



MINUTES
LAURENS COUNTY CAPITAL PROJECT SALES TAX
HISTORIC COURTHOUSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON DESIGN AND RECOMMENDED USE
MARCH 4, 2021 – 11:00 A.M.
HISTORIC COURTHOUSE – PUBLIC SQUARE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairwoman Amanda Munyan, Vice-Chair Jamie Field, Laurens City Chief of Police, Chrissie Latimore, Councilwoman Diane Anderson, Councilman Luke Rankin and Laurens City Mayor Nathan Senn.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Robert Whitmore and Councilman David Tribble

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF PRESENT – Dale Satterfield, Director of Public Works and Betty C. Walsh, Clerk to Council.

VISITING COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS – None.

PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS – None.

PRESS – None present.

CALL TO ORDER – Chairwoman Munyan called the meeting to order at 11:01 A.M..

INVOCATION – Director Satterfield provided the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Chairwoman Munyan led all with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – MARCH 4, 2021 – Upon a MOTION from Committee Member Chrissie Latimore with a SECOND from Committee Member Nathan Senn, the agenda was approved with a 6-0 VOTE.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – FEBRUARY 26, 2021 – Incomplete.

OLD BUSINESS:

SUMMARY OF COMPLETED WORKSHOPS – Chairwoman Munyan began the meeting dialogue by reviewing the three (3) uses provided by the Architects and reviewing the following synopsis provided by Mrs. Walsh.

1.) RENOVATION PHASES– ADA COMPLIANT:

- a.) Phase 1 – Exterior waterproofing
- b.) Phase 2 – Restoration / Schematic design of interior space
- c.) Phase 3 – Interior renovation work

2.) KNOWN RENOVATIONS / UPGRADES:

- a.) HVAC Systems;
- b.) Plumbing;
- c.) Lighting;
- d.) Fire alarm System;
- e.) Interior Elevator;
- f.) Better interior stair cases;
- g.) Windows;

3.) COMMITTEE TASKS TO PROVIDE (per ordinance): “Restoration, repair and restoration of the roofing, exterior foundation, moisture control of the facility as well as an interior ADA compliant elevator - \$3,500,766”

It has been noted by the Architects that use of the facility determines the restoration process.

4.) SYNOPSIS OF PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS:

a.) FACILITY USE:

- Home Base for the Revolutionary War Sestercentennial Museum;
- County Council Chambers (continued use);
- Multi purpose Performing Stages (Laurens County Theater, Laurens County Chorale);
- Public Arts Space;
- Organization(s) multi purpose use;
- County Welcome Center and Gift Shop;
- Make part of the Museum;
- Expand Veterans Affairs and Election Offices;
- Extension of the County Administration;
- A place for the people not a museum;
- Small Business space;
- Smaller conference rooms / multi-use rooms
- Military downstairs;
- Arts upstairs;

b.) FACILITY DISCUSSED UPGRADES / RENOVATIONS:

1.) Questions of the original spaces and structures of the facility:

- What was the original ceiling facade;
- Can the facility be taken back to the Victorian Era look;
- Can the domed ceiling be worked up as Neville Hall at Presbyterian College;
- Can the era tiles be found and used as flooring;
- Can the era colors be determined and used;
- Hazardous material disposal;
- Reverting back to the 1911 design on north and south sides of building with windows

2.) Discussed Optional Needs:

- Public bathrooms;
- Outside power sources;
- Uplighting on the building (change colors);
- Outside step areas - covers and lighting;
- Add a small catering kitchen area;
- Exterior power in the surrounding square
- Exterior bollards in the parking area for events
- Landscaping;
- Windows (remove and revert back to a more historical version);

Chairwoman Munyan quoted the referenced referendum Historic Courthouse quote as saying, “Restoration, repair and renovation of the roofing, exterior foundation, moisture control of the facility as well as an interior ADA compliance elevator - \$3,500,766”

CONTINUED PROJECT DISCUSSIONS:

Committee Member Nathan Senn asked what was the proposed timeline and should the agenda be amended to allow voting on the matter? Committee Member Diane Anderson noted that since this was a called meeting, it was not appropriate to allow voting options and that voting should be held in regular sessions of the Committee.

Committee Member Luke Rankin stated that he believed the strongest community interest in the facility is to incorporate the Veterans of the County – “whomever is most aggressive gets government support”.

Committee Member Nathan Senn said, “I attended a South Carolina Revolutionary War Committee meeting yesterday and the conversation focused on a driving tour / trail for Laurens County highlighting the sites and planned events. I support fully the veteran’s museum. The City Council has approved a Resolution in support of the Veterans and I highly suggest for County Council to do the same. I feel that the museum

should be patterned by the Virginia Revolutionary War Museum. A VIP Committee then formed to speak with the House and Senate about supporting the program”.

Committee Member Anderson reminded the Committee by saying, “This building is occupied by County Departments and moving them calls for planning. There is no other place for them to move to. Probation and Parole is just before moving out of the Hillcrest Office to the Church Street Complex, making room for the Solicitor. We need to keep the downstairs area for the people. Young people included”.

Director Satterfield said, “We are looking for possibilities. And one has to keep in mind of the tight security and climate control needs of the Registration and Elections operations”.

Committee Member Nathan Senn cited that Laurens County needed a venue to honor local dignitaries when they pass away – like with King Dixons passing.

Committee Member Luke Rankin stated that downstairs would be a viable location to allow the thousands of Laurens County Veterans to display their artifacts, history and stories.

Chairwoman Munyan stated that she seemed to be hearing that the space needs are centered around Downstairs as exhibit space and upstairs as meeting space. Vice Chairwoman Janice Field agreed and said that is what the Architects need to know at this point – down as exhibit space and up meeting spaces.

NEW BUSINESS:

ESTABLISHING FUTURE MEETING DATES AND TIMES – There was a COMMITTEE CONSENSUS to meet next Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 11:00 A.M. in the Historic Courthouse.

County Councilman Rankin had to leave due to another meeting he needed to attend at Noon.

HISTORIC COURTHOUSE TOUR – Many having not actually been in the Historic Courthouse, a tour was provided of the current offices and spaces.

ADJOURNMENT – Upon a MOTION by MEMBER CHRISSEY LATIMORE and a SECOND from VICE CHAIRWOMAN FIELD, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betty C. Walsh
Laurens County Clerk to Council