



MINUTES

LAURENS COUNTY COUNCIL
JULY 11, 2017
LAURENS COUNTY COUNCIL
HISTORIC COURTHOUSE – COUNCIL CHAMBERS

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Vice Chairman Tollison (work out of state); Councilman Pitts (work related out of town).

COUNTY STAFF: Laurens County Clerk to Council, Betty Walsh and Laurens County Attorney, Sandy Cruickshanks.

STAFF ABSENT: Laurens County Administrator, Jon Caime.

DEPARTMENT HEADS PRESENT: Rob Russian, Director of Public Works; Matt Pennington, EMS Director; Joey Avery, E-911/Communications Director; Greg Lindley, Fire Service Director; Cathy Tucker, Detention Center Administrator; Lisa Kirk, Finance Director; Debi Parker, Human Resources Manager; Billy Wilson, Vehicle Maintenance/Procurement Officer and Nick Nichols, Coroner.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT SIGN-UPS – No one had signed up to address Council.

SCHEDULED MEETING AGENDA ITEMS – JULY 11, 2017 – 1.) Call to Order; 2.) Invocation – Councilman Pitts; 3.) Pledge of Allegiance; 4.) Approval of Agenda July 11, 2017; 5.) Approval of Minutes May 9, 2017 and June 13, 2-17;

6.) Reports to Council: a.) FY 17 – Month #11 Report - Finance Director Lisa Kirk;

7.) Old Business: Hunter Industrial Park Signage; Public Hearing Ordinance #835- FY18 Fire Budget Ordinance; Third Reading Ordinance #835- FY18 Fire Budget Ordinance;

8.) New Business: FOIA Policy Approval; Airport - Part Time Position Request; LEMPG Grant Approval; FY17 – 18 - Continuance Resolution #2017-12; Ekom Volunteer Fire Department - reimbursement request for base radio;

9.) Public Comment - Fifteen (15) Minute Period for Public Comment; 10.) County Council Comments; 11.) Adjournment.

MEETING NOTIFICATION – The requesting general public 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.

CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Wood called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. and invited all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer.

INVOCATION – Chairman Wood provided the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted by all.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Chairman Wood called for approval of the July 11, 2017 agenda inclusive of any additions or deletions.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – COUNCILMAN NASH made the MOTION to approve the minutes from the May 23, 2017 meeting with COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL SECONDING; VOTE 5-0.

COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON made the MOTION to approve the minutes from the June 27, 2017 meeting with COUNCILMAN JONES SECONDING; VOTE 5-0.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL:

a.) **TELEPHONE AUDIT UPDATE** – Billy Wilson, Superintendent of Vehicle Maintenance/County Procurement introduced Mr. Jon Celiba of Spyglass as the agency conducting the audit.

As an introductory, Mr. Celiba said, “We are a telecommunications data service that audits all records for all communication devices and services. Our intent is to provide a service that will bring dollars back to the County. This is really a two phase process where we develop an inventory of all services used by the County; compare the inventory with contracts and provide out recommendations to the County to move forward with cost reductions”.

Chairman Wood asked what was their present status with the audit. Mr. Celiba replied that they were almost half way there and have copies of records from mail carriers and making test calls. Once completed the audit will be revealed with retroactive credits being provided.

Councilwoman Anderson asked what other entities in South Carolina he had provided his services to. Mr. Celiba replied that he is only one of several groups within South Carolina and that he was not certain as to whom all had contracted their services.

Councilwoman Anderson asked from the previous contracts, what was their percentage of returns. Mr. Celiba replied thirty to fifty percent savings.

Chairman Wood asked who had authorized these services? Mr. Wilson replied that Mr. Caime had implemented this service.

Chairman Wood asked why Council had not been advised of this service being conducted since it appears to involve a lot of money? Mr. Wilson replied that there are no dollar figures involved and that he understood that the fee for the service was a percentage of the costs being made evident and saved.

County Attorney Cruickshanks asked if there was a signed contract. Mr. Celiba replied that there was not.

Below is a copy of the information provided to Council as part of their agenda package:

Executive Summary

The SpyGlass Group, Inc. was hired by The County of Laurens to perform an independent audit and analysis of its voice, data, internet and wireless services for all of its locations. During the course of this audit, we performed the following work:

- Met with county personnel to (a) identify the telecommunications and internet services that are in use by the County of Laurens and the outside companies providing such services, and (b) gather copies of bills, contracts, and other necessary materials for the audit.
- Developed a set of inventories of all services that are being billed by County of Laurens various telecommunications providers for each physical location involved with the audit.
- Compared the completed inventory with services currently in operational use by County of Laurens for purposes of identifying unnecessary and/or under-utilized services.
- Performed a scalability analysis on the services being provided based on County of Laurens intended use of the services and its number of users.
- Compared the completed inventory with current contracts and tariffs for the purpose of identifying inconsistencies that could result in retroactive recoveries.
- Compared the billed rates of all services with current market-competitive rates for the purpose of identifying opportunities for savings opportunities unrelated to service elimination.
- Researched and developed recommendations for Laurens County to cut costs going forward.

b.) **CHUCK BOBO, CODES OFFICER – QUARTERLY REPORT ON PERMIT ACTIVITY -**
Bobo presented the following data and reviewed with Council:

Mr.

data on the following page

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 LAURENS COUNTY COUNCIL

04/01/2017 - 06/30/2017

	Permits Issued	Valuation	Fees Paid
Commercial			
Alteration	12	\$812,944.00	\$3,392.70
Misc./One Stop	13	\$77,818.00	\$1,122.00
New	10	\$692,241.80	\$4,539.50
Subtotal	35	\$1,583,003.80	\$9,054.20
One Stop			
Misc./One Stop	74	\$432,358.23	\$5,930.80
Subtotal	74	\$432,358.23	\$5,930.80
Residential			
Alteration	58	\$602,587.00	\$7,822.80
Misc./One Stop	303	\$2,078,850.44	\$28,359.80
New	80	\$5,602,232.90	\$31,569.85
Subtotal	441	\$8,283,670.34	\$67,752.45
Total	550	\$10,299,032.37	\$82,737.45
Mobile Home set-up permits New	34	\$1,415,086.36	\$11,574.50
Mobile Home set-up permits Pre- owned	12	\$66,400.00	\$3,182.50
Single Family Dwelling	31	\$4,528,596.50	\$23,430.78
New Commercial	5	\$561,950.00	\$3,060.00
Code Enforcement			
New Cases 2nd Q	31		
New cases 1st Q	53		
2017 Active Cases	80		
2016 Active Cases	106		
2015 Active Cases	111		
2014 (Aug- Dec) Active Cases	15		
Inspection results			
Passed	749		
Failed	229		
Total	978		

2nd Quarter	Number Residential	Value	Number Commercial New	Value	Total Permits Issued	Total value	Total Permits Fees
2002	80	\$ 4,395,820.00	24	\$ 240,061.00	787	\$ 13,427,046.00	\$ 89,092.00
2003	36	\$ 4,927,404.00	5	\$ 875,000.00	716	\$ 13,045,928.00	\$ 82,323.00
2004	26	\$ 3,335,533.00	2	\$ 256,000.00	765	\$ 10,883,945.00	\$ 92,735.00
2005	38	\$ 5,617,579.00	5	\$ 4,196,273.00	678	\$ 16,061,017.00	\$ 89,844.00
2006	24	\$ 3,392,475.00	2	\$ 39,800.00	612	\$ 8,804,347.00	\$ 60,650.00
2007	47	\$ 6,384,562.00	5	\$ 846,991.00	678	\$ 13,012,756.00	\$ 83,518.00
2008	45	\$ 6,005,656.00	8	\$ 1,747,386.00	669	\$ 12,718,435.00	\$ 73,016.00
2009	21	\$ 3,923,141.00	3	\$ 44,350.00	667	\$ 8,813,407.00	\$ 62,199.00
2010	15	\$ 2,000,432.00	6	\$ 1,100,015.00	653	\$ 7,776,564.00	\$ 55,177.00
2011	16	\$ 3,492,226.00	6	\$ 322,143.00	794	\$ 34,768,808.00	\$ 62,538.00
2012	10	\$ 1,235,070.00	5	\$ 1,515,500.00	522	\$ 8,921,806.00	\$ 42,236.00
2013	16	\$ 2,312,842.00	10	\$10,591,249.00	585	\$ 19,690,460.00	\$ 76,033.00
2014	22	\$ 3,274,244.00	4	\$ 8,784,233.00	564	\$ 45,812,648.00	\$ 131,786.00
2015	27	\$ 3,980,452.99	10	\$ 116,640.00	620	\$ 8,449,322.53	\$ 55,235.29
2016	30	\$ 4,644,690.00	16	\$ 7,158,016.00	419	\$ 17,261,544.32	\$ 108,997.89
2017	31	\$ 4,528,596.50	5	\$ 561,950.00	551	\$ 10,299,032.37	\$ 82,812.45

City of Laurens	11		No Data
City of Clinton	No new starts		
Fountain Inn			
Tucker Branch	9		\$225,000 to \$233,000
Fountain Brook	14		\$136,000 to \$139,500
PineHaven	20		\$93,000 to \$121,500
Total	43		

OLD BUSINESS:

a.) **FIRE CONTRACTS FOUNTAIN INN AND CLINTON** – Mr. Greg Lindley, Director of Fire Services, introduced the Fire Chiefs for Fountain Inn and the City of Clinton and proceeded to advise Council of the proposed budget requests.

- Fountain Inn Fire Department – Term of Contract is July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018
 \$205,493.65

Chief Ronnie Meyers explained that their increase this year was largely involving catching up with the hiring and the economy.

- City of Clinton Fire Department - Term of Contract is July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018 -
 \$283,940.00.

Mr. Robin Morse explained that their increase was due to the time spent on the fire call volume increase outside the City.

Councilman Jones asked why the call volume was up. Mr. Morse replied that there has been more calls from along the seventeen miles of interstate as well as medical calls.

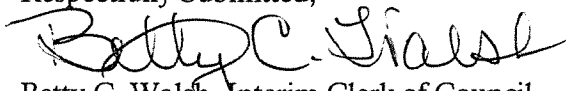
PUBLIC COMMENT – Mrs. Walsh noted that no one had signed up to address Council.

COUNTY COUNCIL COMMENTS:

- Councilman Jones stated that he was going to continue to fight to keep the taxes low and the costs of county government down.
- Councilman Nash expressed his thankfulness for the county employees.
- Chairman Wood addressed the present working budget by saying, “This budget does have a tax increase. The unfunded mandates from the State are largely at fault for this. It will take five members of Council to pass this budget that is going to be a hard task to do as it is. This is the first time in my tenure on Council to not have a budget passed by July 1st.”.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,


 Betty C. Walsh, Interim Clerk of Council
 Laurens County, South Carolina