

MINUTES  
Laurens County Council  
July 8, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT: James Coleman, Council Chairman; Edward McDaniel, Vice Chairman; Council Members Diane Anderson, Ted Nash, David Pitts and Joe Wood.

MEMBER ABSENT: Keith Tollison (out of town on business)

STAFF PRESENT: County Attorney Sandy Cruickshanks, Director of Public Works Scott Holland, Fire Director Greg Lindley, EMS Director Chad Burrell, Emergency Communications Director Joey Avery, Human Resources Director Debi Parker and Finance Director Lisa Kirk

PRESS PRESENT- Iva Cadmus of WLBG Radio; Cory Engle, Laurens County Advertiser

Chairman Jim Coleman called the July 8, 2014 meeting of Laurens County Council to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Historic Court House in the City of Laurens. Vice Chairman Edward McDaniel delivered the Invocation and those in attendance participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA FOR THE JULY 8, 2014 MEETING OF LAURENS COUNTY COUNCIL- Chairman Coleman noted that Council members had been previously advised of the need for an Executive Session at the July 8 meeting to discuss an employment matter. With that addition to the agenda, Councilman Nash made a motion to approve the agenda. Council member Nash offered a second to the motion and Council approved the motion on a vote of 6-0.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE JULY 8, 2014 MEETING OF LAURENS COUNTY COUNCIL- On a motion by Council member Anderson and a second by Councilman Pitts, Council approved the motion on a vote of 6-0.

PRESENTATION ON COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND THE AWARDED OF A CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING, HILLCREST SQUARE- Dennis Ashley, Project Architect

Chairman Coleman called on Project Architect Dennis Ashley to review the referenced information- Mr. Ashley said that, on July 1, 2014, Laurens County received bids from five (5) qualified contractors for the project. The Architect's estimate for the project was \$3, 1 million and the low base bid for the project was \$2,876,000, submitted by Yeargin Potter Shackelford Construction Company of Greenville.

One of the bid alternates concerned the construction of a "TPO" (membrane) roof on the structure as opposed to a metal roof. Mr. Ashley said that, although the TPO roof would be slightly less expensive, he was recommending the construction of a metal roof because of projected longevity and ultimate cost savings for that type of roof.

The second bid alternate in the bid included an allocation for the construction of a secure parking area for state judges and judicial staff who have offices in the Hillcrest Square facility. The bids for this facility ranged from \$64,067 to \$105,000. Mr. Ashley said that he recommends that Council accept the low base bid of \$2,876,000 from Yeargin Potter Shackelford and negotiate a lower bid for the construction of the secure parking area, should Council decide to approve that construction.

Councilman Pitts said that he agreed with Mr. Ashley's recommendation and Councilman Wood said that he did not favor the construction of the designated parking area.

In other discussion, County Public Works Director Scott Holland said that he estimates the county could have a balance of \$596,636 in the Bond Account, once construction and engineering costs are allocated for the project. However, this does not take into account any change orders that may be forthcoming. If there are no substantial cost increases in the project, the county should have some funds remaining for the purchase of furnishings and to pay down some of the cost of the General Obligation bond at the end of the project.

On a motion by Councilman Wood and a second by Councilman Pitts, Council agreed on a 6-0 vote to award the construction contract to Yeargin Potter Shackelford in the amount of \$2,876,000. In response to a question from Councilman Wood, Architect Dennis Ashley said that the county's procurement code requires a 30-day delay from the approval of a construction contract to the execution of the contract/start of the project. The contract for the project should be executed by early to mid-August and the project should be completed within one year. County officials thanked Mr. Ashley for his work on the project and commended him for the very good bids that the county received for the project

#### DISCUSSION AND FIRST READING APPROVAL OF THE LAURENS COUNTY FIRE SERVICE BUDGET FOR FY 2014-15

Chairman Coleman called on Laurens County Fire Director Greg Lindley to present the referenced budget. Council members had previously received a copy of the document.

In presenting the budget, Director Lindley said the Fire Service Budget for FY 2014-2015 totals \$2,197,375. The Budget is balanced and does not require a tax increase. The various contracts for the Rural Fire Departments total \$144,495. Director Lindley said that he has recommended a contract amount of \$283,940 to the City of Clinton and a contract amount of \$205,493.65 to the City of Fountain Inn for fire protection services in FY 2014-15. Both municipalities requested an increase for these services, but no increase is included in the budget.

Director Lindley also pointed out one request for a personnel change in the budget. Currently, the employee who serves as the county Fire Marshall also serves as a Division Chief, working with rural departments in the southern and southeastern portion of the county. Because of the county's rapidly growing industrial base and other development, this employee often spends as much as 30 hours per week in his capacity as county Fire Marshall.

To address this issue, Director Lindley has proposed returning the employee to full-time status as fire marshal. He also proposed moving a current part-time employee to the position of full-time Division Chief to insure that all rural fire departments are assisted. Funding for the upgraded position would come from two un-filled part-time positions, along with the salary currently allocated to the referenced part-time employee. Director Lindley said that the Fire Service will actually reduce salary expenses by \$3,000 by combining the part-time salaries into a full-time salary as referenced above.

Councilman Wood questioned the necessity for the personnel change and asked whether the proposed move would require the purchase of another vehicle. Director Lindley said that the service has a spare vehicle that will be assigned to the Fire Marshall.

Council members then engaged in a discussion of the proposed capital improvements project that would address the construction of several new fire stations and the repair/rehabilitation of existing stations in need of repair. Chairman Coleman said that Council's Committee on Health, Welfare and Public Safety will discuss that program in detail at an upcoming Committee meeting.

Chairman Coleman then called for a motion to approve on First Reading Laurens County Ordinance # 770, which is the Fire Service Budget for FY 2014-15. Councilman Pitts made a motion to approve the Ordinance and Vice Chairman McDaniel offered a second. Council approved the motion on a vote of 4-2. Councilmen Wood and Nash voted in opposition.

#### COMMITTEE UPDATES

Chairman Coleman called on Administrator Ernest Segars to report to Council on certain pending assignments for three of Council's Standing Committees.

Administrator Segars presented the following:

- 1.) Committee on Health, Welfare and Public Safety- This Committee has been assigned the task of reviewing a proposed capital program for the County Fire Service that may include the construction of a number of new fire stations, as well as repairs/upgrades to existing stations. Fire Director Lindley will serve as principal staff for the Committee. The Committee members include Committee Chair Diane Anderson and Councilmen David Pitts and Joe Wood.
- 2.) Committee on Budget and Finance- This Committee has been assigned the task of reviewing apportionment rates for Fee-in-Lieu-of-Tax agreements that may be available in the Owings II industrial Park. Councilman Vice Chairman Edwards McDaniel serves as chairman of the Committee and Councilmen Joe Wood and David Pitts are members. The County attorney and the County Administrator will serve as primary staff for the Committee

- 3.) Committee on Planning and Intergovernmental Affairs- This Committee will review a draft Motor Sport Ordinance for the county. Councilman Pitts serves as chairman of the Committee. Council Members Diane Anderson and Ted Nash are members. County Building Official Chuck Bobo and Clerk to Council Betty Walsh will serve as primary staff

Chairman Coleman recommended that the Committee Chairs work with staff to establish meeting dates.

PUBLIC COMMENT- Chairman Coleman opened a 15-minute period for public comment. Stewart Jones suggested that Council should work towards transparency in local government and improve the county's web site.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS- Councilman Nash said that he believes that Laurens County Council can work its way through the various issues concerning fire protection in the county and develop comprehensive programs to serve the public.

Chairman Coleman reminded everyone that Clerk to Council Betty Walsh has a serious illness in her family. He also advised Council that there will be only one meeting in August.

EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR AN EMPLOYMENT MATTER- Councilman Pitts made a motion that Council convene in Executive Session for discussion of an employment matter. Council Member Anderson offered a second to the motion and Council approved the motion on a vote of 6-0. The Executive Session began at 6:30 p.m.

Council reconvened in Open Session at 6 p.m. and Chairman Coleman reported that no action was taken. Council members were reminded that Council will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 15, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. in a work session to review the Fire Protection budget for FY 2015-15.

The meeting was adjourned at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Ernest B. Segars

Laurens County Administrator