



**MINUTES**  
**JUNE 23, 2015**  
**LAURENS COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**HISTORIC COURTHOUSE – PUBLIC SQUARE**  
**COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

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**ATTENDANCE:**    **COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT-** County Council Chairman Joe Wood and Vice Chairman Tollison; County Council Members: Diane Anderson, Stewart Jones and Ted Nash.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT** – Council Member David Pitts. Councilman Edward McDaniel (deceased).

**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 Rob Russian; Captain Tyson, Detention Center Administrator; Laurens County Emergency Medical Services, Chad Burrell, Director; Laurens County Finance, Lisa Kirk, Director; Laurens County Communications Director, Joey Avery; Laurens County Vehicle Maintenance / Procurement Supervisor, Billy Wilson; Laurens County Coroner, Nick Nichols; Laurens County Codes Officer, Chuck Bobo and Laurens County Human Resources Manager, Debi Parker.

**PRESS:** Vic McDonald, *The Clinton Chronicle*; Ida Cadmus, *WLBG Radio*, Jennifer Brown, *GoLaurens.com* and Corey Engle, *The Laurens County Advertiser*.

**SCHEDULED MEETING AGENDA ITEMS** - 1.) Call to Order – Chairman Wood; 2.) Invocation – Chairman Wood; 3.) Pledge of Allegiance; 4.) Approval of Agenda, June 23, 2015; 5.) Approval of Minutes – June 9, 2015; 6.) Final Budget Discussions – Fiscal Year 2015-2016 County Budget: a.) Salary adjustments for certain employees; b.) Proposal - Johnson Detention Center, Captain Joe Tyson, State Trustee services; 7.) Public Hearing, Ordinance #787 – “An Ordinance to Amend Ordinance #465 Providing For The Use of The Maximum Legal Percentage of Local Option Sales Tax Funds For the Fiscal Year 2015-2016; And To Further Use And Apply These Funds For The Purpose of Revenue Shortfalls In Laurens County And Other Matters Appertaining Thereto”; a.) Third Reading, Ordinance #787 - “An Ordinance to Amend Ordinance #465 Providing For The Use of The Maximum Legal Percentage of Local Option Sales Tax Funds For the Fiscal Year 2015-2016; And To Further Use And Apply These Funds For The Purpose of Revenue Shortfalls In Laurens County And Other Matters Appertaining Thereto”; 8.) Public Hearing, Ordinance #788 – “Laurens County FY 2015-2016 Budget”; a.) Third Reading, Ordinance #788 – “Laurens County FY 2015-2016 Budget; 9.) Second Reading, Ordinance #791, “An Ordinance Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Fee Agreement By And Between Laurens County, South Carolina And CB&I Laurens, Incorporated, Providing For a Payment of a Fee In Lieu of Taxes, The Issuance of Special Source Revenuer Credits. And Other Matters Related Thereto, And Authorizing An Extension of the Termination Date of a Fee Agreement Entered Into By And Between Laurens County and CB&I Laurens, Incorporated (As Successor to B.F. Shaw, Incorporated) Dated November 25, 2008; 10.) Second Reading, Ordinance #791, “An Ordinance Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Fee Agreement By And Between Laurens County, South Carolina And CB&I Laurens, Incorporated, Providing For a Payment of a Fee In Lieu of Taxes, The Issuance of Special Source Revenuer Credits. And Other Matters Related Thereto, And Authorizing An Extension of the Termination Date of a Fee Agreement Entered Into By And Between Laurens County and CB&I Laurens, Incorporated (As Successor to B.F. Shaw, Incorporated) Dated November 25, 2008; 11.) Second Reading, Ordinance #793, “An Ordinance Authorizing, Pursuant to Chapter 44 of Tile 12, South Carolina Code of Laws. 1976, As Amended, The Execution and Delivery of A Fee Agreement Between Laurens County, South Carolina, And 3S International, Incorporated; The Application of an Infrastructure Credit To Fee-in-Lieu of Payments; And Matters Relating Thereto”; 12.) First Reading, Ordinance #792 – “An Ordinance to Amend the Existing Agreement For Development of Joint County Industrial And Business Park By and Between Laurens County, South Carolina and Greenville County, South Carolina, To Enlarge the Boundaries of the Park to

Include Certain Additional Proper Located in Laurens County, South Carolina And Greenville County, South Carolina, To Enlarge The Boundaries of the park to Include Certain Additional Property Located in Laurens County, South Carolina And presently owned And Or Operated by a Company Identified For The Time Being As Project Zeus or One or More of Its Affiliates or Related Companies; (2) And Authorizing Other Related Matters”; 13.) Gray Court Fire Department request for reimbursement – Greg Lindley, Laurens County Fire Director; 14.) Approval of 2015 Local (JAG) Grant for Sheriff’s Department; 15.) Administrative Report - County Administrator Ernie Segars; 16.) 6:00 P.M. Public Comment; 17.) Comments from Council Members; 18.) Adjournment.

**MEETING NOTIFICATION** - The County Council Members, Department Heads, requesting general public and the Press were informed of the meeting in a timely manner.

**CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Wood called the meeting to order and invited all to stand for the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Wood provided the invocation following a brief moment of silence in reverence to the recent Charleston tragedy in the Emanuel AME Church.

Chairman Wood asked for any personal comments from Council Members.

Councilwoman Anderson said, “This act of hatred was very devastating to the families involved and to the State. We all need to learn and grow from what this incident. The Bible states that there is nothing new under the sun...hatred will always be present in some form or fashion. But, the past should be able to teach us something so we all can do better in the future. I am hoping from this incident that we all can grow and have more compassion for fellow man; and, live together as people under God”.

Councilman Jones said, “This was certainly a horrific event where the entire world saw South Carolinas reactions. We came together and it is amazing that the families of the victims, how forgiving they all are. I am really, really saddened by these events. All just keep praying for this State and the people. Let’s all help heal what we have here”.

Councilman Nash said, “I pray that God helps all get through this crisis”.

Vice Chairman Tollison said, “I sincerely hope that all can use this to learn and grow closer together; by nation, by state, by county and by communities”.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Chairman Wood called for approval of the agenda with any additions.

COUNCILMAN NASH made the MOTION to approve the agenda as presented with the addition and deletion; COUNCILMAN JONES SECONDDING; VOTE 5-0.

Administrator Segars noted the recent legislation approved about agenda content and stated that the County Attorney would provide Council with a briefing on this new legislation at an upcoming meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – VICE CHAIRMAN TOLLISON made the MOTION to approve the minutes from the June 9, 2015 regular session of Council. COUNCILMAN JONES SECONDDING; VOTE 5-0.

**FINAL BUDGET DISCUSSIONS – FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016 COUNTY BUDGET:**

a.) **SALARY ADJUSTMENTS FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES:**

Magistrate Office –	\$ 3,000 COUNCIL VOTE 4-1(Anderson opposed)
Human Resources -	\$ 806 COUNCIL VOTE 4-1(Anderson opposed)
Parks & Recreation – additional Airport duties -	\$ 5,000 COUNCIL VOTE 5-0
Registration & Elections -	\$ <u>2,500</u> COUNCIL VOTE 4-1(Anderson opposed)
Total	\$11,308

- b.) PROPOSAL – JOHNSON DETENTION CENTER, CAPTAIN JOE TYSON, STATE TRUSTEE SEVICES – Captain Tyson said, “The proposal before you now is something we have been working towards for well over a year now. We are attempting to increase our State Trustee population within Laurens County to help with a lot of the maintenance labor costs for the County. The increase will be to twenty five (25) inmates at only ten dollars (\$10.00) a month, tax free, per inmate with a full yearly cap of three thousand dollars (\$3,000). An inmate is only allowed to have twenty dollars (\$20.00) in their pockets at a given time. As per my conversation with Mr. Segars, we would like to use these inmates towards a creation of a fulltime litter crew”.

Chairman Wood questioned the security of using inmates. Captain Tyson replied that these inmates would be at a very minimal custody level and would not have been incarcerated for violent act against them. The inmates would be moved to Laurens County on a volunteer basis only and can ask at any given time to return to the South Carolina Department of Corrections in Columbia.

Vice Chairman Tollison asked for clarification that the inmates are non-violent inmates. Captain Tyson replied that the South Carolina Department of Corrections determines that they can go out into a community to work under minimal supervision.

Vice Chairman Tollison asked if these are Laurens County citizens that will be assigned to us for work detail? Captain Tyson replied that they can come from other counties but we do try to get trustees from our County so that their families can come visit more often and do not have to travel great distances.

Vice Chairman Tollison said, “So we are set up for sixteen (16) state inmates now and will increase to twenty five (25); that in itself will increase our inmate population as well as providing food and shelter”. Captain Tyson said, “We are now approved for twenty five (25) by the State but were only approved for sixteen (16) earlier”.

Councilman Nash said, “When the County releases them, they do go back out in the community as a tax paying citizen with a job.” Captain Tyson replied that the County does have a half-way house that they can and do use to readjust back into society”.

Councilman Jones said that he felt this to be an excellent idea for the County, especially towards litter control.

Councilwoman Anderson stated that she had mixed emotions about any program for inmates. Is there something in place for inmates before they leave the detention center? Captain Tyson replied that there are the work union program, anger management classes but don’t have a program where they go out into the county work; only use of the halfway house when they do get out.

Councilwoman said, “I don’t see increasing the count at the detention center and in turn increasing the county budget expenses. We just added space several years ago, just increased salaries for the officers and I don’t believe in bringing in inmates from other counties. I just feel like it is more of a burden for the county finances and staffing. The State does not pay us anything to keep inmates over their extended time. I don’t feel we need to support any state function until they help to make it better for us”.

Administrator Segars referred to using them for litter pickup as a tremendous asset.

COUNCILMAN NASH made the MOTION to approve the three thousand dollar (\$3,000) allocation in the budget for inmate pay. COUNCILMAN JONES SECONDING; VOTE 4-1 (Councilwoman Anderson in opposition).

**PUBLIC HEARING, ORDINANCE #787 – “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE #465 PROVIDING FOR THE USE OF THE MAXIMUM LEGAL PERCENTAGE OF LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX FUNDS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2015 2016; AND TO FURTHER USE AND APPLY THESE FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVENUE SHORTFALLS IN LAURENS COUNTY AND OTHER MATTERS APPERTAINING THERETO”.** Chairman Wood opened the public hearing at 6:05 PM for Ordinance #787. Having no one wishing to address Council, Chairman Wood closed the public hearing at 6:06 P.M.

a.) **THIRD READING, ORDINANCE #787 – “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE #465 PROVIDING FOR THE USE OF THE MAXIMUM LEGAL PERCENTAGE OF LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX FUNDS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2015 2016; AND TO FURTHER USE AND APPLY THESE FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVENUE SHORTFALLS IN LAURENS COUNTY AND OTHER MATTERS APPERTAINING THERETO**

VICE CHAIRMAN TOLLISON made the MOTION to approve Ordinance #787 upon third reading as presented with COUNCILMAN NASH SECONDING; VOTE 5-0.

**PUBLIC HEARING, ORDINANCE #788 – LAURENS COUNTY FISCAL YEAR 2015/2016 BUDGET** - Chairman Wood opened the public hearing at 6:08 PM for Ordinance #788. Having no one wishing to address Council, Chairman Wood closed the public hearing at 6:09 P.M.

a.) **THIRD READING, ORDINANCE #788 – “LAURENS COUNTY FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016 BUDGET”.**

Finance Director Lisa Kirk provided Council with an update of the budget that included the recent discussion held tonight as follows:

General Fund	\$21,892,730
EMS Fund	3,389,328
Victim’s Assistance Fund	170,230
Enterprise Fund	<u>2,015,749</u>
	\$27,468,037
(approved – Detention Center)	\$ 3,000
(approved - salaries)	<u>\$ 11,308</u>
Totaling.....	\$27,482,345
100% of the six (6) mill levy (reserve)	\$1,040,000
Four (4) mills for Capital Improvements	\$ 693,000
Twenty nine percent (29%) Local Option Sales Tax	\$ 820,000
Additional Funding From Fund Balance Reserves	\$ 523,733

VICE CHAIRMAN TOLLISON made the MOTION to approve Ordinance #787 upon third reading as presented with COUNCILMAN NASH SECONDING; VOTE 4-1 (Councilwoman Anderson in opposition).

**SECOND READING ORDINANCE #791, “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN LAURENS COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND CB&I LAURENS, INC. PROVIDING FOR A PAYMENT OF A FEE IN LIEU OF**

**TAXES, THE ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDITS, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO; AND AUTHORIZING AN EXTENSION OF THE TERMINATION DATE OF A FEE AGREEMENT ENTERED INTO BY AND BETWEEN LAURENS COUNTY AND CB&I LAURENS, INC. (AS SUCCESSOR TO B.F. SHAW, INC.) DATED NOVEMBER 25, 2008”.**

County Attorney Cruickshanks stated that this is a \$4.4 project and will be adding a number of new employee positions.

COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON made the MOTION to approve the Ordinance for a Fee In Lieu of Tax Agreement between Laurens County and CB&I Laurens, Incorporated with COUNCILMAN JONES SECONDING; VOTE 4-0-1 (Vice Chairman Tollison abstained).

**SECOND READING, ORDINANCE #793, “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING, PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 44 OF TITLE 12, SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS, 1976, AS AMENDED, THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE AGREEMENT BETWEEN LAURENS COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND 3S INTERNATIONAL, INC.; THE APPLICATION OF AN INFRASTRUCTURE CREDIT TO FEE-IN-LIEU OF TAX PAYMENTS; AND MATTERS RELATING THERETO”.** County Attorney Cruickshanks stated that this is previously known to Council as Project Zeus and is a fifteen million dollar (\$15,000,000) project that will be adding sixty (60) new jobs.

VICE CHAIRMAN TOLLISON made the MOTION to approve Ordinance #793 as presented with COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON SECONDING; VOTE 5-0.

**FIRST READING, ORDINANCE #792 – “AN ORDINANCE (1) TO AMEND THE EXISTING AGREEMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF JOINT COUNTY INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS PARK BY AND BETWEEN LAURENS COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND GREENVILLE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, TO ENLARGE THE BOUNDARIES OF THE PARK TO INCLUDE CERTAIN ADDITIONAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN LAURENS COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND PRESENTLY OWNED AND/OR OPERATED BY A COMPANY IDENTIFIED FOR THE TIME BEING AS PROJECT ZEUS OR ONE OR MORE OF ITS AFFILIATES OR RELATED COMPANIES; (2) AND AUTHORIZING OTHER RELATED MATTERS”** - County Attorney Cruickshanks stated that this is also connected Project Zeus and is an amending multi-county industrial park agreement document that will allow them to receive Fee-In-Lieu-of-Tax Credits.

Chairman Wood asked if this was a park agreement for the Owings Park. Attorney Cruickshanks replied that it was not but was a standard park agreement.

VICE CHAIRMAN TOLLISON made the MOTION to approve Ordinance #792 as presented with COUNCILMAN NASH SECONDING; VOTE 5-0.

**GRAY COURT FIRE DEPARTMENT – GRANT REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST** - Greg Lindley, Laurens County Fire Director approached Council with a request to reimburse the Gray Court Fire Department of the five percent (5%) match - six thousand five hundred dollars (\$6,500). These funds will come from the Fire General Contingency Account that still has a balance of eight thousand seven hundred eighty dollars (\$8,780.00). The Grant was from a 2013 grant for the purchase of a rescue truck that will be owned by the Gray Court Fire Department.

COUNCILMAN NASH made the MOTION to approve the reimbursement with VICE CHAIRMAN TOLLISON SECONDING; VOTE 5-0.

**APPROVAL OF 2015 LOCAL (JAG) GRANT – SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT** - Administrator Segars informed Council of a request from the Sheriff’s Department for approval towards the submission of Justice Assistance Grant and explained that Council approval is a required process of acknowledgement of the submission of the grant. The total amount is twenty thousand six hundred fifty five dollars (\$20,655) and will be used to improve officer safety, crime prevention and traffic safety in the Laurens County Sheriff’s Department. There is no local match requirement for these funds. The items proposed for purchase are:

- a.) \$6,700.00 Digital Cameras – To purchase fifty (50) digital cameras for the Uniform Patrol, Warrants and Child Support Divisions in order to photo crime scenes, verify suspects and other criminal justice functions.
- b.) \$9,500.00 – Tire Deflation Devices – To purchase twenty (20) sets of tire deflation devices to assign to deputies of the Laurens County Sheriff's Office. The purpose of the device is to help law enforcement officers end automobile pursuits quickly and safely.
- c.) \$4,550.00 – Forensic Equipment – To purchase forensic equipment for the Uniform Patrol and Investigation Divisions. This will include, but not limited to, latent finger print equipment, casting equipment and other equipment deemed necessary for evidence collection. This equipment will be used to process crime scenes and aid in the collection of evidence at those scenes.

VICE CHAIRMAN TOLLISON made the MOTION to approve the request and acknowledgment of the Justice Assistance Grant with COUNCILMAN JONES SECONDDING for discussion.

Vice Chairman Tollison asked if the cameras were the same body cameras as just approved in the budget process. Mickey Coates of the Sheriff's Department said that they were actual digital cameras that will be provided to a number of deputies.

Vice Chairman Tollison asked who and if the Grants Administrator that is submitting this was also being used by the Fire Departments. Administrator Segars replied that Mrs. Moody works for the Finance Director and has done this for a number of years.

Vice Chairman Tollison again asked if the Grants Administrator was also used by the Fire Department. Administrator Segars replied that we try to centralize it the best we can.

COUNCIL VOTED 5-0 to approve.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT** – Administrator Segars provided Council an update on the Hillcrest Administrative Offices as informed by Scott Holland: The project should be complete between mid to late September if not sooner; the exterior finishes are complete with electrical wiring still in a rough in state; wiring for phones and data continues to be installed; electrical underground conduit being installed for powering automatic gates for judges parking at the rear; metal roof completed in May; HVAC installations are nearing completion; interior sheet rock is complete with paint primer coat; the additional parking area at the rear has started with a stone base.

Referring to the Fire Bond for the construction and updates of the rural fire departments, Administrator Segars said, "Bids came in today. The one bid was for ten (10) years at 2.28%. The Bond will likely closed mid July. Nine (9) of the thirteen (13) have agreed to the options of the ownership of the buildings. Another option was with the use of grant agreements. This will mean a two (2) mil tax increase for those in the fire districts and will be a three (3) year process".

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – Chairman Wood opened the floor for public comment at 6:25 P.M. Having no one wishing to address Council, Chairman Wood closed the session at 6:26 P.M.

**COUNTY COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

- 1.) Councilman Jones extended his thanks to all the Department Heads for the work on the new budget.
- 2.) Councilman Nash stated that he was proud of all of the progress the County is making and thankful for the program on inmate maintenance.

- 3.) Vice Chairman Tollison thanked the Council and staff for the work towards getting a balanced budget and extended congratulations to the two (2) candidates and wished them well in the upcoming Council District #3 election.
- 4.) Chairman Wood said, “As in years past, we are short State monies within our budget. When this budget year started, I felt like we needed to address our expenditures and income. I probably made a lot of people mad, but you can’t satisfy everyone. We asked the Department Heads to step forward to help us, and they did step forward with close to a half a million dollar cuts. I just wanted all to know what this County is facing with our Local Government Funds. For the past four (4) or (5) years, I feel that services in Laurens County just fell behind. I know you have got to have economic development but what good is that when you don’t have the services to back it up. The only way we can be in a position to give our employees raises is to get our expenditures leveled out with our income”.

Continuing, Chairman Wood said, “I got beat up pretty good when I asked for the Laurens County Development Corporation to contribute to cuts in the budgets too. What started that was when I researched the audit and saw some figures that I did not feel was right. Here tonight we made four (4) small salary increases her tonight. But when the Laurens County Development Corporation has one (1) salary increase in one (1) year of twenty two thousand dollars (\$22,000) or one (1) person, that says something to me. Some other members of this Council just turned their head and looked the other way; but I got beat up about it. We did end up with a good budget and I think that this Council is going to do what we can for our employees. It has already been said that we would possibly look at something around Christmas”.

- 5.) Councilwoman Anderson addressed her votes against the budget ordinances because of some increases made to some positions when all at least need a cost of living increase; “the cost of food and gas is going up and working pay affects us all. All need to be treated the same”.

**ADJOURNMENT** – With no further action required by Council, Chairman Wood adjourned the meeting at 6:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Betty C. Walsh  
Laurens County Clerk to Council