

**MINUTES**  
**LAURENS COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**APRIL 9, 2013 – 5:30 P.M.**  
**HISTORIC COURTHOUSE – COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS - PUBLIC SQUARE**

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**ATTENDANCE: COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT**- County Council Chairman Jim Coleman and Vice Chairman Edward McDaniel; Council Members Ted Nash, Keith Tollison and Joe Wood.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT** – Council Members Diane Anderson and David Pitts Councilman.

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

**ATTENDING - LAURENS COUNTY DEPARTMENT HEADS:** Human Resources, Debi Parker; Public Works Department, Scott Holland; Codes Officers, Buddy Skinner; Detention Center Administrator, Chris Hudson and Fire Service Director, Gregg Lindley.

**PRESS:** Reporter, *WLBG-Radio*; *The Laurens County Advertiser*, Corey Engle; *The Clinton Chronicle*, Vic MacDonald, and Rachel Ham of *Go-Laurens.com*.

**SCHEDULED SESSION AGENDA ITEMS** – (1) Approval of Agenda, April 9, 2013; (2) Approval of Minutes from March 26, 2013; (3.) Public Hearing – Laurens County Ordinance #750 - “An Ordinance For The Purchase of Approximately Five (5) Acres of Land on Torrington Road”. (a) Third Reading – Laurens County Ordinance #750 - “An Ordinance For The Purchase of Approximately Five (5) Acres of Land on Torrington Road”; (4.) Recognition of 2013 Junior Leadership Laurens County Participants; (5.) Laurens County Health Care System Board of Trustees Nominations; (6) First Reading (by title only), Laurens County Ordinance #751 – “Conveyance of Wattsville Alley-ways to the Laurens City Commission of Public Works”; (7) Resolution #2013-06 – Declaring May 15, 2013 as “Peace Officers’ Memorial Day”; (8) Briefing - Ekom Fire Station – Facility Fire - Greg Lindley, Director of County Fire Service; (9) Administrative Report; (10) Public Comments; 11) County Council Comments; (12) Executive Session - Legal Briefing and Employment Matter.

**MEETING NOTIFICATION** - The County Council Members, Press and requested public notifications were informed of the meeting in a timely and appropriate manner.

**CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Coleman called the April 9, 2013 regular scheduled meeting of Council to order at 5:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers of the Laurens County Historic Courthouse and invited all to stand for the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

The invocation was delivered by Vice Chairman McDaniel.

**APPROVAL – AGENDA – APRIL 9, 2013** – COUNCILMAN TOLLISON made the MOTION to approve the agenda for April 9, 2013 with any additions or deletions; SECONDED by COUNCILMAN NASH. COUNCIL VOTED 5-0 to approve the agenda.

**APPROVAL – MINUTES – MARCH 26, 2013 – REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL** – VICE CHAIRMAN MCDANIEL made the MOTION to approve the minutes from the March 26, 2013 meeting with any additions or deletions; SECONDED by COUNCILMAN WOOD; COUNCIL VOTED 5-0.

**PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCE #750 - “AN ORDINANCE FOR THE PURCHASE OF APPROXIMATELY FIVE (5) ACRES OF LAND ON TORRINGTON ROAD”** – Chairman Coleman opened the floor for public comments at 5:35 P.M. Having no one wishing to address Ordinance #750,

Chairman Coleman closed the public hearing at 5:36 P.M.

- a.) **THIRD READING - ORDINANCE #750 - “AN ORDINANCE FOR THE PURCHASE OF APPROXIMATELY FIVE (5) ACRES OF LAND ON TORRINGTON ROAD”** –  
 COUNCILMAN NASH made the MOTION to approve Ordinance #750 upon third reading with COUNCILMAN TOLLISON SECONDING; VOTE 5-0.

**RECOGNITION OF 2013 JUNIOR LEADERSHIP LAURENS COUNTY PARTICIPANTS** -Laurens County Codes Officer, Buddy Skinner, gave a brief overview of the program and asked for the participants present to come forward and explained that a good many of the students has athletic obligations.

Those in attendance were: Victoria McGowan – 12<sup>th</sup> grade from Clinton #56 High School and Sarah Roberts 10<sup>th</sup> grade Laurens Academy.

The following is a full roster of the 2013 class:

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	GRADE	SCHOOL
Allison	Oxner	11	Clinton #56 High School
Hunter	Stewart	11	Clinton #56 High School
Regan	Freeman	11	Clinton #56 High School
Sommer	Lawton	11	Clinton #56 High School
Laney	Cannon	12	Clinton #56 High School
Nekedia	Moses	12	Clinton #56 High School
Victoria	McGowan	12	Clinton #56 High School
Kaitlyn	Muir	10	Laurens Academy
Robert	Williams	10	Laurens Academy
Sarah	Roberts	10	Laurens Academy
Sydney	Halbert	10	Laurens Academy
Kayla	Mitchell	11	Laurens Academy
Samuel	Moore	11	Laurens Academy
Hope	Patterson	10	Laurens #55 High School
Joseph	Lafond-Favieres	10	Laurens #55 High School
Bailey	Dunlap	10	Laurens #55 High School
Alexis	Moses	11	Laurens #55 High School
Helen Grace	Hall	11	Laurens #55 High School
Kevin	Dean	11	Laurens #55 High School
Austin	Darling	12	Laurens #55 High School

**NOMINATIONS – LAURENS COUNTY HEALTH CARE SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES** - In lieu of the absence of Council Committee Chair, Diane Anderson, Administrator Segars reported that the County Council Committee and the Laurens County Health Care System Nomination Committee met on March 26<sup>th</sup> prior to the regular session of Council to discuss the nominations. Nominations resulting from that meeting are recommended as follows:

- a.) New appointment - Dr. Byron H. Parker, Jr. – Dr. Parker is a new appointee from the Laurens Community that will be replacing Dr. Brian Weirick, whose second full term ends in October. If appointed by the Governor, Dr. Parker will begin his term October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2017.

- b.) Re-appointment - Dr. Suzanne J. Smith – Dr. Smith of Clinton, has agreed to a second full term on the Board of Trustees. Dr. Smith initially filled the unexpired term of Sam Bennett who moved out of state. The unexpired term began in May of 2007 and expired September of 2009. Dr. Smith was then appointed to a four-year term in October of 2009 through September of 2013. If appointed by the Governor, Dr. Smith will commence a second full term from October of 2013 through September of 2017.

COUNCILMAN TOLLISON made the MOTION to approve the nominees as submitted with COUNCILMAN NASH SECONDDING; VOTE 5-0.

Council Chairman Coleman added that the Health Care Board of Trustees has stated that if Council Members have any qualified citizens that they wish to nominate in the future, to please let the staff know.

**FIRST READING (by title only), ORDINANCE #751 – “CONVEYANCE OF WATTSVILLE ALLEY-WAYS TO THE LAURENS CITY COMMISSION OF PUBLIC WORKS”**- COUNCILMAN WOOD made the MOTION to approve Ordinance #751 upon first reading, by title only, with COUNCILMAN NASH SECONDDING for discussion.

Councilman Tollison questioned if this had not discussed several years ago and if the Commission of Public Works would be maintaining the property. Administrator Segars replied that it had been discussed in the late 1990’s and that the homeowners were concerned over several things such as property owner liability and the blocking of the alleyways by some property owners. Administrator Segars also noted that the Commission of Public Works would be the responsible party for maintenance.

COUNCIL VOTED 5-0 to approve Ordinance #751 upon first reading.

Vice Chairman McDaniel noted that gas lines are possibly being proposed for this project.

**RESOLUTION #2013-06 – DECLARING MAY 15, 2013 - “PEACE OFFICERS’ MEMORIAL DAY”** – Chairman Coleman stated that the Resolution is being requested by Sheriff Chastain in collaboration with the state agency “Carolina Concerns of Police Survivors”. This request is on behalf of the surviving families of the one hundred twenty seven (127) law enforcement officers that lost their lives in the line of duty during the year of 2012.

COUNCILMAN WOOD made the MOTION to approve the Resolution as presented with COUNCILMAN TOLLISON SECONDDING; VOTE 5-0.

**BRIEFING – EKOM FIRE STATION – FACILITY FIRE** - Greg Lindley, Director of Laurens County Fire Service began by saying, “I have been meeting with the insurance agency for the last week along with several adjusters and a state fire inspector towards addressing the various items lost in the fire. Everything in the building has been documented. Our plans are to address the vehicles first and then the structure. The Ekom Fire Department is now operating out of a temporary building with borrowed vehicles. We estimate this to be about a two million dollar loss”.

Councilman Wood questioned if SLED had determined the cause. Mr. Lindley replied that he had not received any reports yet but that the fire being classified as suspicious has been ruled out.

Councilman Wood said, “I was present at this fire because of it being in my district. I would like to say that I was pleased to see so many professionals work together. As to Mr. Lindley, we could not have asked for a better man that could coordinate and address all aspects of the tragedy fire.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT** – Administrator Segars informed Council that it is budget time again and that budgets will be distributed sometime in late April and the first of May.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** – Chairman Coleman opened the floor for public comments at 5:50 P.M. With no one else wishing to address Council, Chairman Coleman closed the session at 5:51 P.M.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

- Councilman Nash thanked Mr. Skinner of the Codes Department for continuing his reporting to Council each month.
- Councilman Wood informed Council of an environmental hazard - largely tire disposal, that is being addressed in Western Laurens by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control and other items by the Codes Department.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – COUNCILMAN TOLLISON made the MOTION to move into executive session at 5:53 P.M. to hold a legal briefing and one contractual matter. COUNCILMAN NASH SECONDING; VOTE 5-0.

BY CONSENSUS Council reconvened in open session at 6:30 P.M.

- Legal Briefing - Chairman Coleman reported that no action was taken on the legal briefing.
- Contractual Matter – COUNCILMAN TOLLISON made the MOTION for Council to authorize Mr. Holland to proceed with negotiations on the acquisition of property. COUNCILMAN NASH SECONDING; VOTE 5-0.

**ADJOURNMENT** – With no further business, Chairman Coleman adjourned the meeting at 6:35 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Betty C. Walsh  
Laurens County Clerk to Council