

**MINUTES**  
**LAURENS COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**JULY 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 Diane Anderson, Ted Nash, David Pitts, Keith Tollison and Joe Wood.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT** – Councilman Keith Tollison (due to work taking him out of State).

**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:** Laurens County Building Codes Officer, Buddy Skinner; Laurens County Emergency Medical Service Director, Chad Burrell; Laurens County Detention Center Major Tyson; Laurens County Finance Department Director, Lisa Kirk; Laurens County Human Resources Manager, Debi Parker; Laurens County Public Works Director, Scott Holland; Laurens County E/911 – Communications Director, Joey Avery.

**PRESS:** Iva Cadmus, *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, July 9, 2013; (2) Approval of Minutes from the June 25, 2013 Regular Session; (3.) South Carolina Human Affairs Commission, Sandra Ligon; (4.) Requested filing time extension on agricultural property in Laurens County – David Satterfield, Laurens County Assessor; (5.) First Reading Approval, Ordinance # 756, “Fiscal Year 2013/2014 Laurens County Fire Budgets”; (6.) A draft “Mutual Aide Agreement” for Laurens County Emergency Medical Services and a private ambulance service operating in the County; (7) Administrative Report – Ernie Segars, County Administrator; (8) Public Comment; (9) Comments from Council Members.

**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 July 9, 2013 regular scheduled meeting of Council to order at 5:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers of the Laurens County Historic Courthouse with an invitation to stand for the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance. The invocation was delivered by Councilwoman Anderson.

**APPROVAL – AGENDA – JULY 9, 2013** – VICE CHAIRMAN MCDANIEL made the MOTION to approve the agenda for the July 9, 2013 meeting with any additions or deletions. The motion was SECONDED by COUNCILMAN PITTS; COUNCIL VOTED 6-0 to approve the agenda as presented.

**APPROVAL – MINUTES – JUNE 25, 2013 – REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL** – COUNCILMAN NASH made the MOTION to approve the minutes from the June 25, 2013 regular session meeting; SECONDED by COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON; COUNCIL VOTED 6-0.

**SOUTH CAROLINA HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION** – Representing the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission, Ms. Sandra Ligon asked Council to reactivate the former Laurens County Human Affairs Commission.

Ms. Ligon said, “The mission of our agency, the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission, is to eliminate and prevent unlawful discrimination within employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age and disability; housing on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status and disability; and public accommodations on the basis of race, color, national origin and religion. We vision that

the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission's is known to hold a positive image with a mission that is understood and accepted by the public. We are fully resourced, customer-friendly agency with a diverse, well-trained and efficient team working together effectively in a safe and supportive work environment in fulfillment of the agency's mission."

### COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The Community Relations Division was created to encourage local resolution of problems and to foster better community relations throughout the state. This unit uses conference, conciliation and persuasion to bring together cross-sections of people to resolve disputes involving discrimination in police relations, education, business practices, public accommodations, and other non-employment issues.

#### Community Relations:

- ◆ Serves as a resource for South Carolinians to seek solutions to problems encountered due to social or institutionalized practices that have a divisive impact.
- ◆ Investigates complaints rising from alleged violations of the Equal Enjoyment and Privileges to Public Accommodations Act and any other allegations of discrimination occurring in sectors other than employment or housing.

The South Carolina Human Affairs Commission has worked to link state government to community groups by assisting in the establishment of or the continued operation of existing **Community Relations Councils**. Upon request from an existing council or committee, Community Relations will send members of its staff to offer support, technical assistance, and resources. The staff advises councils on identifying problems, setting priorities in program planning and development, and developing funding processes for community projects.

#### What is a Community Relations Council?

A Community Relations Council is the gathering of individuals who want to resolve problems in the local community. The common concern requires voluntary participation of the community as a whole. *An effective council is also able to identify and act on potential problems.*

### Does Your Community Need A Community Relations Council?

- ◆ Are there problems in your community that citizens and organizations can study /recommend strategies for the prevention of a future crisis and the promotion of good relations?
- ◆ Is there a human need for housing, employment, education, transportation and health service?
- ◆ Is there an available conciliatory body for resolving tension and conflict in an emergency or crisis situation?

### Community Relations is responsible for eight program areas:

- (1) Establishing and consulting with local Community Relations Councils;
- (2) Processing of non-employment complaints;
- (3) Coordination of activities with the U. S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights;
- (4) Federal Highway Administration Survey;
- (5) South Carolina Project Notification and Review System (A-95 Process);
- (6) South Carolina Emergency Preparedness programs;
- (7) Technical assistance and referrals; and,
- (8) Enforcement of the South Carolina Equal Enjoyment and Privileges to Public Accommodations Act.

Community Relations conducts investigations under the Investigative Process of Section 1-30-90(e) & Public Accommodations. Additionally, the division receives and reviews all requests for federal funding/loans, environmental impact reports, and highway projects through the S.C. Project Notification & Review System to ensure South Carolina guidelines are met.

#### Investigative Process of Section 1-30-90(e) & Public Accommodations:

Public accommodations discrimination complaints may be filed on the basis of race, color, religion, age (40 and above), sex, and/or national origin. The statutory limitation for filing a public accommodation complaint is three (3) years. The types of businesses covered include the following: inns, hotels, motels, restaurants, hospitals, clinics, theaters, concert halls, billiard parlors, barrooms, golf courses, sports arenas, stadiums, or other places of amusement, exhibition, recreation, or entertainment.

Complaints based on Public Accommodations are largely based on race, and respondents are typically food service establishments. Complaints received also involve the health care industry. These complaints are based upon race with the issue being triage and/or method of payment for services rendered by the health care professional. While race is the primary basis for 90(e) complaints, one of the most significant areas where 90(e) complaints are received is sexual harassment.

#### S. C. Project Notification Review System (Executive Order 12372)

Entities seeking federal assistance for projects and /or programs (construction and non-construction), submit proposals to the national contract office in Washington, D.C. Those proposals are listed in the federal domestic book and are referred to the state(s) affected for a detailed review. The South Carolina Human Affairs Commission receives and reviews all proposals to ensure compliance to South Carolina guidelines.

Chairman Coleman thanked Ms. Ligon for attending and updating Council of the State Commission.

**REQUESTED FILING EXTENSION ON AGRICULTURAL PROPERTY** – Laurens County Assessor, David Satterfield, briefed Council on the request from Mr. T. L. Baldree regarding the appealing process for agricultural use of property.

Continuing, Mr. Satterfield said, "Mr. Baldree owns family land consisting of two hundred ninety one (291) acres that is being taxed during the 2012 year as non-agricultural. Mr. Baldree did not return his special assessment application prior to this year's first penalty date and escalated his taxes to just over fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000). Mr. Baldree is requesting Council consideration to retroactively grant the agricultural use application thus making his taxes to drop to approximately three hundred fifty dollars (\$350). We are not required by law to send out such notifications but we do as a courtesy to the land owners. My office contacted Mr. Baldree on 1/12/12 – 10/04/2012 and 5/4/2013".

Ms. Satterfield reviewed the State Law as follows and noted that the Governing Body of the County is the only authority allowed to extend the filing date.

**SECTION 12-43-220.** Classifications shall be equal and uniform; particular classifications and assessment ratios; procedures for claiming certain classifications; roll-back taxes.

(3) Agricultural real property does not come within the provisions of this section unless the owners of the real property or their agents make a written application therefor on or before the first penalty date for taxes due for the first tax year in which the special assessment is claimed. The application for the special assessment must be made to the assessor of the county in which the agricultural real property is located, on forms provided by the county and approved by the department and a failure to apply constitutes a waiver of the special assessment for that year. The governing body may extend the time for filing upon a showing satisfactory to it that the person had reasonable cause for not filing on or before the first penalty date. No additional annual filing is required while the use of the property remains bona fide agricultural and the ownership remains the same. The owner shall notify the assessor within six months of a change in use. For failure to notify the assessor of a change in use, in addition to any other penalties provided by law, a penalty of ten percent and interest at the rate of one-half of one percent a month must be paid on the difference between the amount that was paid and the amount that should have been paid, but not less than thirty dollars nor more than the current year's taxes.

Chairman Coleman asked where the property was located. Mr. Satterfield replied in the Stomp Springs area.

COUNCILMAN PITTS made the MOTION to approve the extension of the application period for Mr. Baldree with VICE CHAIRMAN MCDANIEL SECONDING; VOTE 6-0.

**FIRST READING – ORDINANCE #756, “FISCAL YEAR 2013/2014 LAURENS COUNTY FIRE BUDGETS”** – Fire Director Gregg Lindley said, “According to the County Auditor, the millage will see a slight increase this year from one hundred thirty thousand (\$130,000) to one hundred thirty two thousand dollars (\$132,000) per mill”.

Overview -Fire General Fund  
Fiscal Year 2013 – 2014

18.0 mills  
Fire mill = \$132,000 as set by County Auditor  
1.9 mills toward Reserve Fund  
16.1 mill applied towards operation of the County Fire Service (\$2,125,200)  
Anticipated carryover fund from Fiscal Year 2012 / 2014 = \$65,000  
Clinton and Fountain Inn contracts = \$489,433.65 (includes a 1.5% increase for each)  
Projected need for Fire General Fund \$2,125,200:  
a.) \$ 132,000 - 16.1 mills  
b.) \$ 65,000 - carryover funds  
\$ 2,190,200

Councilman Wood asked for an update on the Ekom Beach Fire Department. Mr. Lindley said that they are to meet with the Architect on Wednesday on the final drawings and that a special account has been set with the insurance monies received. A new pumper has been purchased; a second pumper has been donated from Maryland and Ekom has bought a brush truck. Bids are scheduled for tanker on Thursday.

Councilman Pitts questioned the insurance proceeds received prior to July 1 are noted as carryover funds noted earlier? Mr. Lindley said that these funds were in a separate account and will not be comingled with other funds.

Administrator Segars stated that an addendum to the fire budget would be created to reflect these funds.

Represents contracts receiving requested amount

LAURENS COUNTY FIRE SERVICE			
			FY 2013/2014
FIRE GENERAL FUND - PROJECTIONS			
Account Number's	Account Name	Budget Amount	Balance
16.1 Mills @ \$132,000.00 per Mill	Projected Revenue's for FY 13/14		\$ 2,125,200.00
	Estimated Carryover from FY 11/12	\$65,000.00	\$ 2,190,200.00
123-530-42000-52050	George Johnson Insurance	\$110,000.00	\$ 2,080,200.00
123-530-42000-26000	Workers' Compensation	\$80,000.00	\$ 2,000,200.00
123-530-42000-14040	Accident and Sickness Insurance	\$9,036.00	\$ 1,991,164.00
123-530-42000-11000	Personnel (FT)	\$203,351.99	\$ 1,787,812.01
	Educational Credit	\$10,000.00	\$ 1,777,812.01
123-530-42000-11010	Personnel (PT) 1 Mechanic, 3 Firefighters	\$80,853.46	\$ 1,696,958.55
123-530-42000-61850	Uniforms for Personnel	\$4,500.00	\$ 1,692,458.55
123-530-42000-56010	Clinton Contract for FY 13/14 - 1.5% increase	\$283,940.00	\$ 1,408,518.55
123-530-42000-56012	Fountain Inn Contract for FY 13/14 - 1.5% increase	\$205,493.65	\$ 1,203,024.90
123-530-42000-56014	Rural Fire District Contracts for FY 13/14	\$185,020.00	\$ 1,018,004.90
123-530-42000-56013	Laurens County Fire Department for FY 13/14	\$341,533.35	\$ 676,471.55
123-530-42000-61911	Rural Fire Districts fuel	\$100,000.00	\$ 576,471.55
123-530-42000-72000	Building Fund/Repairs	\$0.00	\$ 576,471.55
123-530-42000-74200	Vehicle Purchase/Lease Purchase	\$153,000.00	\$ 423,471.55
	Rural FD Utilities	\$110,000.00	\$ 313,471.55
	Capital Purchase (Equipment) FDs	\$206,674.54	\$ 106,797.01
123-530-42000-61900	Vehicle Maintenance Program	\$60,000.00	\$ 46,797.01
123-530-42000-43030	Annual Flow Tests/Ladder Test/Cascade Testing	\$16,000.00	\$ 30,797.01
123-530-42000-80083	Tax rebate to Volunteers	\$10,000.00	\$ 20,797.01
123-530-42000-74170	Machines & Equipment	\$0.00	\$ 20,797.01
			\$ 20,797.01
			\$ 20,797.01
123-530-42000-80040	General Contingency	\$20,797.01	
<b>134-800-80000-80029</b>	<b>***RESERVE FUND ACCOUNT</b>		
	Fund Balance	As of 05/29/13	\$503,371.23
1.9 Mills = (\$250,800.00)			

Dept Name	FY 11/12 APPROVED	FY 13/14 REQUEST	FY 13/14 Requested		FY 13/14 RECOM		PPE Program	FY 13/14 TOTAL
			Operating	Capital	Operating	Capital		
CROSS HILL FD	30,720.00	\$26,536.59	\$13,767.00	\$12,769.59	13,700.00	7,132.59	8,560.00	29,392.59
DURBIN CREEK FD	37,950.00	\$54,000.00	\$17,500.00	\$36,500.00	14,300.00	7,000.00	6,848.00	28,148.00
EKOM FD	16,745.00	\$0.00	\$16,745.00	\$0.00	7,370.00	0.00	3,340.00	10,710.00
GRAY COURT FD	33,805.00	\$36,357.00	\$23,395.00	\$12,962.00	23,835.00	7,462.00	5,136.00	36,433.00
GREENPOND FD	38,250.00	\$208,840.00	\$8,650.00	\$198,190.00	14,650.00	10,100.00	5,010.00	29,760.00
HICKORY TAVERN FD	40,200.00	\$76,050.00	\$26,400.00	\$49,650.00	21,350.00	7,150.00	10,020.00	38,520.00
JOANNA FD	29,250.00	\$26,750.00	\$17,600.00	\$12,250.00	15,250.00	15,600.00	6,848.00	37,698.00
LCFD Station 21						8,990.00	11,235.00	20,225.00
MOUNTVILLE FD	12,700.00	\$8,200.00	\$8,200.00	\$11,600.00	8,200.00	6,600.00	3,340.00	18,140.00
RENNO FD	16,450.00	\$16,050.00	\$7,025.00	\$9,025.00	9,525.00	0.00	3,340.00	12,865.00
SANDY SPRINGS FD	15,550.00	\$45,911.00	\$12,200.00	\$33,711.00	11,400.00	14,440.00	3,340.00	29,180.00
WATERLOO FD	25,550.00	\$49,850.00	\$17,250.00	\$32,600.00	15,150.00	15,000.00	6,680.00	36,830.00
WESTERN LAURENS FD	32,360.00	\$34,000.00	\$8,600.00	\$25,400.00	18,800.00	9,300.00	5,010.00	33,110.00
YOUNGS FD	43,825.00	\$0.00	\$66,625.00	\$100,962.95	12,125.00	12,512.95	6,680.00	31,317.95
<b>SUBTOTALS</b>	<b>\$373,355.00</b>	<b>\$582,544.59</b>	<b>\$243,957.00</b>	<b>\$535,620.54</b>	<b>185,655.00</b>	<b>121,287.54</b>	<b>85,387.00</b>	<b>392,329.54</b>
Clinton	\$279,744.00	\$279,744.00	\$283,940.00			Total:	206,674.54	\$283,940.00
Fountain Inn (4.529%)	\$202,456.80	\$211,626.07	\$211,626.07					\$205,493.65
			<b>\$486,060.00</b>	<b>Rural Fire</b>				
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$855,555.80</b>	<b>\$1,073,914.66</b>	<b>\$981,626.07</b>					<b>\$881,763.19</b>

COUNCILMAN WOOD made the MOTION to approve Ordinance #756 upon first reading as presented in first draft form with COUNCILMAN NASH SECONDING; VOTE 6-0.

Chairman Coleman called for a budget work session to be held on July 16<sup>th</sup>; 5:30 P.M. – Historic Courthouse.

**“MUTUAL AIDE AGREEMENT (draft)” – LAURENS COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE AND A PRIVATE AMBULANCE SERVICE** – Chad Burrell, Laurens County Emergency Medical Services Director spoke with Council of the request from a local ambulance service that wishes to contract with the County as a source for non-emergent transport. Mr. Burrell and the County Attorney have worked on a baseline agreement for backup services of this nature.

Council Chairman Coleman assigned the County Council Committee on Health and Emergency Services the task of reviewing the proposed contract with other determining factors and to report back to Council of their findings and recommendations.

Councilman Nash questioned if this would be assigned to specific areas of the County or all of the County? Mr. Burrell replied it would stand for any non-emergent calls from the County as a whole.

Councilwoman Anderson noted that this service vendor only has one (1) ambulance.

Councilman Wood noted that he had read in local newspapers of the Greenville Hospital System taking over Emergency Medical Services in Greenville County and asked if this would include Laurens County since the takeover of the Laurens County Health Care System. Mr. Burrell replied that he was aware of a study being conducted in Greenville County and that this was not always a better level of service. Councilman Wood stated that maybe Laurens County needs to talk with the Greenville Hospital System.

Councilman Pitts said that he knew the agreement was not referring specifically to this agency as being a sole provider for non-emergent services but, could this not be put on a rotation basis like the wrecker service. Mr. Burrell said that it could be implemented but it would cut down on emergency response times. Councilman Pitts asked for confirmation that this contract was for non-emergency transport. Mr. Burrell replied that he was correct.

Chairman Coleman again stated that the Council Committee on Health Welfare and Public Safety would review this and come back to the full Council with their recommendations.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT** – Addressing the Laurens County Planning Commission, Administrator Segars noted two (2) ordinances – Junkyard and Nuisance Ordinances - that do have some age to them and requested for Council approval to send them to the Planning Commission for review and with necessary revisions.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** – Chairman Coleman opened the floor for public comments at 6:10 P.M. With no one wishing to address Council, Chairman Coleman closed the session at 6:11 P.M.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS** – Chairman Coleman asked if there were any comments from Council.

- 1.) Councilman Wood asked to remember Councilman Tollison' s family as they just lost a family member – Charles Reece.
- 2.) Councilman Pitts asked for an update on the spec building. Administrator Segars replied that walls are presently going up.
- 3.) Councilman Pitts questioned the status of the patrol cars. Administrator Segars replied that Mr. Wilson is still looking into the purchase.

- 4.) Chairman Coleman informed Council of the recent economic development plan presented to the Laurens County Development Corporation at a recent planning session. There were five (5) initiatives noted with one being that the County provide more funding for the Development Corporation.
- 5.) Chairman Coleman expressed his appreciation for the local delegation as to approving the reimbursement of funds (\$39,000) for the roofing at the Laurens County Health Department and asked for the staff to secure a letter thanking the Delegation.

**ADJOURNMENT** – With no further business, Chairman Coleman adjourned the meeting of Council at 6:22 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Betty C. Walsh  
Laurens County Clerk to Council