***Laurens County Development Corporation***

Board Meeting – **Minutes**

Tuesday – July 19, 2016

Attendees:

Greg Alexander, Stan Bryson, Jon Caime, Mayor John Carter, Roger Case, Rusty Denning, Randy Lis, Dr. Stephen Peters, Mayor John Stankus, Frank Stovall, John Young, Rodney Smith, and Steve West

Guests:

Matt Phillips (McKinley Cooper), John Lummus (Upstate SC Alliance), Marvin Moss (CEDC), Chris Lipp (Piedmont Tech)

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. Frank Stovall made the motion to approve and Greg Alexander seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the agenda.

Chairman Bryson then asked the Board for a motion to approve the minutes from the 5/17/16 meeting. Greg Alexander made the motion to approve the minutes as presented and Frank Stovall seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the minutes.

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

*2015 Audit Report – Matt Phillips, McKinley Cooper:*

Matt Phillips provided a detailed review of the 2015 audit results. He reported that the LCDC was in great financial position at the end of 2015 and no major findings were reported.

*Executive Director’s Report – Jonathan Coleman:*

* Recent announcement of a $71 million investment and 35 new jobs with Yanfeng Automotive in Fountain Inn. Mr. Coleman pointed out that what the announcement doesn’t say is that it saved approximately 500 jobs for Laurens County. Yanfeng was looking at another location in the Upstate but decided to purchase the Faurecia facility instead. This was a big win for Laurens County. This announcement brings our 2016 investment total up to $94.5 million in capital investment and 127 new jobs.
* SC BIZ published a recent spotlight on Laurens County in their most current issue. Everyone has a copy in their board information. Martin Brother’s Construction and Laurens County Water & Sewer Commission were recognized as having placed ads in the section. As part of the circulation, this magazine is sent to over 1,000 site selection consultants.
* The LCDC had a site to recently go through the Duke Energy Site Readiness Program with Innovation Park. This site is located at Exit 9 on I-385 and US HWY 221. They will be back on August 11 to present their assessment to the community which will also include information on what a community needs to do to win in the economic development game. The meeting will be held at the CAM over lunch.
* Mr. Coleman recently spoke to a group of high school guidance counselors in the Piedmont Tech service territory about economic development. They are interested in hearing about what type of jobs are available to their students in the area so they can be better prepared.
* Continuing to partner with the City of Clinton and Laurens Electric Co-op on the Clinton I-26 Commerce Park and spec building.
* Recently hosted a CEO Roundtable at the CAM. The topic was explaining incentives and how that coordinates with the state and county. The conversation also included the topic of workforce and there was a good discussion about that. One initiative that is currently be implemented is an apprenticeship program at ZF. Lynn Finley reported that 5 full-day planning sessions will be held at ZF soon which will include teachers, guidance counselors, and high school students to put together a marketing plan for the ZF apprenticeship program. This is a partnership between ZF, Piedmont Tech, and Laurens School Districts 55 & 56. The current plan is to have approximately 30 people enter the program each year for a 3 to 4 year learning commitment. The first class will be all adult but ZF will begin integrating high school juniors and seniors in the fall of 2017.
* Beginning the process of developing a job description and job posting for a new position to add a third employee to the LCDC. It will be for a marketing manager who will be focused on marketing initiatives, research, RFI completion and social media.
* The Upstate Alliance is taking a mission trip to Toronto and Montreal, Canada in October and Jon has been asked to participate. It will also include a reception with Ambassador David Wilkins.

*Other Reports:*

John Lummus (Upstate SC Alliance)

Mr. Lummus shared that the two main things The Alliance continues to hear is the need for workforce and product. He stated that it is encouraging to hear that Laurens County is focused on both and has a really good story to sell.

*Executive Session:*

None

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn S. Finley