***Laurens County Development Corporation***

Board Meeting – **Minutes**

Tuesday – January 19, 2016

Attendees:

Stan Bryson, Roger Case, Rich D’Alberto, Rusty Denning, Jeff Field, Tom Hardy, Randy Lis, Ernie Segars, Frank Stovall, Mayor John Stankus, Steve West, John Young, and Collie Lehn

Guests:

Emelie Hegarty (Upstate SC Alliance), Garrett McDaniel & Stewart Jones (County Council), Marvin Moss (CEDC)

Staff:

Jon Coleman, Lynn Finley, Sandy Cruickshanks.

Press:

Vic MacDonald (Chronicle), Emil Finley (WLBG), Cory Engle (Advertiser)

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 Mayor John Stankus seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the agenda.

Chairman Bryson then asked the Board for a motion to approve the minutes from the 11/17/15 meeting. Frank Stovall made the motion to approve the minutes as presented and Rich D’Alberto seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the minutes.

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

Update on Investors: Two investors have dropped and two investors have increased their level of support over the past two months. There are 44 current investors. Investment levels have been renamed to the following: Supporter - $500 / Advocate - $1,000 / Partner - $1,500+

*2015 Annual Review – Jonathan Coleman:*

Mr. Coleman presented a brief overview of the highlights of 2015. He included a listing of all announcements which included 892 new jobs announced with $147 million in new capital investment in the county. To break the capital investment down into the 3 primary areas of the county: Gray Court / Fountain Inn represents approximately $68 million of the overall investment, Laurens represents approximately $25 million and Clinton represents approximately $54 million. The new job announcements rank at the 4th best year in the LCDC history and capital investment the 5th. The Department of Revenue released the 2015 average hourly wage as a decrease in Laurens County to $15.07. The last reported unemployment rate from November 2015 is at 7%. RFIs for the year were down with 48 total and 32 site visits. The breakdown of the properties submitted was 20 in the Clinton area, 9 in the Laurens area, and 23 in the Gray Court/Fountain Inn area. To wrap up, Jon shared that Laurens County moved down in a Tier Level from II to III for 2016. This helps on the incentive side but is based on the per capita income and unemployment rate for the county. The 46 counties in the state are divided equally across 4 tiers. Tier I is the top level with Tier IV the lowest.

*Laurens County Memorial Hospital Update – Rich D’Alberto:*

Mr. D’Alberto gave an informative presentation on the debate around the governance structure with the Greenville Hospital System. The planners and strategic thinkers of GHS are moving forward with this plan because they feel it is the right thing to do and they must do to survive in the increasingly competitive industry of healthcare. They are doing this by building a multi-regional strategy to reach the population they want to serve. This also allows them to provide high class subspecialties to the entire network while networking with other hospitals. GHS now has a medical teaching school which is also essential to their survival.

*Executive Director’s Update – Jonathan Coleman:*

* Mr. Coleman pointed out that everyone has a copy of the most recent SC DOC publication which is sent out all over the world. The LCDC does have an ad in the publication.
* Information has been sent out on our annual Industry & Investor Appreciation Golf Tournament which will be held on Thursday, March 24 at Musgrove Mill. There is a limit to 24 teams this year and there are already teams registering. This event has gained a very good reputation all over the state as a great networking opportunity.
* Piedmont Technical College is working on a Phase III expansion for the CAM. Rusty Denning shared that they are currently in the design phase and plan to get started on construction in the early fall.
* Have contracted with a marketing firm to work on a new design for a presentation template and a new print ad. Mr. Coleman unveiled a new refreshed logo design for the LCDC. The feel is consistent with the previous logo so that drastic changes wouldn’t need to be made to other items currently carrying the logo.

*Bylaw Modification – Jonathan Coleman:*

Mr. Coleman presented the recommended bylaw changes which had been discussed at the November 2015 meeting. There are three main changes: Increase the limit of board members from 15 to 17, a name correction for Main Street Laurens’ Economic Enhancement Committee, and extending the term for officers from a one year term to a two year term. With the recommendation coming from the Executive Committee no motion was needed so a vote was called by Chairman Bryson. With no further discussion the Board unanimously approved the recommended bylaw changes.

*Other Reports:*

None

*Executive Session:*

Chairman Bryson asked for a motion to go into Executive Session at 12:58. Ernie Segars motioned to enter into executive session and Roger Case seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved moving into executive session.

The Board returned to open session at 1:06. Chairman Bryson stated that a legal briefing with regards to the bylaws change was covered and no action was taken.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn S. Finley