***Laurens County Development Corporation***

Board Meeting – **Minutes**

Tuesday – July 25, 2017

Attendees:

Stan Bryson, Jon Caime, Mayor John Carter, Rusty Denning, Jeff Field, Randy Garrett, Randy Lis, Amanda Munyan, David O’Shields, Stephen Peters, Mike Norrick, David Pitts, Mayor John Stankus, Dale Satterfield, John Young, Chris Lipp, and Collie Lehn

Guests:

Rodney Smith & Ed Murray (School Dist. 55), John Lummus (Upstate SC Alliance)

Staff:

Jon Coleman, Lynn Finley, Sandy Cruickshanks

Press:

Billy Dunlap (goLaurens.com), Emil Finley (WLBG), Vic MacDonald (Chronicle)

Chairman Field called the meeting to order at 11:58 and gave the invocation.

*Minutes and Financials*

Chairman Field asked the Board for a motion to approve the meeting’s agenda. Randy Garrett made the motion to approve and Stan Bryson seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the agenda.

Chairman Field then asked the Board for a motion to approve the minutes from the 5/16/17 meeting. Stan Bryson made the motion to approve the minutes as presented and Mayor John Carter seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the minutes.

Lynn Finley provided a recap of expenses for May and June 2017. The financials were accepted as information only.

*2016 Annual Audit – Matt Phillips, McKinley Cooper*

Matt Phillips provided a detailed review of the 2016 audit results. He reported that the LCDC was in great financial position at the end of 2016 and no major findings were reported.

*Bylaw Update – Jeff Field*

Chairman Field presented two bylaw updates. The LCDC was incorporated as a not for profit public benefit corporation and as such board make up should always represent on a majority bases the public entities that we are here to serve. An item of clarification presented to add under Article II, section 2, A, specifies makeup of board seats. A second update presented is under Article I, section 1, Registered Office. This was updated from the Chamber of Commerce to the Corporations’ facilities. Chairman Field asked the Board for a motion to approve the proposed bylaw updates. Stan Bryson made the motion to approve and Randy Garrett seconded the motion. After brief discussion, the Board unanimously approved the recommended bylaw updates.

*Executive Director’s Report – Jonathan Coleman*

* Becca Sturgeon submitted her resignation from LCDC and her last day was July 14
* Activity Update: YTD – 37 formal requests for information. Recent announcements include GE taking the Clinton spec building and Birds Eye Energy solar farm in Joanna. This puts the capital investment YTD $125.5 million and 122 jobs. This investment now exceeds the total from 2016 which was $114.1 million.
* Have been made aware that Fisher Barton in Fountain Inn has announced their closure by year end. They currently have approximately 100 employees. LCDC will partner with the company and SCWorks in providing resources to displaced employees and job fair opportunities. There are manufacturing companies in Laurens County with job openings which are interested in these Fisher Barton employees.
* Production has begun on the workforce development video. Have arranged two full days of filming at 4 different Laurens County companies. (CCL Label, CeramTec, Michelin Proving Grounds, and ZF) When school resumes, high school students will also be interviewed on camera to integrate into the video. The complete video should be ready before year end.
* Molly Spearman, SC State Superintendent of Education, visited and toured Mogul SC and ZF Transmissions in late July during a visit to the Upstate.
* Included in the packet is an article featuring ZF from the Laurens County feature in the recently released *State of the Upstate Greenville Business Magazine.*
* In partnership with the Upstate SC Alliance, the LCDC will be participating in a visit with site selector consultants in Chicago, Economix Consultant Forum in December and a marketing mission to Europe in November.

*Business & Education Partnership – Lynn Finley*

It is encouraging to see the partnership team continue to build in interest and support from industry leaders. The last meeting was hosted by ZF in June and was attended by the industry leaders to get organized as a group and to vote on the mission/vision and to discuss what they see as their urgent workforce needs. Approximately 10 companies were represented by 25 people and collectively employ just over 5,000 people in Laurens County. Ideas and goals were suggested by the team and agreed to come back together in September to decided what to work toward on how to get there.

*Laurens District 55 Presentation – Dr. Stephen Peters*

Dr. Peters began by covering accomplishments of the school district over the past year, specifically the impressive gains in kindergarten reading scores at Ford Elementary School and that all but one school had gains in reading, language usage, and math. As educators, they are tasked with training students to be the next workforce and for jobs that may not even be invented yet. Dr. Peters and staff are committed to creating the best scenario they can for Laurens 55. The goal of making District 55 child-centric is still a focus along with key initiatives of no child left out and the literacy program of 30 for 30. Dr. Peters stated that as a district, they don’t want to be just good or average but to be great which will only put Laurens County in a better position to bring new people and growth. Dr. Peters also covered highlights of the planned bond referendum on September 5 and a community advisory taskforce that was created.

*Other Reports:*

None

*Executive Session:*

None

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn S. Finley