***Laurens County Development Corporation***

Board Meeting - **Minutes**

Tuesday – September 23, 2014

Attendees:

Stan Bryson, Mayor John Carter, Jim Coleman, Randy Garrett, Rich D’Alberto, Greg Alexander, Frank Stovall, Ernie Segars, Steve West, and Rusty Denning

Guests:

John Lummus (Upstate SC Alliance), and Stephen Taylor (City of Clinton)

Staff:

Marvin Moss, Jon Coleman, Lynn Finley, and Sandy Cruickshanks.

Press:

Corey Engle (Advertiser), Wyatt Madison (WLBG), Daniel Taylor (golaurens.com) and Vic McDonald (Chronicle).

Chairman Coleman called the meeting to order at noon and gave the invocation. Chairman Coleman also introduced Lynn Finley as the newest employee on the LCDC team.

*Minutes and Financials*

Chairman Coleman asked the Board for a motion to approve the meeting’s agenda. Randy Garrett made the motion to approve and Mayor John Carter seconded the motion.

Chairman Coleman then asked the Board for a motion to approve the minutes from the 07/15/14 meeting. Ernie Segars made the motion to approve the minutes as presented and Frank Stovall seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the minutes.

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

*Existing Industry/Retail Update – Jon Coleman:*

* Attended a “meet and greet” in August with Senator Lindsey Graham and spent the afternoon with him on a recent visit to Laurens.
* Participated in the Advanced Symposium hosted at Clemson in July.
* Since the last meeting three existing industries have held events/made announcements: CeramTec held a lunch and employee reunion to celebrate the plant’s 64th year in Laurens. Alupress held a grand opening event to recognize their $19 million facility addition and investment. Their European management also attended the event. Emitec announced an expansion of $3 million and 20 new jobs.
* Attended the Ten at the Top Upstate Summit in Greenville in September.
* Next CEO roundtable will be held on 9/29 at the CAM.
* Jon has been invited to join the Main Street Laurens Economic Development Committee. The latest news on the Jump Start program is that Yo’Cup will be opening a second location on the square and plan to be open before year end.
* Jon and Lynn are scheduling 6 to 7 appointments over the next several weeks with existing industry for introductions.

*Economic Development Update – Marvin Moss:*

* RFIs YTD: 49, Site Visits YTD: 42
	+ September alone has had 11 RFIs – this is the best month since began tracking
* There have been six projects this year where the LCDC could not submit – mostly the larger buildings in the 100,000 sq. ft. range.
* There is interest from a project for Hunter Industrial Park and expect to make two new announcements soon with potential for 5 by year end.
* ZF is in the process of an acquisition of TRW/Ross Gear. This acquisition will make ZF the 2nd largest automotive supplier in the world.

*CEDC Update – Frank Stovall:*

* The City of Clinton is working on two grants: One is to construct a 100,000 sq. ft. pad at Clinton 26 Corporate Park South. The other is to grade 5 acres of interstate frontage land to create a visible space for development.
* The City is also moving forward on its economic development strategic plan. Steering committee and focus groups have been formed.

*Laurens First Update – John Young:*

* No report

*Upstate Alliance Update – John Lummus:*

* Agrees that the project activity in Laurens County is excellent. Seeing similar increase in interest across all the Upstate, Laurens being one of the most active.
* Continuing to move forward with the Global Export Study. Learning more about the importance of exports and sharing that with companies. Have learned that only 4% of manufacturers export.
* Have an inbound site consultant event planned for October 8. Ten consultants from different areas of the country will be coming in to the Upstate. They will be divided into pairs to visit all upstate counties to see first-hand what is available both with product and workforce.
* In the middle of 2015 budget process. Involving the local developers to see what is being planned and to hear ideas on needs and specific trade shows to attend in 2015.

*Owings Park Blvd. Road Transfer – Sandy Cruickshanks:*

This resolution is to address the transfer of ownership and future maintenance of the road constructed into OIP phase II. The county has accepted that the road has been in existence long enough to accept into the county system. County Council has voted to accept. Chairman Coleman asked the Board for a motion to approve this resolution. Stan Bryson made the motion to approve and Randy Garrett seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the resolution.

*Laurens Electric Easement – Sandy Cruickshanks:*

This land easement involves approximately 1.01 acres of property along the backside of the spec building to be granted to Laurens Electric for a power easement to relocate a line. Chairman Coleman asked the Board for a motion to approve this resolution. Rich D’Alberto made the motion to approve and Ernie Segars seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the resolution.

*Project Lambeau Land Sale – Sandy Cruickshanks:*

This resolution involves the sale of approximately 12 acres of land at the corner of Wells Road and Old Laurens Road for the Project Lambeau. This resolution will allow the Chairman and/or the Executive Director to execute the deed. The sales price is $207,500. Chairman Coleman asked the Board for a motion to approve this resolution. Stan Bryson made the motion to approve and Greg Alexander seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the resolution.

*Other Business*

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn S. Finley