairman Pitts read the Resolution with Vice Chairman Wood presenting.

**PRESENTATION OF COMMENDATION RESOLUTION TO STEWART JONES** – Chairman Pitts read the Resolution and presented the Resolution.

**PRESENTATION OF HENRY LAURENS AWARD TO JAMES GAMBRELL** – Chairman Pitts read the Henry Laurens Award with South Carolina House Member Stewart Jones presenting. South Carolina House Representative #14 Stewart Jones also presented Mr. Pitts with a Resolution from the South Carolina House and a State Flag.

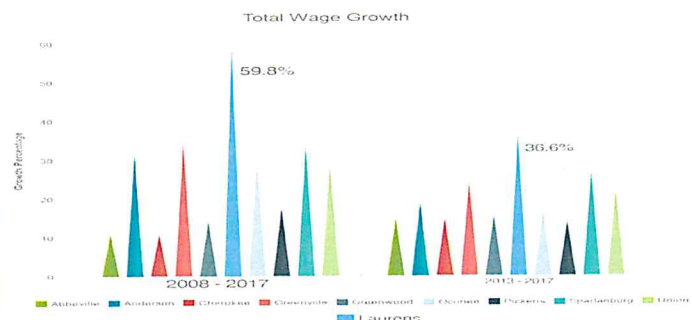
**PRESENTATION OF HENRY LAURENS AWARD TO JOHN CARTER** – Chairman Pitts read the Henry Laurens Award with Councilman McDaniel presenting.

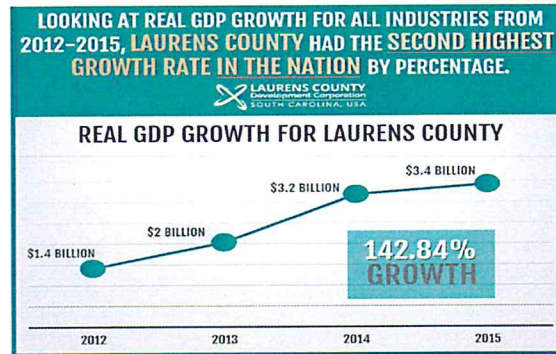
**RESOLUTION #2019-14 – EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK** – COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON made the MOTION to approve with COUNCILMAN CARROLL SECONDING: VOTE 6-0.

**REPORT - COUNTY WAGE GROWTH** – Jonathan Coleman, Director, Laurens County Development Corporation presented the following statistics for Laurens County:

Total Wages, All Industries, All Covered Employees, All Establishment Sizes

County	2008	2013	2017	2008-2017 % Change	2013-2017 % Change
Abbeville	\$180,840,000	\$174,843,000	\$200,499,000	10.87%	14.67%
Anderson	\$1,934,282,000	\$2,142,636,000	\$2,544,332,000	31.54%	18.75%
Cherokee	\$635,142,000	\$613,560,000	\$703,899,000	10.83%	14.72%
Greenville	\$9,383,363,000	\$10,163,009,000	\$12,632,180,000	34.62%	24.39%
Greenwood	\$1,009,762,000	\$997,743,000	\$1,152,248,000	14.11%	15.49%
Laurens	\$585,535,000	\$661,445,000	\$903,734,000	59.80%	36.63%
Dorcas	\$847,693,000	\$939,769,000	\$1,094,602,000	29.14%	16.48%
Pickens	\$1,194,960,000	\$1,232,807,000	\$1,404,315,000	17.52%	13.91%
Spartanburg	\$4,704,557,000	\$4,959,162,000	\$6,307,068,000	34.06%	27.18%
Union	\$211,717,000	\$224,063,000	\$272,465,000	28.63%	21.60%
UPSTATE TOTAL	\$20,667,762,000	\$22,109,037,000	\$27,215,342,000	31.68%	23.10%
SOUTH CAROLINA	\$68,010,851,000	\$73,480,132,000	\$89,914,574,000	32.21%	22.37%
UNITED STATES	\$6,142,159,200,000	\$6,672,643,785,000	\$7,968,335,658,000	29.73%	19.42%





**REVIEW - LAURENS COUNTY AUDITOR'S OFFICE** – Laurens County Auditor Jim Coleman, provided Council with an overview of what the functions are within his Department as follows: “We have five (5) full time employees and five (5) part time employees. A priority of our Department is to set the milage rates so that the tax notices can be calculated. Other duties consist of, applying the required percentage assessment ratios for boats and aircraft, accept applications and qualify taxpayer requests for Homestead Exemption on primary residences, process motor vehicle high-mileage and reappraisals, calculate and issue agricultural property tax rollback bills, Bond obligations for the School District. New Legislation about boat registrations is being implemented by the State to register boats every year instead of every three (3) years. On the State level we work closely with the Department of Revenue, Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Motor Vehicles. The value of a mill is predicted to be around one hundred seventy three thousand dollars (\$173,000) or maybe just a little more. I would appreciate Council providing the Cost of Living to the employees this year”.

**LAURENS COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL UPDATE** - Mr. Geoffrey Brown, Superintendent of Litter Humane Department, presented Council with a summary of his observations within the Department since his hiring in late April and of his intent with his leadership for the Department.

#### PAST

##### CLEANING:

Chemicals causing skin burns to Dogs:

- Resulted in bleach one day
  - Chemical the next
  - Just Water the next
- Not Squeegeeing Water Standing  
Sprayed fecal out the back of the run to a trough  
Smell was horrendous

#### PAST

##### BEDDING

Hard, Cold Concrete Floors  
Hard, Cold Plastic Dog Houses on Concrete Floors (same as being on a concrete floor)

#### PRESENT

##### CLEANING:

Peroxide based cleaning chemicals used that are safe for all animals and it kills bacteria, disease and parasites

Bio-enzymatic used after cleaning that eats urine and other bio products eliminating smells

Scoop poop eliminating the smell and stops the cross contamination

Squeegeeing after cleaning reduces foot sores and creates dryer dogs

No more poop or urine smells  
No more bleach which is dangerous and corrosive.

#### PRESENT

##### BEDDING:

About ½ of our runs now have Karanda Shelter Beds

Karanda Beds – Durable, Comfortable, Raised off the grounds, 1-year warranty even if the dogs destroy them  
Cost as much as a Dog House!

**PAST**

**VACCINATIONS/HEARTWORM TESTS:**

Were done days or weeks after arriving  
Heartworm tests were done by volunteers  
when they had time  
Microchips were done only when dog was  
adopted out  
Allowing things such as parvo and kennel cough to  
spread throughout the facility

**PAST**

We were the dumping ground for unwanted animals.  
Average of 21 Owner Turn In per month  
We had to euthanize for space  
We also euthanized for owners wanting their dog euthanized  
We had to quarantine all dog bites.

**PAST**

Officers were dressed sloppy  
No standard uniform colors, pant styles etc.  
Vehicles unkept, dirty and smoked in  
  
Officers had little to no training  
Officers were unprofessional in appearance and attitude.

**PAST**

Software: Shelter Pro  
Outdated  
Cost just under \$700 per year

**PRESENT**

**VACCINATIONS/HEARTWORM TESTS:**

All vaccinations are done (except for rabies) upon intake  
before the dog enters the kennel area  
Heartworm tests are done upon intake  
Microchipping is done upon intake

**PRESENT**

Managed intake:  
Puts the responsibility back on the owners  
No owner requested Euthenizations  
No more euthanizing for space  
Owned Dogs are quarantined at the home or at a  
licensed vet at owners expense  
Average of 8 Owner Turn In per month  
Saving the county MONEY!

**PRESENT**

Officers are going to a new dress code  
Professional Appearance  
Standard Uniforms purchased as uniforms are  
replaced  
No smoking in or around vehicles, on calls, in  
the view of public or within 50' of doors or  
entrances per county policy.  
Officers are being trained in professional attitude  
Officers are receiving customer service and  
compassion fatigue training.  
Policy /Procedures are being written and  
standards are being set/enforced  
Accountability for trucks and other equipment

**PRESENT**

Software: Pet Point  
Coming June 2019  
Web based-can be used on smartphone,  
computer or tablet  
Stats are inaccurate  
Things are manually done not automated  
Automatically registers microchips  
Stays Updated  
One-time onboarding fee of \$1,000 no yearly  
fees, maintenance fees etc.  
Automatically posts new intakes on the website  
and on petfinder.com  
Statistics and Reports are fast, accurate and  
professional looking.  
Reduces paper output by allowing electronic



signatures and emails the paperwork to the adopter or rescue  
Transfers dogs from one facility to another  
Gives Adopters 30/day Free Pet Health Insurance

**PAST**

Food:

We used whatever was either donated or what was purchased at Walmart, tractor supply, etc.  
Changing food created havoc on dog's digestive system  
Unhealthy for dog  
Created a mess at the facility  
When purchased it is \$28-\$30 per bag.

**PRESENT**

Food:

Science Diet Shelter Program:  
Consistent Diet  
Shipped to us weekly  
Delivered Directly to Shelter  
Cost average of \$75-85 Per Week for the entire shelter at maximum capacity  
Provide free sample bag to adopter for easy transition to new food

**FUTURE: WHERE ARE WE GOING?**

Decreased Intake  
Performing our own euthanasia's  
Professional Agency both inside and out  
Arming our officers to protect themselves and the public  
Building relationships  
Aggressive Prosecution of Abuse and Neglect Cases  
Hiring quality, qualified staff  
Public Education Through:  
Obedience Classes  
Public Service Announcements  
Face To Face Contact  
Enforcement Where Necessary

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**PUBLIC HEARING, ORDINANCE #864 - PURCHASE OF 0.29 ACRES FOR SOLID WASTE CONVENIENCE CENTER** – Chairman Pitts opened the floor for Public Comments at 6:20 P.M. Having no one wishing to address Council, Chairman Pitts closed the floor at 6:21 P.M.

**THIRD READING, #864 - PURCHASE OF 0.29 ACRES FOR SOLID WASTE CONVENIENCE CENTER** – This Ordinance provides that Council approves and authorizes the purchase of 0.29 acres for the use and expansion of a greenbox site on Sweetbriar Road with funds (\$2,000) used from the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund.

COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL made the MOTION to approve on third reading with COUNCILMAN CARROLL SECONDING; VOTE 6-0.

**SECOND READING, ORDINANCE #865, FISCAL YEAR 2019/2020 BUDGET - COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON** made the MOTION to approve on second reading with COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL SECONDING; VOTE 6-0

**SECOND READING, ORDINANCE #866, FISCAL YEAR 2019/2020 FIRE SPECIAL PURPOSE TAX DISTRICT BUDGET** - COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL made the MOTION to approve on second reading with COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON SECONDING; VOTE 6-0

**SECOND READING, ORDINANCE #867, FISCAL YEAR 2019/2020 LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX -**  
COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON made the MOTION to approve on second reading with COUNCILMAN YOUNTS SECONDING; VOTE 5-1 (Vice Chairman Wood was in opposition).

**SECOND READING, ORDINANCE #869, AMEND HUNTER PARK AGREEMENT TO INCLUDE MUFFIN MAM -**  
COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON made the MOTION to approve on second reading with COUNCILMAN CARROLL SECONDING; VOTE 6-0

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**OATH OF OFFICE – COUNTY LITTER HUMANE OFFICERS –** County Attorney Sandy Cruickshanks conducted the Oath of Office to Mr. William Dixon Hayes and Mr. Geoffrey Lee Brown, both working in the Litter / Humane Department of the County.

**APPROVAL OF CLEMSON EXTENSION CONTRACT –** The County Extension Program Support Agreement (CEPSA) is supporting the local 4-H Extension Agent position and is renewable each year. The total amount of support is twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000).

COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON made the MOTION to approve reading with COUNCILMAN CARROLL SECONDING; VOTE 6-0

**ACCEPTANCE OF ORA COMMUNITY PARK PROPERTY –** County Attorney Cruickshanks briefed Council and said, “This started with the discussion within the Ora Community Committee concerning the demolition of the old school building on the property and the costs associated with tearing it down. The property was deeded to the Ora Community by the Laurens School District #55 in 1961. Representing the Committee, John McClintock approached the County to help with tearing it down for them. Attorney Cruickshanks then advised that the County would take down the old building and dispose of the debris if the Community Committee would deed the property to the County. The spokesman for the Ora Community reported back by saying that it was agreed to deed the property to the County as long as a shelter with tables was established”.

COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL made the MOTION to approve with COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON SECONDING for discussion.

Chairman Pitts asked if the grounds and building had been tested for lead and asbestos? Attorney Cruickshanks replied that the Codes Department had reviewed things of this nature and resolved there were no issues.

VOTE 6-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – Chairman Pitts opened the floor for public comments at 6:30 P.M.

- 1.) Alan Rickard of Woodmen of the World, invited Council to a BBQ in honor of the County Sheriffs Department on Saturday. And, as requested, he asked for Council to consider increasing the funds for the Sheriffs Department at least by ten percent (10%).

**COUNTY COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

- 1.) Councilman Carroll noted that he was proud to see those honored tonight by Council.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION –** COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL made the MOTION to move into Executive Session at 6:35 P.M. to discuss an Employment Matter County Administrator, Employment Matters - Deputy Director Positions (911, HR, Finance) and a Legal Briefing – Potential Negotiations for acquisition of property by Laurens County. COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON SECONDING; VOTE 6-0.

There was a COUNCIL CONSENSUS to reconvene in open session at 8:05 P.M. Chairman Pitts reported the following:

- a.) Employment Matters - Deputy Director Positions (911, HR, Finance) – NO ACTION TAKEN
- b.) Employment Matter – County Administrator Contract – COUNCILMAN      made the MOTION for the County Attorney to finalize the three (3) year contract with the County Administrator. VICE CHAIRMAN WOOD SECONDING; VOTE 6-0.
- c.) Legal Briefing – Potential Negotiations for acquisition of property by Laurens County – NO ACTION TAKEN.

ADJOURMENT – COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL made the MOTION to adjourn at 8:10 P.M. with COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON SECONDING; VOTE 6-0.

Respectfully Submitted,



Betty C. Walsh  
Laurens County Clerk to Council