

## ***Laurens County Development Corporation***

Board Meeting – **Minutes**

Tuesday – March 19, 2019

### Attendees:

Shawn Bell, Justin Benfield, Stan Bryson, Jon Caime, Bill Ed Cannon, Mayor John Carter, Rusty Denning, Jeff Field, Randy Garrett, Randy Lis, Amanda Munyan, Dr. David Pitts, John Young, Collie Lehn

### Guests:

Diane Anderson (County Council)

### Staff:

Jon Coleman, Lynn Finley, Sandy Cruickshanks

### Press:

Randy Stevens (WLBG), Vic MacDonald (Chronicle)

Chairman Garrett called the meeting to order at 12:02 and gave the invocation.

### Minutes and Financials

Chairman Garrett asked the Board for a motion to approve the meeting's agenda. John Young made the motion to approve and Shawn Bell seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the agenda.

Chairman Garrett then asked the Board for a motion to approve the minutes from the 11/20/18 meeting. Justin Benfield made the motion to approve the minutes as presented and Shawn Bell seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the minutes.

Lynn Finley provided a recap of expenses for December 2018, January and February 2019. The financials were accepted as information only.

### Prospect Activity Report – Jonathan Coleman

Mr. Coleman provided an update on 2019 project activity. There have been 10 RFIs to date compared to 22 at the same point in 2018. That seems to be a statewide trend. 2018 ended with \$59.3 million in capital investment announced with 74 new jobs. At this point in 2019, new capital investment is at \$53 million with 150 new jobs. Included in these 2019 numbers is a new prospect in the final stages of purchasing the spec building in Hunter Industrial Park. This announcement will be finalized on April 9.

### Product Development Update – Jonathan Coleman

Work has begun at the Connexial Center which is the new industrial park located along I-385 and Friendship Church Rd in the Owings area and is 500 acres. The trees along the interstate have been daylighted, grading of the entrance road has started along with installing drainage, offsite water and sewer upgrades. The entrance road is projected to be completed in June.

About a year and a half ago the LCDC board approved funding to match with the County and the County Council approved at the last meeting to help fund a traffic corridor study for that area around N. Old Laurens Rd. In light of not being awarded the Federal Highway Administration Build Grant, the LCDC will now pursue implementing this stage of the corridor study. This study is required to justify the current traffic upgrades and needs in this area to the SC DOT.

### Industry & Workforce Dev Update – Lynn Finley

Ms. Finley provided an update beginning with a job fair planned for April 25 from 9:00 to noon at the PTC Higher Ed Center. The first hour will be dedicated to graduating high school students as well as students at PTC, USC Union-Laurens and PC. It will be open to adult job seekers from 10:00 to noon. We plan on about 20

employers participating. The LCDC will be co-hosting the next Chamber “In the Know Breakfast” on April 4 at the PTC CAM Center. Boeing will present about the economic impact of the aerospace industry in SC and also visit with school students in each district to share about careers in STEM related fields. Brawo USA has volunteered to host 2 different student groups this month for tours. On Wednesday of this week the Chamber’s Junior Leadership group will visit and later in the month the Clinton High SC Manufacturing class will tour. They have been very helpful and accommodating to host these students. There are several expansion projects to mention. Project Autumn (Milliken) was finalized in January with an investment of \$2.5 million. Project Needlepunch will announce with an investment of \$12.1 million and 25 new jobs. Project X will announce with \$20 million in investment and 20 new jobs.

LCDC Board Update – Jonathan Coleman

Mr. Coleman shared that School Districts 55 and 56, which hold a shared board seat, have decide to not renew their commitment for the year. Both districts fully support the partnership of economic development and education but the decision was based on financial reasons resulting from the uncertainties faced from upcoming state legislation. The LCDC regrets the school districts’ decision but will continue to support them and their initiatives wherever possible.

Upcoming Events – Jonathan Coleman

The annual Industry & Investor Golf Tournament will be hosted on April 18 at Musgrove Mill Golf Club. The field is almost full and staff will be looking forward to a great day of networking. The 2019 annual meeting was in January and well attended. The new website is complete and up for review.

Other Reports:

None

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lynn S. Finley