

MINUTES
LAURENS COUNTY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS
APRIL 24, 2014
LAURENS COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
CHURCH STREET OFFICE COMPLEX

ATTENDANCE: **COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT-** Committee Chair Joe Wood; Council Committee Members Edward McDaniel and Ted Nash.

COUNTY STAFF- Laurens County Administrator Ernest Segars, Public Works Director Scott Holland and Laurens County Clerk to Council Betty Walsh

PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS – Carey Bolt, Laurens County Veterans Administration Officer

GUESTS – Gary Coleman, Administrator, City of Laurens and Tom Bishop, Greenwood County IT Department.

PRESS - Corey Engle, *The Laurens County Advertiser* and Vic MacDonald, *The Clinton Chronicle*.

MEETING NOTIFICATION - The County Council Committee Members and media were informed of the meeting in a timely manner.

CALL TO ORDER - Committee Chairman Wood called the April 24, 2014 meeting of the County Council Committee on Public Works to order at 4:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers of the Historic Courthouse.

INVOCATION – Committee Chairman Wood provided the invocation and all participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLANS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A VETERANS MEMORIAL MONUMENT - Committee Chairman Wood introduced all present and explained that the purpose of this meeting was to discuss a proposed Veterans Memorial.

Committee Chairman Wood said, “I worked closely with the Ware Shoals Community when discussing and placing a memorial monument there. It is a beautiful piece of work and is an honor to have in the Ware Shoals Community. I have talked for several months now with Mr. Bolt and have determined that the general concept of the Ware Shoals monument is what should be proposed for consideration. Mr. Bolt has gone to Elberton, Georgia to speak directly to the owner of Keystone Memorials. In doing so, this has cut out expenses of the middle man to get the job done”.

A PowerPoint presentation was provided by the Veterans Officer, Carey Bolt to provide a better image of what is being proposed.

PROPOSED MEMORIAL CONCEPT



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PROPOSED HISTORIC COURTHOUSE LOCATION



PROPOSED HILLCREST JUDICIAL / SERVICES BUILDING



Mr. Bolt said, "Location is the key. It needs to be not only a place of honor, but located in a place of honor, esteemed by veterans, their families and the general public. It also must be easily accessible, visible and locally recognized. Laurens County currently has five thousand four hundred (5,400) veterans and is drawing benefits through the VA Office. Another five thousand one hundred (5,100) have applied for benefits. In 2012, thirty two million dollars (\$32,000,000) came to the Laurens County Veterans in the form of health care, education assistance and compensation. Out of this total amount, one million dollars (\$1,000,000) was in vocational and educational rehabilitation. Just in Laurens County alone, there are one thousand six hundred ninety seven (1,697) "Unique Veterans". "Unique Veterans" classified as those with traumatic injury to head, torso or missing limbs".

Committee Chairman Wood asked for Mr. Bolt to explain the proposed ways to help pay for the memorial.

Continuing, Mr. Bolt said, "The actual cost for the memorial is approximately two hundred thirty thousand dollars (\$230,000). The paver stones will be sold at a cost determined by the size of the stone and with include the engraved names of those who have served will be continually placed on the site for generations to come. This is an opportunity to make history. The County of Greenwood and the City of Greenwood are presently how they will split the costs of the memorial being planned for there".



Administrator Segars asked if the areas would be dug up as they go? Mr. Bolt replied that they would be placed when a certain number were purchased and created, avoiding excess digging at one time.

Public Works Director Scott Holland asked at what point would you run out of space? Mr. Bolt replied that he felt the only alternative was to replace certain areas of the sidewalk if no more space was available around the monument.

Mr. Bolt reminded the Committee that the Hillcrest Facility is a judicial and services building better noted for police officers and judges while the ideal location would be at the Historic Courthouse. And, that the initial plans are to have the memorial complete before the 10th Anniversary of the Laurens County Hall of Heroes Ceremonies this Summer.

Committee Chairman Wood explained that he was not expecting any decision tonight and that he wished to take the proposal to the full Council with a decision made by the full Council. Or, if the Committee wishes to table the proposal.

Councilman McDaniel said that we have five (5) memorials now and how could justification for the memorial be implemented? Mr. Bolt replied that the memorial would cover, Iraq, Desert Storm, Shield and Afghanistan which will go on to infinity with history being created by the engraved pavers.

Councilman McDaniel asked if a contract had been implemented with Keystone Memorials? Mr. Bolt replied that no Laurens County funds have been spent at all.

Councilman Nash stated that he felt it to be a great thing and asked for clarification as to the Hall of Heroes memorabilia now located at Hillcrest. Mr. Bolt stated that the Hall of Heroes awards of inductees could be moved to the Historic Courthouse downstairs in the hallway.

Public Works Director Scott Holland stated that he felt the memorial to be out of scale in size as it relates to the Courthouse and a lot of the architectural points were lost.

Committee Chairman Wood asked for the staff to place the memorial on the next County Council agenda.

ADJOURNMENT – By CONSENSUS, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Betty C. Walsh

Laurens County Clerk to Council