***Laurens County Development Corporation***

Board Meeting - **Minutes**

Tuesday – May 19, 2015

Attendees:

Stan Bryson, Mayor John Carter, Rusty Denning, Jeff Field, Randy Garrett, Tom Hardy, Randy Lis, David Pitts, Ernie Segars, Frank Stovall, Mayor John Stankus, Steve West, Collie Lehn, and John Young

Guests:

Aimee Redick (Upstate SC Alliance), Diane Anderson (Laurens County Council), Stephen Taylor (City of Clinton), Jennifer Wilbanks (PTC)

Staff:

Marvin Moss, Jon Coleman, Lynn Finley and Sandy Cruickshanks.

Press:

Cory Engle (Advertiser), Emil Finley (WLBG), Jennifer Brown (golaurens.com) and Larry Franklin (Chronicle).

Chairman Bryson called the meeting to order at 12:10 and Mayor John Carter gave the invocation.

*Minutes and Financials*

Chairman Bryson asked the Board for a motion to approve the meeting’s agenda. Randy Garrett made the motion to approve and Frank Stovall seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the agenda.

Chairman Bryson then asked the Board for a motion to approve the minutes from the 03/17/15 meeting. Frank Stovall made the motion to approve the minutes as presented and Jeff Field seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the minutes.

Lynn Finley provided a recap of expenses for March and April. With no questions or comments, the financials were accepted as information only.

Update on Investors: 4 new investors in the past two months. In March: Triangle Construction at $500. In April: Wesley Crum, Attorney at $250, BL Harbert at $500, and Carolina Concrete at $1,000. There are 46 current investors.

*Existing Industry/Retail Update – Jon Coleman:*

* Have 3 current expansions in the works.
* There were 25 teams to play in the annual investor appreciation golf tournament held in April. This is the strongest interest we’ve had yet and the support is very much appreciated. It was a great day where we had many allies, industries, and board members supporting the LCDC and Laurens County.
* All staff attended the SC Manufacturing Expo held in Greenville in April.
* Upper Savannah had their semi-annual job fair several weeks ago at the Greenwood Mall. They typically host a job fair in April and September. There were a good number of Laurens County companies participating. The LCDC assisted in hosting a job fair just for Laurens County in January and plan to host a second in June or July.
* Attended the SCEDA annual meeting in early May.
* The CEO Round Table scheduled for last week was postponed until June due to multiple last minute conflicts with our industry leaders attending.
* CSX visited recently and toured several of their rail sites around The County.
* Chick-fil-A has begun their construction and is moving along as expected.

*Economic Development Update – Marvin Moss:*

* Have several projects that expect to announce in the next several months. Project Yak is about a $15 million project with approximately 25 jobs looking in the lower end of the county. The grant application for the state has been completed. Project DMZ is looking at acquiring the Spec Building. Project Lace has made an offer on the BBA building in Gray Court. Have another project looking in Hunter.
* RFIs: 1 in March, 8 in April – YTD: 24
* Site Visits: 1 in March, 5 in April – YTD: 13
* 3 project requests that we could not submit on.
* So far in 2015, have announced 85 new jobs between 3S International and Inteplast with $35 million in new investment.
* Attended SAE week in Detroit with other economic development leaders from the upstate along with Aimee Redick of Upstate Alliance in April.
* The priority projects committee has met a couple of times since the last board meeting and plan to have something to present to the board in July.

*CEDC Update – Stephen Taylor:*

* Have completed the strategic plan and is posted on the website for comment. Plan to take before Council for endorsement in June.
* Completed the timbering at Clinton Corporate Park III and have cleared a 13 acre spot. Plan to put out bids for grubbing and grass in the next few weeks.
* The City has partnered with the Kauffman Foundation to offer the Fast Track Program to local business owners. There are currently 10 businesses half way through the program being offered.
* Hosted the first Rhythm on the Rails Festival in May and hope to make it an annual event.

*Laurens ED Update – John Young:*

* Starting a new Jump Start grant program. Have two slots at $2,500 each for a startup business on the Square. Applications are due June 15.
* With help from the City of Laurens they have gotten a new roof on the Chaney Building. Now in the process of stabilizing the rest of the building and deciding what they will do with it.
* Recently awarded two $1,000 façade grants. One to The Vault and the other to the Planned Home Heath Office.

*Upstate SC Alliance Update – Aimee Redick:*

* Provided a report on three different examples of the types of work provided by the Upstate Alliance specific to the automotive industry. These are focused on inbound events, outbound events, and marketing.
* They are seeing good activity for the Upstate as a whole. They have had over 90 meetings with companies, site consultants and other influencers this year.
* Hosting the 2nd Quarter board meeting on May 20 in Laurens at the CAM

*Other Business – Stan Bryson:*

* Chairman Bryson asked Mr. Pitts to report on the recent coverage of the LCDC funding cut from Laurens County Council during current budget planning. Mr. Pitts reported that Laurens County is facing a deficit budget this year and cuts have been made across the board. In regards to the LCDC the Council passed a compromise resolution leaving the ordinance intact where The County would annually write a check to the LCDC for $360,000 and then the LCDC would in turn reimburse the County $30,000 made payable on or before December 31, 2015. That is an 8.3% cut from The County to the Development Corporation.
* Frank Stovall was asked to report on the Finance Committee meeting to approve a project update. Mr. Stovall reported that the committee voted to authorize staff to expend $4,980.00 from the project account to pay Thomas & Hutton for the work associated with updating the annual priority project report.

Chairman Bryson asked for a motion to go into Executive Session at 12:39 to discuss a contractual matter on the acquisition and the sale of some property. Jeff Field motioned and Ernie Segars seconded.

The Board returned to open session at 12:58. The Chairman asked for a motion to approve:

Frank Stovall made a motion to authorize the Chairman and the Executive Director to execute the following actions on behalf of the LCDC. First, to acquire approximately 20 acres of property with a price not to exceed $16,000 per acre. And secondly, to sell the spec building for an amount no less than $1.8 million. Randy Garrett seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn S. Finley