

Laurens County A-Tax Committee 2023

Minutes

04/20/2023 – 10 am

Present: Andy Howard, Michael Hobby, Bob Link, Jerre Threatt, Jody Prosser, Deborah Nicolas, & Marcus Cheeks

I. Call to order

Mike Hobby, A-Tax Committee Chair, called to order the first meeting of 2023 for the Laurens County A-Tax Committee at 9:54 am on 04/20/23 at the Laurens County Chamber of Commerce office.

Mike welcomed and introduced the Committee, approved by County Council on March 03-28-23. Members were updated on the history of A-Tax funding in Laurens County and the A-Tax funding process from the State level.

II. Election of Chairman & Vice Chairman

Bob Link nominated Mike Hobby to serve as Committee Chair and Jerre Threatt as Co-Chair, Jody Prosser seconds the motion and the motion was approved by the Committee without opposition.

III. Consent Items

The Committee reviewed the agenda. Judy Prosser made a motion to approve and Bob Link seconds the motion and the motion was approved by the Committee without opposition.

IV. Report to Committee

Mike Hobby reviewed the County A-Tax process, the A-tax Committee is Advisory and reviews the applications to send a recommendation to County Council, the Park & Rec Committee is also Advisory, and the LC Council makes the final decision.

He also informed the committee the need to consider funding for the Town of Cross Hill and the Town of Waterloo, based on a recommendation from a County Council member at the Committee approval meeting.

Andy Howard explained the revenue process for the County. A-tax funds are received quarterly and the funds to be allocated will actually come in the month of August. These funds are distributed by a calculation, equaling: the first \$25,000 to the General Operating Fund. - The balance remaining, after deduction of the \$25,000, must be allocated as follows: - 5% of balance to General Operating Fund; - 30% of balance to special fund for advertising and promotion of tourism (this goes to the Chamber of Commerce); - 65% of balance, plus interest, to a fund for tourism-related expenditures. The committee can expect to have approximately \$60,000 to grant to applicants. There is a broad definition for tourism based events or initiatives, all funds must be awarded within this definition. The goal is to bring in out of town guests. The law is set, and the County will follow this law to the book.

Andy creates an end of year report annually, in October. This includes reimbursement applications. All 2022-23 recipients have been used or will be used this month. Except the Town of Waterloo, Andy is working closely with them to follow the requirements.

Mike Hobby recommended using the same application from the previous year with updated dates. Jerre Threath asked about the seven printed copies required. The committee discussed and agreed to request three copies and the committee will receive electronic copies for review. Bob Link discussed the maximum funding line on the application which implies the max amount to be \$4000 per application. The committee agreed to add the line "Actual award amounts determined by the committee." This will allow the committee to adjust the amount as they see fit. Andy Howard explained there is no rule that we must set an amount to request, a cap will make the process easier, and the committee has the authority to make adjustments once applications are reviewed if the funds allow.

Jerre Threath made a motion to accept the application, with requested revisions, and Jody Prosser seconds the motion, and the motion was approved by the Committee without opposition.

Andy Howard will email all past applicants notification of the open application for 2022-23. All information will be sent to local media by Tuesday, April 24

V. Timeline Goals

1. April 20 – first committee meeting
 - Election of officers
 - Application review
2. April 27 Application to Media (depending on Committee meeting schedule) – Committee agreed to change this from April 27 to April 25
3. April 27-May 19 Application open (depending on Committee meeting schedule) – Committee agreed to change this from April 27 to April 25
4. May 19 Application deadline
5. May 22-24 Application to Committee for review
6. May 25-June 2 A-Tax Committee Meeting
7. TBD Parks & Rec Committee Meeting for approval
8. June 13 County Council review
9. June 14 Notify funding recipients.
10. June 30 Goal to cut grant checks.

VI. Adjournment

Mike Hobby, A-Tax Committee Chair, adjourned the meeting at 10:32am.