***Laurens County Development Corporation***

Board Meeting - **Minutes**

Tuesday – May 20, 2014

Attendees:

Dr. Ray Brooks, Collie Lehn, Stan Bryson, Ernie Segars, Tom Hardy, Jim Coleman, Mayor John Carter, Jeff Field, Steve West, Mayor Sharon Brownlee, Randy Garrett and Frank Stovall.

Guests:

Jacob Hickman, Upstate SC Alliance

Staff:

Marvin Moss, Jon Coleman and Sandy Cruickshanks.

Press:

 Corey Engle, Emil Finley (WLBG) and Vic McDonald (Chronicle).

Chairman Coleman called the meeting to order at noon and gave the invocation.

*Minutes and Financials*

Chairman Coleman asked the Board for a motion to approve the meeting’s agenda. Mayor Sharon Brownlee made the motion to approve and Dr. Brooks seconded the motion. Chairman Coleman asked the Board to approve the executive session on the agenda. The Board unanimously approved the executive session on the agenda.

Chairman Coleman then asked the Board for a motion to approve the minutes from the 03/18/14 meeting. Stan Bryson made the motion to approve the minutes as presented and Dr. Brooks seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the minutes.

Marvin Moss provided a recap of expenses for March and April 2014. With no questions or comments, the financials were accepted as information only.

*Existing Industry/Retail Update – Jon Coleman:*

* Retail strategies have performed their analysis of the cities of Laurens and Clinton and the surrounding county area. They will present the data at the annual 100 Club meeting on June 11th. Retail Strategies represented Laurens County at the ICSC in Charlotte in March and last week in Las Vegas.
* LCDC’s annual golf tournament on April 3, 2014, was a big success. Expenses for the tournament was $2000 under budget.
* Attended a Workforce opportunity summit with Dr. Brooks and Greg Alexander. Six to seven industries were also present. The summit lasted about three hours and was very productive.
* Shaw Industries had their first reading at County Council regarding their 19 million dollar expansion.
* Attended Upper Savannah job fair in Greenwood.
* Organizing a job fair specifically for Laurens County businesses and citizens on June 18th.

*Economic Development Update – Marvin Moss:*

* RFI’s through April: 19, site visits: 12 year to date
* Water and sewer lines are in the ground in phase 2 of Owings Industrial Park. Awaiting pump for the sewer pump station to finalize the phase 2 project.
* The County assisted in the procurement of a $350K state grant from the Rural Infrastructure Authority for LCDC.
* Traveled to Detroit in April on a marketing trip.
* Dept. of Commerce and McCallum Sweeny have certified a 700+ acre site in Clinton off of exit 54.

*CEDC Update – Collie Lehn:*

* No report

*First Update – John Young:*

* No report

*Site Selection Update – Marvin Moss:*

Thomas and Hutton have been engaged to do a study of all potential large sites between exit 22 down I385 to where it merges with I26 and all the way to Joanna, looking within a five mile radius. The cost of the study is $31,100, to be paid from the Futures account, per the Executive Committee.

Chairman Coleman asked for a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss one economic matter and one personnel matter. Mayor John Carter motioned and Ernie Segars seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved to move to executive session. No action was taken as a result of the Executive Session.

*Other Business*

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Coleman