

MINUTES
LAURENS COUNTY COUNCIL
APRIL 23, 2013 – 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 Diane Anderson, Ted Nash, David Pitts, Keith Tollison and Joe Wood.

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; 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 23, 2013; (2) Approval of Minutes from April 9, 2013; (3.) Second Reading, Laurens County Ordinance #751 – “Conveyance of Wattsville Alley-ways to the Laurens City Commission of Public Works”; (4.) First Reading, Laurens County Ordinance #752 – “An Ordinance to Assign and or Transfer a Fee-in-Lieu-of-Tax Arrangement from Security Printing”; (5.) Economic Fund Allocation (\$12,000) to the Laurens County Airport for a conference room and signage; (6) First Reading, Ordinance #753 (by title only) – “Fiscal Year 2013-2014 – Laurens County Budget”; (7) First Reading, Ordinance #754 (by title only) – “Providing a Special Education Appropriation FY 2013-2014”; (8) Approval, Resolution #2013-07 – May Laurens County EMS Month; (9) Administrative Report; (10) Public Comments; (11) County Council Comments; (12) Executive Session - Legal Briefing and Employment Matter; (13) Laurens County Council ADHOC Committee for “IT Services”- Immediately following the regular session of Council – approximately 6:30 P.M.

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 23, 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 23, 2013 – COUNCILMAN NASH made the MOTION to approve the agenda for April 23, 2013 with any additions or deletions; SECONDED by VICE CHAIRMAN MCDANIEL. COUNCIL VOTED 7-0 to approve the agenda.

APPROVAL – MINUTES – APRIL 9, 2013 – REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL – VICE CHAIRMAN MCDANIEL made the MOTION to approve the minutes from the April 9, 2013 meeting with any additions or deletions; SECONDED by COUNCILMAN TOLLISON; COUNCIL VOTED 7-0.

SECOND READING – ORDINANCE #751 – “CONVEYANCE OF WATTSVILLE ALLEY-WAYS TO THE LAURENS CITY COMMISSION OF PUBLIC WORKS” – VICE CHAIRMAN MCDANIEL made the MOTION to approve Ordinance #751 as presented. COUNCILMAN TOLLISON SECONDDING; VOTE 7-0.

FIRST READING – ORDINANCE #752 – “AN ORDINANCE TO ASSIGN AND OR TRANSFER OF A FEE-IN-LIEU-OF-TAX ARRANGEMENT FROM SECURITY PRINTING”. Addressing Council, Attorney Cruickshanks stated that at this time, no documents were ready to distribute; “Avery Dennison is planning to transfer certain assets to a company called CCL Label by June 30th. The County has three (3) Fee-in-Lieu-of-Agreements with Avery Dennison from 1996, 1999 and 2004. This is just an internal deal with Avery Dennison where one company will be taking over parts of Avery Dennison’s product line. Documents are forthcoming and will address a conversion of the former lease back to a regular simplified fee as well as the combined Fee-in-Lieu-of-Agreements”.

COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON made the MOTION to approve Ordinance #752 upon first reading as explained by the County Attorney. COUNCILMAN NASH SECONDING for discussion.

Chairman Coleman asked if any of the amounts would change. Attorney Cruickshanks replied that it would not involve monetary values changes but new investment options could happen. COUNCIL VOTED 7-0 to approve.

ECONOMIC FUND ALLOCATION (\$12,000) TO THE LAURENS COUNTY AIRPORT FOR A CONFERENCE ROOM AND SIGNAGE - Chairman Coleman informed Council that he would like to see and recommend for Council to approve an allocation of twelve thousand dollars (\$12,000) from an Economic Development Fund (Hunter funds with \$600,000 in account) maintained by the County to assist with the construction of a conference room and signage for the Laurens County Airport.

COUNCILMAN WOOD made the MOTION to approve the recommended twelve thousand dollars (\$12,000) from the Hunter Park Economic Development Funds and that he could see how this could be a plus for economic development within Laurens County. COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON SECONDING for discussion.

Councilman Pitts asked for clarification on the signage costs due to signs of this nature usually costing more. Chairman Coleman replied that this amount will help them and that they have their own monies committed to pay for services.

Councilman Tollison asked if the dollars tied to this purchase fell under the present procurement policy for the County. Administrator Segars replied that it would.

COUNCIL VOTED 7-0.

FIRST READING – ORDINANCE #753 (by title only) – “FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014 – LAURENS COUNTY BUDGET” – Administrator Segars said, “I am aware that Council has not begun review of a proposed budget for fiscal year 2013 – 2014 but by approving Ordinance #753 upon first reading by title only will keep the process moving as to the times between readings. First reading approval by title only represents the final, approved budget by Council during the last budget deliberations for Fiscal Year 2012-2013”

The proposed FY 2013 - 2014 budget includes the following for first reading purposes:

General Fund	\$20,368,515
EMS	\$ 3,190,455
Victim’s Assistance	\$ 176,804
<u>Enterprise Fund</u>	<u>\$ 2,049,412</u>
	\$25,785,186

Chairman Coleman asked for consideration of a date for holding a budget work session.

- First Budget Work Session – Monday, May 6, 2013 – 5:30 P.M. – Historic Courthouse.

Administrator Segars said that the budget packages would be finalized by Friday of this week.

COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON made the MOTION to approve Ordinance #753 upon first reading and by title only; COUNCILMAN TOLLISON SECONDDING for further discussion.

Councilman Tollison reminded Council of two (2) County Council Committee’s need to meet and finalize proposed criteria to be included into the budget as well as discussed by Council. Administrator Segars added for Council discussion during the budget deliberations; the local optional sales tax monies and consideration of equal pay for correctional officers as in the Sheriff’s Department. Chairman Coleman added that there were still other discussions pending in other areas too.

COUNCIL VOTED 7-0.

FIRST READING – ORDINANCE #754 (by title only) – “PROVIDING FOR A SPECIAL EDUCATION MILLAGE APPROPRIATION FY 2013-2014”- Again, Administrator Segars stated that this will be considered as first reading so as to keep the readings in line with the County Budget Ordinance #753. And, that this proposes a one (1) mill of property tax to fund the operations of Piedmont Technical College and USC Union at Laurens. According to the Ordinance, Piedmont Technical College will receive 90% of the proceeds of the tax levy and USC-Union at Laurens will receive 10%.

RESOLUTION #2013-07 – MAY – LAURENS COUNTY EMS MONTH – COUNCLMAN NASH made the MOTION to approve the Resolution as requested with COUNCILMAN PITTS SECONDDING; VOTE 7-0.

FUNDING REQUEST(S) – LAURENS DISTRICT #55 ROBOTICS TEAM AND CLINTON DISTRICT #56 OLYMPIAD TEAM – Chairman Coleman began by saying that last year, Council approved seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7,500) towards the request from District #56 Olympiad Team and has contributed to the team for several years.

- District #55 High School – Robotics Team - Ms. Sonja Bryant, Principal, Laurens District #55 High School informed Council; “Our Robotics Team was sought out by the Bosh Corporation over the Greenville High Schools. Our Team has made it through two other regional competitions held in Myrtle Beach and in Orlando, Florida. We now are headed to the All Star Competition held in St. Louis, Missouri. The Team has been apprentices at Bosh since October and have traveled on site every Monday thru Thursday and all day on Saturday, training. The Team actually built and programed their own robot for these competitions. Bosh provided all of the equipment and manpower and was not allowed to fund any of the monies for travel. We are looking at costs of approximately twenty four thousand dollars (\$24,000). Various fund raisers have been held along with several funding sources thru corporate sponsorships to help us reach our funding goal”.
- District #56 High School – Olympiad Team – Saying that Council was aware of their program, Mrs. O’Shields said that in May the team will be traveling to the Nationals in Dayton, Ohio and that any support from Council would be appreciated. They will be taking two (2) buses with eighty two (82) people.

COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON made a MOTION to continue with the financial support seven thousand five hundred dollar (\$7,500) for District #56 Olympiad Team since they have been active for several years and; to support the Laurens District #55 High School Robotics Team with five thousand dollars (\$5,000). COUNCILMAN PITTS SECONDDING for discussion.

Councilman Nash stated that he would like to know how much they need, how much it is going to cost and how much they have. District #55 Principal Bryant said that they are seven thousand eight hundred (\$7,800) short from their projected total. Coach O’Shields said that their budget was in the thirty to forty thousand dollar (\$30,000 - \$40,000) range and that if monies were left over from the last competition it is always rolled over to the new year.

Councilman Wood said, “I congratulate all on the achievements made but, I can not vote for that much money”.

Councilwoman Anderson said, “I feel this is a good investment as they are our children of the future. I am certain that some will leave the county while others will stay and I feel that we need to support them while they are here. I know that it is not appropriate now to ask for special appropriations but I feel confident that this is a positive investment”.

Vice Chairman McDaniel said, “Everyone knows how I feel about special appropriations. I congratulate all of the Coaches and mentors but my quandary is that this is a school activity and the schools need to provide this financial support. This Council has had as many as twenty one (21) special appropriations in years past...we now have it down to four (4). To determine how much funds to provide is the question. Laurens High is close seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7,500) short....why do so much for one and not for the other”.

VICE CHAIRMAN MCDANIEL asked to AMEND the earlier MOTION and to provide an equal amount to both programs; seventy five hundred dollars (\$7,500). COUNCILMAN TOLLISON SECONDING but, noting the amount of four thousand dollars (\$4,000) each. Councilman McDaniel replied that the motion was for seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7,500) each. COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON ACCEPTED THE AMENDED MOTION OF seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7,500) each. COUNCILMAN PITTS SECONDING the motion by Vice Chairman McDaniel for discussion.

Councilman Tollison said, “I feel that this Council is reaching too deep for funding special appropriations. No doubt they all work hard to achieve”.

Councilman Nash said, “What about funding for Gray Court and the Hickory Tavern Schools, they have programs that need funding too and the school districts get the largest portion of our tax dollars. This Council has not even got into the budget process yet knowing that our county employees work for close to minimum wage”. Chairman Coleman replied that Gray Court and Hickory Tavern are in School District #55 too.

COUNCIL VOTED 4-3 (Council Members Anderson, Coleman, McDaniel and Pitts voted in favor of the motion; Council Members Nash, Tollison and Wood voted against the motion). The vote consisted of approving the allocation of seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7,500) to both school programs.

Vice Chairman McDaniel said, “Folks, we have allocated tonight, right at thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) for the Airport and the schools. We cannot spend our ways to financial freedom”.

Councilman Tollison said, “While I commend both schools and congratulate them on their achievements, I would also like to commend District #55 for the exercise that was conducted on Monday; it was very inventive”. Principal Bryant replied, “This was the student’s idea to do. We interacted with local fire, EMS and police with a reenactment of a car wreck implying the what-if’s to those involved. From students coming to me afterwards, it did have an impact on them. If one child got the whole idea and made a better decision, it was worth it”.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT – Administrator Segars briefed Council on a letter received asking for all to respond to *House Bill 3290 – Solid Waste Flow Control*. Continuing, Administrator Segars said, “This is a Bill that is being pushed by large out of state waste corporations. If passed, this will allow any County ordinances controlling where solid waste is disposed to become invalid and will promote more out of state waste coming into South Carolina. Eventually it would take away all local government decisions and affecting Home Rule.”

Chairman Coleman asked that a letter be constructed and sent to the Senator stating these facts and how it would affect our County and our State.

VICE CHAIRMAN MCDANIEL made the MOTION to approve for a letter to be sent to our local Senator describing all situations should the Bill pass. COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON SECONDING for further discussion.

Councilman Pitts asked why there was such a momentum in both the House and Senate for this Bill other than money. Administrator Segars replied that the big waste management organizations are pushing it. Adding to the conversation, Public Works Director Scott Holland said that early on state legislation gave this authority to the County and now they are wanting to say now that we cannot do this; this goes against the Home Rule that is presently in place.

Councilman Nash noted that the *Friday Reports* from the South Carolina Association of Counties advises of how the Representatives voted.

COUNCIL VOTED 7-0 to approve sending a letter to the lead Senator.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Chairman Coleman opened the floor for public comments at 6:16 P.M.

- 1.) Mr. Bryan Smith, Clemson Extension Agent, introduced Ms. Cassie Wycoff as the new Laurens County Agent for Livestock and Forages.
- 2.) Mr. Richard Pitts announced that on May 3, 1945, the last Prisoner of War from Laurens County will be represented in a camp meeting in St Louis, Missouri.

With no one else wishing to address Council, Chairman Coleman closed the session at 6:18 P.M.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

- Councilman Tollison noted the Council Adhoc Committee on IT would be meeting briefly following the regular session of Council.
- Councilman Wood said, “After much thought and discussion among various individuals, I feel that as a Council, we need to slow down with the expansion plan for the Administrative Offices at Hillcrest Square. An alternate plan needs to be possibly researched and considered as to what is best for the County. Our plan is now considering the Magistrate Offices and I feel that this plan now might just not be the best bang for the buck. One suggestion I have is for Council to look into the old Winn Dixie building to house Administration and possible Law Enforcement”.
- Councilwoman Anderson wished School District #55 a safe trip to the St Louis competitions and encouraged them to bring back to Laurens County a lot of awards.

- Chairman Coleman echoed the same encouragement to the two (2) Schools for upcoming competitions and noted the upcoming Job Fair being held in Greenwood by the Upper Savannah Council of Governments.

ADJOURNMENT – With no further business, Chairman Coleman adjourned the meeting at 6:25 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Betty C. Walsh

Laurens County Clerk to Council