

MINUTES
AUGUST 12, 2014
LAURENS COUNTY COUNCIL
HISTORIC COURTHOUSE – PUBLIC SQUARE
COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

ATTENDANCE: **COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT-** County Council Chairman Jim Coleman; Council Members Diane Anderson, Ted Nash, David Pitts, Keith Tollison and Joe Wood.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT - Vice Chairman Edward McDaniel (illness requiring hospitalization).

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

DEPARTMENT HEADS PRESENT: Laurens County Public Works Director, Scott Holland; Laurens County Human Resources Manager, Debi Parker and Captain Tyson, Administrator, Laurens County Detention Center.

PRESS: Vic McDonald, *The Clinton Chronicle*; Iva Cadmus, WLBG Radio and Corey Engle, *The Laurens County Advertiser*.

SCHEDULED MEETING AGENDA ITEMS - 1.) Call to Order – Chairman Coleman; **2.)** Invocation – Councilman Nash; **3.)** Pledge of Allegiance; **4.)** Approval of Agenda, August 12, 2014; **5.)** Approval of Minutes – July 22, 2014; **6.)** Presentation on a proposed “Master Plan for Lake Greenwood” – Phil Linder, Director, Greenwood County City / County Planning Department **7.)** Implementation of a scholarship program at Piedmont Technical College, funded by Laurens County; **8.)** Requests from the Department of Public Works, Scott Holland, Director: **a.)** Proposed Special Tax District, Pincrest Subdivision; **b.)** Acceptance of Owings Industrial Park Boulevard into the County system for maintenance; **9.)** Reporting, County Council Committee on Administration & Finance, Committee Chairman Edward McDaniel; **10.)** Administrative Report, Ernie Segars, County Administrator; **11.)** Public Comments; **12.)** Comments from Council Members; **13.)** Executive Session – Legal Briefing on a property issue; **14.)** Adjournment.

MEETING NOTIFICATION - The County Council Members, Department Heads and the Press were informed of the budget session meeting in a timely manner.

CALL TO ORDER – Councilman Coleman called the August 12, 2014 session of Laurens County Council to order at 5:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers of the Historic Courthouse. Chairman Coleman invited all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the invocation provided by Councilman Nash.

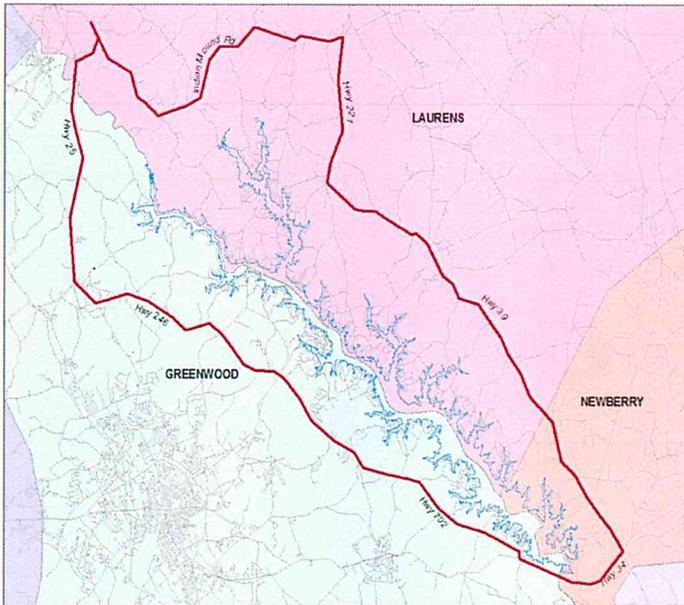
APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Chairman Coleman called for approval of and any additions to the agenda. Administrator Segars requested to add one (1) addition item in Executive Session concerning an economic development project. Councilman Tollison requested the addition of a contractual matter during executive session.

COUNCILMAN TOLLISON made the MOTION to approve the agenda as presented with the executive session added items and COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON SECONDED; VOTE 6-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON made the MOTION to approve the minutes from the July 22, 2014 regular session of Council. COUNCILMAN PITTS SECONDDING; VOTE 6-0.

PRESENTATION OF A PROPOSED “MASTER PLAN FOR LAKE GREENWOOD” – PRESENTED BY MR. PHIL LINDER, DIRECTOR OF THE GREENWOOD COUNTY CITY /COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT - Mr. Linder provided a briefing of the proposed planning process recommended by staff representatives from Greenwood County.

Mr. Linder said, “Prior to coming to Council, Greenwood County briefed officials from Laurens County and Newberry County and noted that the Greenwood County Officials understand that most proposed policy changes, any local legislation or other proposals that would affect the use of property located in Laurens County must be considered and approved by Laurens County Council. The Master Plan would be a comprehensive study of Lake Greenwood and surrounding areas to help determine the future of the lake area. The study would include goals and strategies addressing natural resources and environmental issues; tourism and quality of life; land usage; economic development and infrastructure and public services. Property owners, residents, users and non-users of the Lake would be included in the study process as well as various agencies. The objective is to preserve Lake Greenwood by gathering data to be applied towards future growth of the lake so that all agencies involved could implement over a twenty year timeframe”.



PROPOSED LAKE GREENWOOD AREA MASTER PLAN

IMPLEMENTATION OF A SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR PIEDMONT TECHNICAL COLLEGE FUNDED BY LAURENS COUNTY - Administrator Segars said, “Councilman Pitts and I met with Piedmont Tec officials to discuss the draft proposal involving the 2014 Special Education Tax Levy that will include a distribution of the first fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) collected. These funds will be used as scholarship funds for those attending Piedmont Tec from Laurens County”.

Chairman Coleman stated that he was against this being added to the existing tax levy and that it was cutting funds from the University of South Carolina.

Councilman Pitts reminded Council that this is an agreement for one (1) year only and that he felt this to be a good faith effort for the County and that it was true funds would be cut to a degree depending on the millage.

Councilwoman Anderson stated that she had mixed emotions but understood the need for a scholarship program and that she felt like this was not thought through completely by Council.

Councilman Wood said, “When I was eighteen and nineteen years old, I was taught to stand on my own. I am against this as it is just another government handout. This is a school program not County Government that is tasked with providing services to our citizens”.

Councilman Nash said, "Sixty eight percent (68%) of our tax dollars go to the schools. I am against the levy but feel that what Councilman Pitts has proposed to be fair".

Councilman Tollison stated that he supported the program and reminded Council that it can be revisited next year during budget deliberations.

Chairman Coleman stated that the Ordinance has been voted on and approved and asked for a Council decision towards this agreement.

COUNCIL VOTED 4-2 (Council Members Coleman and Anderson were in opposition).

REQUESTS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS: Public Works Director Scott Holland presented the following to Council for consideration and / or approval:

- A.) **PROPOSED SPECIAL TAX DISTRICT FOR PINECREST SUBDIVISION** – Mr. Holland informed Council that the fifteen (15) residents of the Pinecrest Subdivision have submitted a petition to the Department of Public Works to allow Laurens County Council to create a Special Tax District for repairs to the only roadway in the subdivision known as Whispering Way. The roadway is approximately one thousand feet (1,000') in length and is in dire need of patching to repair the damage from traffic and the tree root issues. The road has been in place for approximately twenty four (24) years and the repairs to the road are estimated to cost twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000).

As in previous Special Tax District approved by Council, the County would pay for the repairs to the road and then receive reimbursement from the funds collected through the Special Tax District. The fee for the residents would be one hundred forty nine dollars (\$149.00) for a ten (10) year period. Upon repair and upgrade, Whispering Way would then be accepted into the county system for maintenance.

COUNCILMAN PITTS made the MOTION to approve the proposed special tax district for the Pinecrest Subdivision with the funds coming from the County contingency account COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON SECONDING; VOTE 6-0.

This is to be considered as FIRST READING, LAURENS COUNTY ORDINANCE #772.

- B.) **ACCEPTANCE OF OWINGS PARK BOULEVARD INTO THE COUNTY SYSTEM FOR MAINTENANCE** – Mr. Holland briefed Council on the request from Mr. Moss, Executive Director of the Laurens County Development Corporation for Council to accept roadway in the Owings Industrial Park known as Owings Park Boulevard. The road serves the property in the Owings Park Phase II and was constructed to State and County standards for Commercial and Industrial Use. The roadway is approximately three thousand two hundred sixty eight feet (3,268'). The road was constructed using Utility Tax Credit Funds held by the Laurens County Development Corporation with the road construction contract held by the Development Corporation.

COUNCILMAN PITTS made the MOTION to approve the acceptance of Owings Park Boulevard in the County road system with COUNCILMAN TOLLISON SECONDING; VOTE 6-0.

This is to be considered as FIRST READING, LAURENS COUNTY ORDINANCE #771.

REPORT – COUNTY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE, COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN EDWARD MCDANIEL - In the absence of Vice Chairman McDaniel, Administrator Segars informed the full Council that the Committee had met on July 29th to discuss a new

Multi County Industrial Park Agreement with formulas to be used in Phase II for the Owings Park. The Committee decision was to recommend to the full Council for the Owings Park II distributions to be ninety nine percent (99%) Laurens County and one percent (1%) to Greenville County; and, to include the full Council making the final disbursement decision.

Councilman Pitts asked if park expenses should be included in the split. Attorney Cruickshanks replied that the predominate County is responsible for park maintenance and does come from the funds up front.

- a.) OWINGS PARK FILOT DISTRIBUTION - As a recommendation from the County Council Committee (a motion with a second) COUNCIL VOTED 6-0 to approve the ninety nine (99%) Laurens County and one percent (1%) Greenville County split.
- b.) LAURENS COUNTY NINETY NINE PERCENT (99%) FILOT SPLIT – COUNCILMAN WOOD made the MOTION for Laurens County eighty percent (80%) – Laurens County Development Corporation ten percent (10%) – Greenville County ten percent (10%) split with COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON SECONDING for discussion.

Councilman Pitts stated that he could not vote for ten percent (10%) going to Greenville County.

Councilman Tollison asked if that ten percent (10%) was a normal procedure to allocate. Chairman Coleman replied that there are some Counties that take it all. Attorney Cruickshanks stated that the property is in Laurens County but the school system in that area is in Greenville County and State Law gives the County Council the complete authority to make the percentage decisions.

Councilman Wood said, “This Council needs to start thinking budget. We need to build our general fund back. Sure there is nothing there now but when a new expansion does come in more services are going to be needed”.

COUNCILMAN WOOD AMENDING HIS EARLIER MOTION to read ninety percent (90%) to Laurens County and ten percent (10%) to the Laurens County Development Corporation. COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON ACCEPTED THE AMENDED MOTION.

Councilman Nash those living in that area pay property taxes in Greenville County and I ask Council to be fair with this decision. Chairman Coleman replied, “I assure you that that this decision would not affect the people in that area. There is no intent to be a Robin Hood”.

COUNCIL VOTED 5-1 (Councilman Nash in opposition).

SCHEDULING - WORK SESSION FOR THE LAURENS COUNTY FIRE BUDGET, FY 2014-15

Administrator Segars asked if Council still wished to have a work session prior to the required Public Hearing and Third Reading Approval.

Councilman Wood stated that he has already voted against the budget on both readings to date because he was against the hiring of a new employee.

Chairman Coleman stated that a work session was not necessary unless the fire departments wished to have one.

It was decided that all would plan on holding a work session on August 19th at 5:00 P.M.; and if the fire departments were not interested in addressing Council, there would not be a meeting. The staff was to advise Council of the final decision.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Chairman Coleman opened the floor for public comment at 6:30 P.M.

- 1.) Scott Cannupp – Mr. Cannupp approached Council saying, “My wife Patty, works for the County EMS and has worked for EMS for fifteen (15) years and loves her job. I just want to make Council aware of some issues between Hayes Ambulance Service and the County EMS is experiencing. Since Hayes has come to Laurens County they are following all EMS and Fire calls and are video taping the scenes. They have been chased off by State Troopers as well as local law enforcement. Of recently, they followed so close to a county ambulance that my wife was in while in route to the hospital. My wife has recently worked a late shift and gets off at midnight. Hayes has timed their passing by the station at the times she gets off of work at midnight. This has scared her so that she is now calling me to come and escort her home when her shift ends. She has filed complaints with the Sheriff’s Department and I am now coming to Council to ask if there was anything that Council can do to end this harassment”.

Chairman Coleman replied that the County is monitoring this situation and for Mr. Cannup to not take any actions on his own.

Administrator stated that a meeting was held several weeks ago with Mrs. Cannup with all concerns expressed. A strong letter to Mr. Hayes went out today.

- 2.) Ryan Thorn approached Council saying, “I own and operate Thorn Ambulance Service and we have also heard of the concerns with Hayes Ambulance. One thing that really concerns me is that Laurens County continues to use Hayes Ambulance Service in times when resource needs are needed in the County. We do have ambulances available and are certified at the advance life support level. We would like to offer our services for ambulance service within Laurens County and are transitioning more and more into Laurens County. I believe our track record speaks for itself.”.

With no additional requests, Chairman Coleman closed the public comment session at 6:38 P.M.

COUNTY COUNCIL COMMENTS:

- 1.) Councilman Tollison asked for Captain Tyson to provide a status report as to employees at the Detention Center.

Captain Tyson said that there were fifty six (56) resulting in a full staff and that he would like to publicly thank Laurens County School District #56 for the donation of lockers and kitchen mixers.

- 2.) Councilman Wood recognized the fact the Vice Chairman McDaniel was very sick and for all to keep him in their thoughts and prayers; “Mr. McDaniel has a tough battle ahead of him and he is a self-made businessman that I certainly admire”.
- 3.) Councilman Pitts said, “I certainly agree and echo the same sentiments as Councilman Wood. Councilman McDaniel always has a lot of wise sayings to offer that I try to keep track of. He is also a smart and knowledgeable businessman”.

- 4.) Chairman Coleman noted that Senator Lindsey Graham expressed his gratitude towards Laurens County as to the aggressiveness with Economic Development.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – COUNCILMAN PITTS offered a MOTION to move into executive session at 6:40 P.M. COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON SECONDING; VOTE 6-0.

Councilman Nash left the meeting at this point, as he was not feeling well.

By CONSENSUS Council reconvened in open session at 7:30 P.M.

- 1.) Legal Briefing - Economic Development Project – COUNCILMAN TOLLISON made the MOTION for Council to approve the use of Hunter Park Economic Development Funds and, to not exceed the three hundred thirty five thousand dollars (\$335,000) for Project Circle in Owings Park II. And, to authorize full authority to the County Administrator to process any claims towards the property and towards any reimbursements by the industry. COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON SECONDING; VOTE 5-0. (Councilman Nash left early).
- 2.) Contractual Matter – No action taken.
- 3.) Contractual Matter – No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT – With no further action required by Council, Chairman Coleman adjourned the meeting at 7:45 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Betty C. Walsh
Laurens County Clerk to Council