

MINUTES
LAURENS COUNTY COUNCIL
MAY 13, 2014 – 5:30 P.M.
HISTORIC COURTHOUSE – COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS - PUBLIC SQUARE

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT - Council Members, Diane Anderson.

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 Public Works Director, Scott Holland and Laurens County Human Resources Manager, Debi Parker.

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

SCHEDULED SESSION AGENDA ITEMS – (1) Approval of Agenda, May 13, 2014; (2) Approval of Minutes from the April 22, 2014 Regular Session and April 28, 2014 Budget Session; (3.) Public Hearing, Laurens County Ordinance #765, “An Ordinance to Impose Limitations and Restrictions on Property Owned by Laurens County For Public Outdoor Recreational Use And Other Matters Appertaining Thereto”; (4) Second Reading Approval, Laurens County Ordinance #765, “An Ordinance to Impose Limitations and Restrictions on Property Owned by Laurens County For Public Outdoor Recreational Use And Other Matters Appertaining Thereto”; (5) Update on relocation and operations, University of South Carolina Union at Laurens; (6) School District #56, Science Olympiad Team Funding Request; (7) Proposed Veteran Memorial; (8) Future Scholarships Program – Piedmont Technical College; (9) Final Plans, Hillcrest Square Administrative Offices; (10) First Reading, Ordinance #769, “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 2014-2015; And to further Use and Apply Funds For the Purpose of Revenue Shortfalls in Laurens County and Other Matters Appertaining Thereto.”; (11) Approval of Resolution #2014-09 “National Emergency Medical Services Week; (12) Public Comments; (13) Comments from Council Members; (14) Adjournment.

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 May 13, 2014 regular scheduled meeting of Council to order at 5:35 P.M. in the Council Chambers of the Laurens County Historic Courthouse. Chairman Coleman invited all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the invocation provided by Councilman Tollison.

APPROVAL – AGENDA – MAY 13, 2014 – Upon a MOTION from COUNCILMAN TOLLISON and a SECOND from VICE CHAIRMAN MCDANIEL; the agenda was approved with no deletions or additions; VOTE 6-0. (Councilwoman Anderson was absent).

APPROVAL – MINUTES – APRIL 22, 2014 – REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL AND MINUTES – APRIL 28, 2014 – COUNCIL BUDGET SESSION – Upon a MOTION from VICE CHAIRMAN MCDANIEL and a SECOND from COUNCILMAN NASH, collectively the minutes from the April 22, 2014 and April 28, 2014 meetings were approved as presented; VOTE 6-0. (Councilwoman Anderson was absent).

PUBLIC HEARING - ORDINANCE #765, “AN ORDINANCE TO IMPOSE LIMITATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS ON PROPERTY OWNED BY LAURENS COUNTY FOR PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL USE AND OTHER MATTERS APPERTAINING THERETO” – Chairman Coleman opened the public hearing for comments at 5:40 P.M. Having no one wishing to address Council, Chairman Coleman closed the hearing at 5:41 P.M.

- A.) **SECOND READING - ORDINANCE #765, "AN ORDINANCE TO IMPOSE LIMITATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS ON PROPERTY OWNED BY LAURENS COUNTY FOR PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL USE AND OTHER MATTERS APPERTAINING THERETO"** - Briefing Council, Administrator Segars stated that this Ordinance is necessary for any future applications for federal or state grants submitted by the County Parks and Recreation Department for the land to be always used for recreational use.

VICE CHAIRMAN MCDANIEL made the MOTION to approve Ordinance #765 upon second reading as presented with COUNCILMAN NASH SECONDDING; VOTE 6-0. (Councilwoman Anderson was absent).

UPDATE ON RELOCATION AND OPERATIONS – UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA UNION AT LAURENS - Dr. Alice Taylor-Colbert, Dean of USC Union, briefed Council on the recent relocation from the Laurens County Higher Education Center to a location on North Harper Street in the City of Laurens.

Dr. Colbert said, "Our Spring term has twenty five (25) full time students in the Associates Degree program; and eleven (11) baccalaureate degree programs that are offered. Two hundred seventeen (217) students are from Laurens County. As this year, we fully expect next Fall the two hundred fifty (250) students or more. We not only have the Associate Degree but do have Baccalaureate Degree programs At the new location in Laurens we offer organization and liberal studies and seven (7) online degree programs. We have Business Law offered by Aiken; Human Services offered by Beaufort; Elementary Education, Criminal Justice and Liberal Studies by Columbia and Nursing by Upstate. We will have continuing education courses that we will be offering during the Summer and we presently have a Phycology class being conducted at the Higher Education Center. We will be having a ribbon cutting this Thursday at 3:30 PM; I personally encourage each of you to attend".

SCHOOL DISTRICT #56 – SCIENCE OLYMPIAD TEAM FUNDING REQUEST – Mrs. Teresa O'Shields, Coach for the Bell Street Olympiad Team, appeared before Council to requesting funding for the team's upcoming trip in competition in Orlando Florida.

Chairman Coleman asked for Mrs. O'Shields to expand on the students preparations for these competitions. Mrs. O'Shields said, "These students, as well as the Coaches, are a dedicated group. We structure our team and begin in late September. After going to school all day, they meet in the afternoons after school and all day of Saturdays in preparation for these competitions. In our mind, this is the very best economic development that the County has".

Councilman Nash questioned how much they need and have raised to date. Mrs. O'Shields replied that thirty (\$30,000) has been raised and hope to have thirty five thousand dollars (\$35,000) before we leave on Thursday.

Councilman Wood said, "We all are looking for funding and this is a tough year for Laurens County. As of last week, we have been cut another one hundred ninety thousand dollars (\$190,000) has been cut from the State in the local government funds. Without these funds that we have gotten in years past, we will have to make up these funds from somewhere".

If the School District continues to do this and knows that this it is going to be a yearly program, why doesn't the school district budget for these expenses? Councilman Pitts stated, "The funds were budgeted in the annual budget and was cut with the responsibility falling to the members of the team to raise the funds. The Board of Trustees did approve two (2) weeks ago to reinstate twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000).

Vice Chairman McDaniel said, "We all are in desperate times and I concur and understand but, there are only so many dollars available".

Chairman Coleman too, told Mrs. O'Shields that he too was behind the Team one hundred percent (100%) to travel with forty nine (49) students.

Chairman Coleman asked for a motion from Council towards funding the request.

With no motion made, Chairman Coleman thanked the Team for attending and making their request for funds from Council.

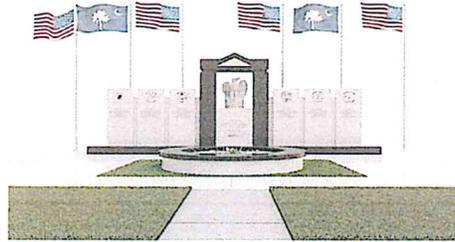
PROPOSED VETERAN MEMORIAL – Chairman Coleman stated, "Several weeks ago I had assigned for a County Council Committee to look into the placement of a Veteran Memorial to be placed at Hillcrest Square while construction was going on for the Administrative Offices. The County Council Committee on Public Works met to discuss these options. I call on Councilman Wood, the Council Committee Chairman, to address their findings.

Council Committee Chairman Wood said. "The Council Committee has met with Mr. Bolt to discuss the proposal for a Veteran Memorial around the Square. The Committee did review plans for the placement of a Veteran's Memorial on county property. Two locations were discussed – Historic Courthouse and at Hillcrest Square. I did not see this as a Committee decision but a full Council decision to be made. This is not just about a memorial but about our veterans. The Town of Ware Shoals built a memorial several years ago and it is a proud memorial honored by all. Every time you see a memorial with people's names on it, you always see them with their hand on it. This is a memorial that Laurens County needs".

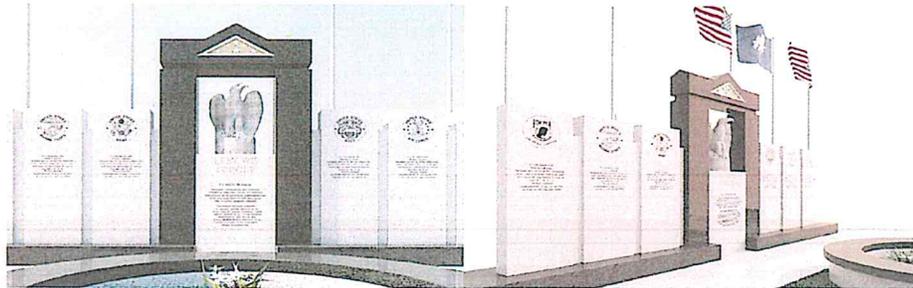
PROPOSED HILLCREST JUDICIAL / SERVICES BUILDING



PROPOSED MEMORIAL CONCEPT



PROPOSED MEMORIAL CONCEPT



PROPOSED HISTORIC COURTHOUSE LOCATION



Mr. Bolt presented a PowerPoint visual.

Chairman Coleman thanked Mr. Bolt and stated, “We all support our veterans but the comments I am hearing is to not place the memorial on the grounds of the Courthouse. My recommendation is to place it on the corner of the Square where the building is to be torn down. This is an ideal location. I have talked with the City and they are in favor of it located there. The museum would be right up the street from there. It is my recommendation for the City, the County and the VA Office to work together to make this happen for Laurens County”.

Councilman Pitts said that he concurs with the recommendation from Chairman Coleman.

Vice Chairman McDaniel said, “I have no problem with the location. I was one of those on the Council Committee and I ask why is there a need for an additional monument?” Mr. Bolt replied, “Presently on the grounds there are memorials for World War I, World War II, the Korean War, Civil War and Vietnam. This proposed monument will represent those veterans past, present and future; open for history to come”.

Councilman Tollison said, “I appreciate all veterans and the time spent on getting this memorial to where it is. I am in favor of the monument because we do not have a monument for the past ten years of war. I have received several calls of concern with the design overpowering the Historic Courthouse.”

Councilman Nash said, "To start with the Council Committee has not even looked at the site just mentioned. I think it to at least be courteous to allow the Council Committee to even look at it and not to just overrule the Committee".

COUNCILMAN WOOD made the MOTION for Council to accept the intent of the memorial's design phase at the location on the corner of East Main Street and North Harper Street; COUNCILMAN TOLLISON SECONDDING; VOTE 6-0.

Administrator Segars questioned if any costs had been incurred during the design phase. Mr. Bolt replied that there had not been.

Chairman Coleman said, "I want you all to know of the situation we are in with County government. The County receives money from the State for the operations of this office and other county offices that are mandated by the State. A formula is in place for us to receive four percent (4%); already this year the State has cut this funding by seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000). On a second round, they have cut us an additional one hundred eight thousand dollars (\$180,000). Total, this is right at one million dollars (\$1,000,000). We really have no way to make these funds up. I want to encourage each of you, especially the veterans, to talk to your House Members and Senate Member to keep this formula in place and to fund the County as they should."

FUTURE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM – Attending in support of the Scholarship Program were Dr. Norman Scarborough, of Presbyterian College; Dr. Ray Brooks, President of Piedmont Technical College; Dr. Billy Strickland, Superintendent, Laurens County School District #55; Dr. David O'Shields, Superintendent of School District #56 and Faye Sprouse, Principal, Ware Shoals School District #51.

Spokesperson from the group educational leaders, Dr. Norman Scarborough said, "I can respect your position in trying to overcome state mandated services and programs in one hand and cut state funding in the other. I come to present this to Council for your support of the needed program for Laurens County. To date, we have mailed out over one hundred seventy one letters asking for support and have received one hundred five thousand dollars (\$105,000) in gifts and pledges. The School Districts have contributed fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000). This program is in practice in other states, providing scholarship funds for County students towards a marketable skill that would certainly provide a higher quality workforce within Laurens County. This would include those private and home-schooled students. We have modeled this program from one presently in effect in Kingsport, Tennessee and would be an investment in the community's intellectual capital and future. Kingsport per capita income increased from thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) to fifty one thousand dollars (\$51,000) in ten (10) years. If this were the situation of Laurens County raising the per capita income to the state average, the economic impact would be an additional two hundred twenty eight million dollars (\$228,000,000)".



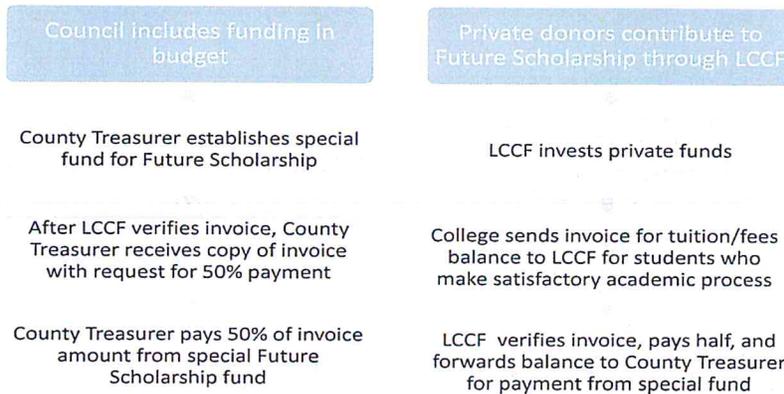
Concept – A scholarship fund that gives Laurens County high school graduates the opportunity to attend Piedmont Technical College for two (2) years and earn an associate's degree. All tuition and fees paid, with the exception of books being the student's responsibility.

Cost and Timing – Cost of the program is modest: estimating one hundred fifty (150) students per year; seventy five (75) students in year one would cost approximately fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000); one hundred thousand dollars for one hundred fifty (150) students per year thereafter. The administrative costs would be very minimal with Piedmont Technical College handling the financial aid process with the Laurens County Community Foundation and Laurens County managing the funds.

Benefits – Enhance economic development and business recruitment by increasing size and quality of available workforce which is crucial for attracting new industry; lower unemployment rate; higher wages; increase in per capita income which would lead to a higher standard of living for the citizens and an increase in spending at local businesses.

Controls – Would consist of working with all high schools where Laurens County students attend to promote scholarship program to students; maximize investment where students must apply for all federal and state aid for which they are eligible before this scholarship kicks in; disbursements would be made to the colleges at the end of each semester for those students that are successful.

The Process



Request – County Council to invest one hundred thousand dollars in the Future Scholarship with Mr. Segars providing the options to Council for funding this modest request for building a stronger workforce in every corner of our County and enhancing the County’s economic development activities.

In summary, Dr. Scarborough said, “The idea is to provide a quality workforce from Laurens County. The recent industrial company locating here only has about twenty five percent (25%) of our county workforce with seventy five percent (75%) from outside the County. There are issues that they have with the residents of Laurens County. This confirms that we have got to provide a better workforce from the County. This concept has been committed to other places and has increased the per capita incomes.”

Chairman Coleman thanked those in attendance and stated that Council would take this as information at this time.

Councilman Tollison noted, “While on work detail in the Bristol area, during down time I did attend local Council meetings and was fortunate to speak with a representative about the scholarship program. It has been a slow process but is a progressive program for the community. I feel that Laurens County would profit in the long term with this but I feel that the one hundred fifty (150) students is a low number for Laurens County. I also have concerns as to paying at the end of the semester. I do not feel satisfied with someone going into this program for only one or two semesters; this will not help Laurens County”.

Councilman Wood said, “I am not going to be critical of the program and with no disrespect to anyone, I feel that I was elected to this County Council to provide services to the citizens like fire service, EMS service and Sheriff service. If we were getting back all of the funds from the state that we are supposed to get, it might not be a problem. I hear you say a modest one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000); for a modest one hundred thirty thousand dollars (130,000), we could buy an ambulance. What the people do not understand is that when you pay a dollar, seventy five percent (75%) goes to the school systems and we operate the County on twenty five percent (25%). It is continuing spiral where the state keeps cutting our funds and mandate more from us. There is nothing wrong with economic development, but what people have got to understand is that when we do get a new industry there is not much money coming in from them because of the FILOT’s, our

agreements state that a certain percentage needs to be shared with the school. That pot of money that we use to buy these ambulances, fire trucks and trucks to haul off your garbage just keeps getting smaller and smaller. The more economic development we have the more crime we have and the need for more deputies, fire trucks and ambulances. This country has turned into a country of handouts. Kids now, eighteen and twenty year olds, don't want to work for minimum wage. They know not to work if it is going to be handed to them, they need to work for what they want....invest in themselves. They will think more about quitting if they have money invested”.

Dr. Ray Brooks, President of Piedmont Technical College stated that the ones in the middle get lost from the labor pools; “When I got out of school, I had three options, go to college, go to work or go into the military. If the kids now don't graduate from high school and do something they are going to be hard pressed to support a family”.

Vice Chairman McDaniel asked what the percentages were within Laurens and the surrounding areas of graduates. Dr. Brooks replied eighty percent (80%).

Councilman Pitts said, “This is a visioning process that I support wholeheartedly. The devil is in the details. How do we instill a work ethic? I believe that the scholarship program will instill ownership. I think we're headed in the right direction, where there's a will there's a way. How do we do this, I don't know.”

ARCHITECT DENNIS ASHLEY – FINAL PLANS – HILLCRESTS SQUARE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES – Mr. Ashley reviewed the following summary:

PROJECT DATA SUMMARY:

Bid proposals to Council

- Receive bids July 1, 2014
- Bids to Council July 8, 2014

Alternates to the bid

- Roofing material choice, metal or EPDM
- Judicial secure parking

Site work

- Replace 3 fire hydrants
- Extend new gravity sewer to connect to existing

Building

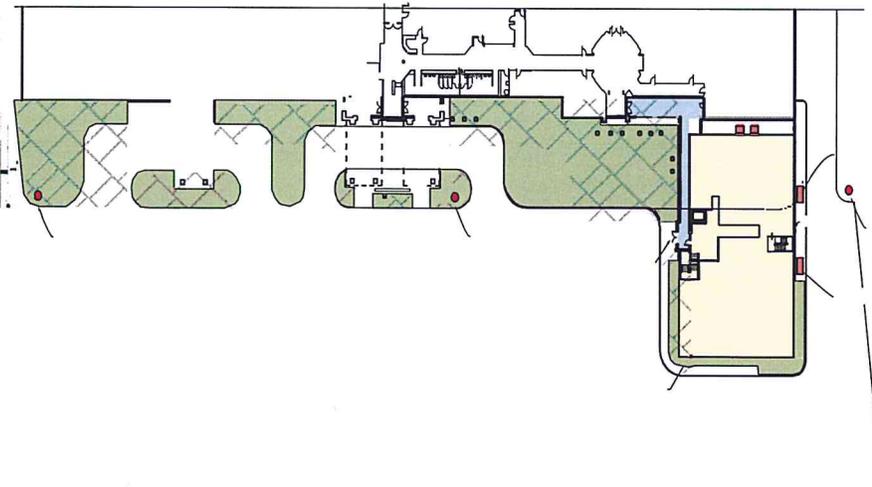
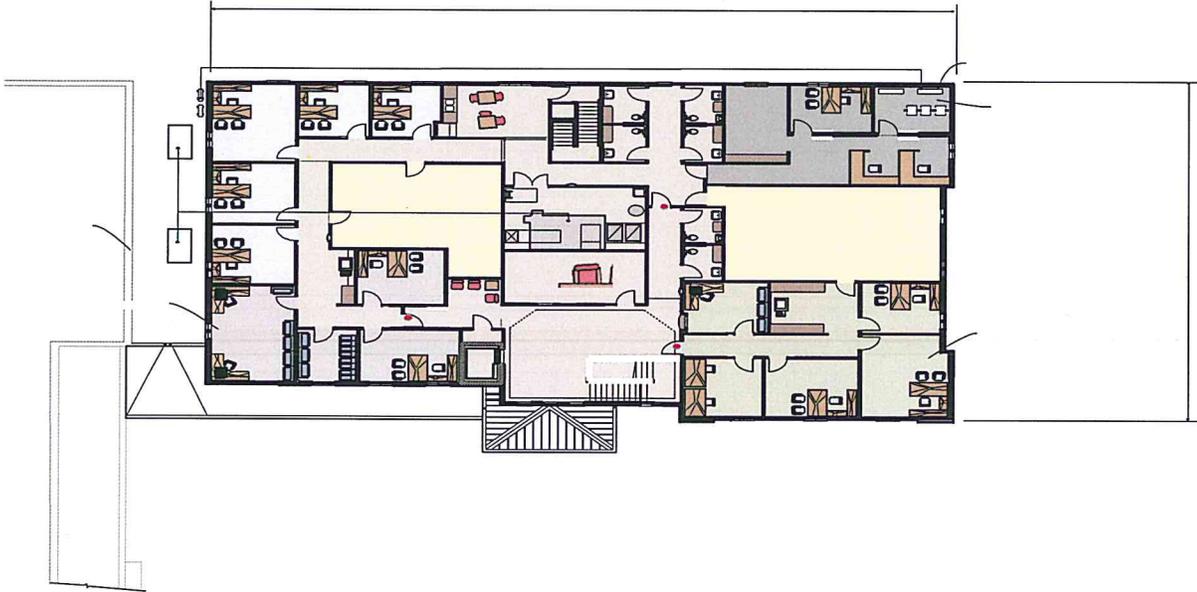
- New building area 18,350 square feet – first floor 9,513 SF – second floor 8,837 SF
- Exterior construction: wood bearing walls, brick and stucco finishes, security insulated glazing first floor, insulated glazing second floor, R 21 insulation at walls, R 38 insulation at roof.
- Interior Construction: metal bearing walls, steel columns, composite wood floor joists, wood roof trusses.
- Vault construction for clerk of court, public works plan storage.
- Interior finishes: gypsum board, ceramic tile, suspended acoustical ceilings, no wax vinyl tiles, vinyl wall coverings.
- Graphics: way finding through existing building, building and room signage.
- Casework: various built-in work tops, cabinets and desks.
- Space saver filing system for Clerk of Court.

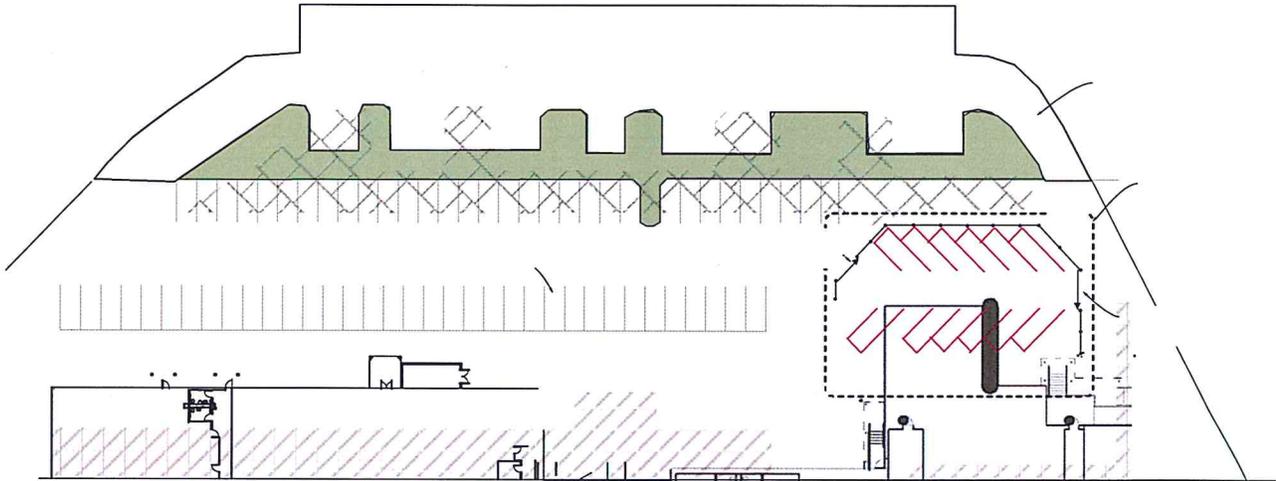
Systems

- MRL elevator system
- Programmable entry system with voice, video and swipe card operation.
- IT: data wiring provided from work areas to server room, switched by allowance, above ceiling cable trays, fiber back to existing building.
- Fire Alarm system
- Sprinkler system

- Emergency power generator for all building systems 230 KV diesel.
- Variable air volume heating and cooling system: 12 zones first floor, 14 zones second floor.
- Individual HVAC system for server room.
- Motion activated lighting system.
- LED lighting fixtures

Of particular note - There is no service required roof top equipment.





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FIRST READING – ORDINANCE#769 – “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE #465 PROVIDONG FOR THE USE OF THE MAXIMUM LEGAL PERCENTAGE OF LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX FUNDS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015; AND TO FURTHER USE AND APPLY FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVENUE SHORTFALLS IN LAURENS COUNTY AND OTHER MATTERS APPERTAINING THERETO” – VICE CHAIRMAN MCDANIEL made the MOTION to approve Ordinance #769 as presented with COUNCILMAN PITTS SECONDING; VOTE 6-0.

RESOLUTION #2014-11 “NATIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK” – VICE CHAIRMAN MCDANIEL made the MOTION to approve the Resolution as presented with COUNCILMAN TOLLISON SECONDING; VOTE6-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT – ERNIE SEGARS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR - Administrator Segars requested for Council to set another date for budget deliberations. There was a COUNCIL CONSENSUS to hold a work session on Tuesday, May 20, 2014 at the Historic Courthouse at 5:00 PM.

Councilman Tollison noted that he could not be in attendance due to out of state work.

Chairman Coleman asked Council to give thought to placing a fifteen dollar (\$15) fee on EMS to help purchase and staff a necessary station in Western Laurens.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Chairman Coleman opened the floor for public comments at 7:50 P.M.

- James Hayes, Hayes Ambulance Service, approached Council and said, “Several months ago, I approached Council about a mutual aid agreement. We have three (3) DHEC certified ambulances, available twenty four (24) hours a day. There have been 911 calls that have twenty (20) minutes or more for our services to be activated. I called Dispatch because one call was holding thirty six (36) minutes with two others holding at the same time. I had a crew less than one (1) mile away from the scene. There is a DHEC law that states an ambulance service must have a stacking policy and if necessary a mutual aid agreement. Why does mobile care, Greenville, be called first? Why won’t the County accept help from a local certified ambulance service? We have also requested 800 radio service from the County. We are here to help and not to get rich.”

Having no one else wishing to address Council, Chairman Coleman closed the session at 7:55 P.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – COUNCILMAN NASH made the MOTION for Council to move into Executive Session to discuss two (2) Employment Matters with COUNCILMAN PITTS SECONDING; VOTE 6-0.

Administrator Segars asked that Debi Parker, Laurens County Human Resource Manager and himself be the only Administrative Staff to attend.

Respectfully Submitted (to this end),



Betty C. Walsh
Laurens County Clerk to Council

Council reconvened in open session at 8:25 P.M.

Chairman Coleman reported that Council discussed two (2) employment matter with no action recommended.

ADJOURNMENT – With no further business, Chairman Coleman adjourned the meeting of Council at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ernest B. Segars, Administrator
Laurens County