***Laurens County Development Corporation***

Board Meeting – **Minutes**

Tuesday – May 17, 2016

Attendees:

Stan Bryson, Mayor John Carter, Rich D’Alberto, Rusty Denning, Jeff Field, Tom Hardy, Randy Lis, David Pitts, Ernie Segars, Frank Stovall, John Young, Collie Lehn, Rodney Smith, and Gary Coleman

Guests:

Danielle Besser (Upstate SC Alliance), Jon Caime (Laurens County), Marvin Moss (CEDC), Michael Morris (ZF)

Staff:

Jon Coleman, Lynn Finley, Sandy Cruickshanks

Press:

Vic MacDonald (Chronicle), John Clayton (goLaurens.com)

Chairman Bryson called the meeting to order at 12:05 and gave the invocation.

*Minutes and Financials*

Chairman Bryson asked the Board for a motion to approve the meeting’s agenda. David Pitts made the motion to approve and Rich D’Alberto seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the agenda.

Chairman Bryson then asked the Board for a motion to approve the minutes from the 1/19/16 meeting. Jeff Field made the motion to approve the minutes as presented and Rich D’Alberto seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the minutes.

Chairman Bryson stated that the minutes from 3/15/16 were for information only because a quorum had not been reached with board members in attendance.

Chairman Bryson made a formal introduction of Laurens County’s new Administrator, Mr. Jon Caime, and welcomed him to the community.

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

*Executive Director’s Report – Jonathan Coleman:*

* Mr. Coleman shared the image of the new power point template recently designed.
* GSA Business will have a spotlight on Laurens County in the next edition.
* Phase III of the CAM goes out to bid in July with construction starting in September and hoped to be completed in May of 2017. Rusty Denning shared that it would include some remodeling of existing space to include classroom space and an additional 6,000 sq. ft of flex space.
* The LCDC is working closely with the City of Clinton on the new spec building they are working on in the Clinton I-26 Corporate Park.
* Since the last board meeting Mr. Coleman attended the SC Power Team conference, the SEDC “Meet the Consultants Forum” in Atlanta to meet with site selection consultants from the advanced manufacturing sector, and the SCEDA annual meeting.
* Mr. Coleman reported on his recent trip to Washington DC along with Jeff Field, John Young, Frank Stovall and Councilman Garrett McDaniel. They had meetings with the USDA, EDA, Congressman Duncan, Senator Scott, Senator Graham, and Congressman Clyburn. Everyone was welcoming and accommodating and the meetings were very positive and provided valuable information.
* Have two expansion announcements that will be occurring soon. One next week and the other in June. Two others are in the works.
* Have had 17 new RFIs this year compared to 21 at this time last year. Of the 17, nine needed a building, which we don’t have.
* Planning a board member logo display for the board room wall. Hope to have that finished up this summer.
* ZF is working on implementing a new apprenticeship program at their Gray Court facility. A group will be visiting MTU and Aiken Tech career center this week to see their program and hope to utilize similar strategies with the ZF plan.

*ZF Transmissions Update – Michael Morris, HR Director, ZF:*

Mr. Morris provided an overview of the history of ZF Transmissions and their mission in providing jobs as a non-profit company. As an organization they have a company focus on community service and want to place more focus locally in Laurens County. In Gray Court, the company builds world class transmissions, 8- and 9-speed. They have approximately 2,400 employees and will continue to hire an additional 300 this year to meet current market conditions. They have 1.2 million sq. ft. of manufacturing space which is full. Now that they are getting their production stabilized they see it is time to get their community efforts also in place. ZF will be launching a new program this summer called “ZF Gives.” The initiative will offer each ZF employee one day out of the plant, with pay, to volunteer in the community. Mr. Morris is currently working with the LCDC, Town of Gray Court, and the Cities of Laurens and Clinton on identifying possible community projects for the volunteers to work on in July. Another focus of ZF Gives is grants for STEM programs. In regards to workforce, ZF is partnering with Piedmont Tech to begin an Apprenticeship program. They will primarily be focused on the two positions of Machinists and Maintenance Personnel. Outreach into the schools (beginning with the middle school level) and communication with parents will be key to the success of the program. ZF is also looking to provide summer paid internships for STEM focused teachers and guidance counselors.

*Other Reports:*

None

*Executive Session:*

None

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

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn S. Finley