***Laurens County Development Corporation***

Board Meeting – **Minutes**

Tuesday – September 20, 2016

Attendees:

Greg Alexander, Stan Bryson, Jon Caime, Mayor John Carter, Gary Coleman, Rich D’Alberto, Jeff Field, Randy Garrett, Tom Hardy, Randy Lis, Dr. Stephen Peters, David Pitts, Frank Stovall, Steve West, John Young, Collie Lehn, and Rodney Smith

Guests:

John Lummus (Upstate SC Alliance), Marvin Moss (CEDC), Stewart Jones (County Council), Sam Leaman (Upper Savannah)

Staff:

Jon Coleman, Lynn Finley, Sandy Cruickshanks

Press:

Vic MacDonald (Chronicle), Billy Dunlap (goLaurens.com), Cory Engle (Advertiser), Emil Finley (WLBG)

Chairman Bryson called the meeting to order at 12:00 and 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 David Pitts seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the agenda.

Chairman Bryson then asked the Board for a motion to approve the minutes from the 7/19/16 meeting. Frank Stovall made the motion to approve the minutes as presented and Greg Alexander seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the minutes.

Lynn Finley provided a recap of expenses for July and August. The financials were accepted as information only.

*Executive Director’s Report – Jonathan Coleman:*

* Laurens County was chosen as a Spotlight county in the current *State of the Upstate* magazine published by Greenville Business Magazine. Everyone was given a copy.
* The new Board of Directors wall display is complete in the LCDC board room and everyone is invited to stop and see.
* Yanfeng in the Fountain Inn area had their grand opening since the last board meeting. They had an investment of $71 million and 35 new jobs but also a savings of about 500 existing jobs to our county.
* ZF had their first apprenticeship signing day in mid-August. They invited all the new apprentices and their families to come to the facility for the event. Lynn Finley reported that there are 10 apprentices – 9 men and 1 woman, all from Laurens County, who will be going through the program. ZF did a great job on the signing day and hosting the families in their corporate board room. There has also been a great partnership between our high schools and Piedmont Tech to make this happen. It’s very encouraging to see that our high schools have already started promoting and working with interested students to fill next fall’s class with 11th and 12th graders.
* Mr. Coleman reported that he will be participating in a marketing mission trip with Upstate SC Alliance, former Canadian Ambassador David Wilkens, and a few other upstate local developers to Canada.
* The 2017 budget will be presented for approval at the next board meeting.
* RFI update: 32 – through August / 37 – at the same point in 2015. Site visits has been very slow. Of the 32 RFIs – 12 in Clinton, 9 in Laurens, 15 in Gray Court/Fountain Inn area. There have been 16 RFIs where no sites could be submitted.
* 2016 announcements to date: 3 (D&W Fine Pack, Bodycote, Yanfeng) Total Investment: $94.5 million with 127 new jobs. Currently working on 3 new expansion projects that may alter this information by year end. The current unemployment rate for Laurens County is down to 5.7% for the year versus 6.7% in 2015.

*Industry Tour – Jonathan Coleman:*

* Working on setting a date with Mr. Caime to host County Council and the LCDC board on a local industry tour. Would like to tour 3 to 4 industries in the county.

*OIP Reinvestment Fund (Powers South Recertification) – Stan Bryson*

Jonathan Coleman covered a resolution that everyone has a copy of in their packets which the finance committee met to discuss. The Powers South Industrial Site is roughly 200 acres and is just south of ZF. It is due to be recertified this year which is currently being worked on and the State will reimburse the LCDC 75% of the total cost. The resolution states to use an amount not to exceed $60,000 from the Owings Industrial Park Reinvestment Fund for the recertification of the Powers South Industrial Site. The reimbursement will be deposit back into the same account. With no questions Chairman Bryson called for a vote. Coming from the Finance Committee as a recommendation it does not need a motion nor second. The resolution passed unanimously.

*Appointment of Nominating Committee – Stan Bryson*

Chairman Bryson stated that a nominating committee needed to be appointed to recommend the 2017 -2018 slate of officers. Board members chosen: Greg Alexander, Rich D’Alberto, and Steve West. All three gentlemen accepted the appointment to the nominating committee. The slate of officers will be presented at the next board meeting in November.

*November Board Meeting Date 11.8.16 – Stan Bryson*

This will be a week earlier than usual so please mark accordingly on your schedules. Mr. Coleman will be attending a continuing education class during the week of the originally scheduled meeting.

*Other Reports:*

John Lummus (Upstate SC Alliance)

Mr. Lummus shared the Upstate SC Alliance’s appreciation in Laurens County’s continued member investment and support in reaching the joint initiatives in the Upstate along with the City of Clinton and the other private sector investors in the room. Project announcements are at about 50 for the year. Activity is good and they are moving into their busy time for travel for the staff. They are currently working on a new strategic plan and updating the website. Will be hosting a group of about 8 national site consultants in October for 3 days. Laurens County will be hosting some from the group providing a highlight of the county.

*Executive Session:*

None

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn S. Finley