

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

Board Meeting – **Minutes**

Tuesday – November 20, 2018

### Attendees:

Shawn Bell, Justin Benfield, Stan Bryson, Jon Caime, Jeff Field, Randy Garrett, Randy Lis, Amanda Munyan, Dr. David O'Shields, Dr. David Pitts, Steve West, John Young

### Guests:

None

### Staff:

Jon Coleman, Lynn Finley, Whitney Robertson, Sandy Cruickshanks

### Press:

Emil Finley (WLBG), John Clayton (Advertiser), Vic MacDonald (Chronicle)

Chairman Field called the meeting to order at 12:20 and gave the invocation.

### Minutes and Financials

Chairman Field asked the Board for a motion to approve the meeting's agenda. Stan Bryson made the motion to approve and John Young seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the agenda.

Chairman Field then asked the Board for a motion to approve the minutes from the 09/11/18 meeting. Randy Garrett made the motion to approve the minutes as presented and Stan Bryson seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the minutes.

Lynn Finley provided a recap of expenses for September and October 2018. The financials were accepted as information only.

### Prospect Activity Report – Jonathan Coleman

Mr. Coleman shared that first reading was held on a new industry labeled Project Gator. This company will be located in Hunter Industrial Park. The final announcement should be the second week of January. It is a \$12.5 million investment with 44 jobs.

Update on overall prospect inquiries and RFIs: The fall has seen a decrease in activity. 1 in September, 3 in October and none in November. Total RFIs to date: 47 with 14 site visits. (compared to 2 visits in 2017). Have had more opportunity to submit on more projects in 2018 due to having available buildings.

The Upstate SC Alliance hosted an event recently at ZF Transmissions. The focus and presentation was on ZF's efforts in growing their own pipeline of talent. Mr. Coleman will also be partnering with the Upstate SC Alliance in November hosting a site selectors luncheon in Atlanta.

### Product Development Update – Jonathan Coleman

Mr. Coleman thanked Mr. Caime and his team from Roads and Bridges for their assistance in ordering and installing nine large highway styled signs for directional purposes in the Old Laurens Rd area and near ZF. Notification has still not been received on the \$1.6 million grant from the Federal DOT for the corridor study of the area between Exit 22 to Friendship Church Rd. The last update was the awards would be announced after the November elections.

The LCDC has received a notice of award for a \$500,000 rural infrastructure grant from the State and a notification of award for a \$300,000 site enhancement grant from the SC Department of Commerce – both are to be used at the Connexial Center. This total of \$800,000 will go toward sewer improvements. A bid opening will be held at the LCDC on 11/27 for the onsite road and onsite waterline.

There is a brochure at everyone's place for the Connexial Center and LEC is also working on a website dedicated solely to this park to aid in promotion.

THS Constructors mobilized 2 weeks ago on the Hunter Spec Building but the rain has prevented progress. As soon as the ground dries enough they will begin moving forward on construction.

Industry & Workforce Dev Update – Lynn Finley

The Business & Industry Showcase was held in early October at the PTC CAM. There were 24 different entities participating which covered career clusters of manufacturing, education, health care, utilities, technology, agribusiness, and finance. Approximately 900 8<sup>th</sup> grade students from Laurens and Newberry Counties attended.

Work has begun on a new expansion project for an existing industry. The first reading was held on Project Autumn at the last County Council meeting. This project is for an investment of \$2.5 million over the next five years.

The 2018 annual industry wage survey link was emailed in November. This is an anonymous survey just for industries located in Laurens County. Results will be shared with the board when the data is completed.

2019 Budget Approval – John Young, Treasurer

Finance Committee Chairman, John Young, directed everyone's attention to the proposed 2019 budget previously provided and also included in the information packets. He reported the finance committee met in September to work on the budget and is presenting this balanced budget to the board for a vote. Mr. Coleman went through the budget to explain certain line items that had changes from the previous year and answered questions. Coming from the Finance Committee no motion is needed. Chairman Field called for a vote and the 2019 budget was approved unanimously.

2019-2020 Officer Election – Stan Bryson, Nominating Committee Chair

Mr. Bryson reported that the nominating committee, consisting of himself, Amanda Munyan, and Justin Benfield met and have a new slate of officers to present. The proposed officers would serve a 2 year term on the Executive Committee for the years of 2019 - 2021. They are as follows: Randy Garrett – Chairman, John Young – Vice Chairman, David Pitts – Treasurer, Steve West – Secretary, and Jeff Field – Past Chairman. Coming from a committee no motion is needed. Chairman Field called for a vote and the slate of officers was approved unanimously.

Annual Meeting – Jon Coleman

Mr. Coleman shared that the 2019 meeting dates have been set and provided in the information packets. The annual meeting will be on Tuesday, January 15 at 4:00 and will be held at Musgrove Mill Golf Club in Clinton. The speaker will be the president of the company that has been designing the new website.

Other Reports:

Mr. Coleman presented Chairman Field with a token of appreciation from the staff & board. He expressed the staff's gratitude on his hard work and dedication to the LCDC, especially during his time spent as chairman.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lynn S. Finley