



Agenda Packet for
July 13, 2026:
Regular Session



AGENDA
LAURENS COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
JULY 13, 2026 – 6:00 PM
HISTORIC COURTHOUSE
200 W. PUBLIC SQUARE

PLEASE NOTICE THE CHANGE OF MEETING LOCATION

1. Call to Order- Chairman Carroll
2. Invocation- Vice Chairman Brownlee
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Approval of Agenda – July 13, 2026
5. Approval of Minutes – June 8, 2026: Regular Session
 - June 22, 2026: Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety
 - June 22, 2026: Special Called Meeting
 - June 22, 2026: Quarterly Public Input Session
6. Special Recognitions
 - a. Approval- Resolution 2026-12: A Resolution to proclaim June 26th of each year in Laurens County as “Timberwolves Gold Medal Day”
 - b. Recognition of Team South Carolina 5v5 Unified Basketball for their Special Olympics USA Games Minnesota 2026 Gold Medal
 - c. Recognition of Ansley Hayes for her Special Olympics USA Games Minnesota 2026 Silver Medal
 - d. 36th ADA Anniversary in Laurens County
7. Public Comment
8. Reports to Council
 - a. County Administrators Report
 - b. FY 2025 Annual Financial Report Audit Results Summary - Love Bailey
9. Old Business:
 - a. Council Submission – Approval of Appointments – County Boards, Commissions & Committees
 - b. Public Hearing, Ordinance #1010: AN ORDINANCE TO REGULATE THE STORAGE OF HAZARDOUS AND NON-HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITIES IN LAURENS COUNTY. [Sponsoring Council Member: Lane]
 - c. Third Reading, Ordinance #1010
 - d. Second Reading, Ordinance #1011: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND LAURENS COUNTY ORDINANCE 935; ADDING RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP AND TARGETED SPAY/NEUTER PROVISIONS; AND OTHER MATTERS APPERTAINING THERETO. [Sponsoring Council Member: Brownlee]
10. New Business:
 - a. Council Discussion- Update and Appropriation of SCORF Funding for the Fiscal Year 2026-27
 - b. Approval- 2026 LEMPG Annual Grant
 - c. Approval- Airport Commission recommendation to use Ardurra as their Consulting Firm, in accordance with FAA Guidelines
 - d. First Reading, Ordinance #1012: AN ORDINANCE IMPOSING A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON THE ACCEPTANCE, REVIEW, APPROVAL, AND ISSUANCE OF DEVELOPMENT PERMITS FOR DATA CENTER WITHIN LAURENS COUNTY [Sponsoring Council Member: Brownlee]
11. County Council Comments
12. Adjournment



Minutes:

June 8, 2026: Regular Session

June 22, 2026: Committee on Criminal Justice
and Public Safety

June 22, 2026: Special Called Meeting

June 22, 2026: Quarterly Public Input Session



MINUTES
LAURENS COUNTY COUNCIL
JUNE 8, 2026 – 6:00 PM
HISTORIC COURTHOUSE – 200 W. PUBLIC SQUARE

ATTENDING COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS: Chairman Jeffrey Carroll; Vice Chairman Matthew J. Brownlee; Council Member Justin Lane; Council Member Arthur Lee Philson, Jr.; Council Member Shirley H. Clark; Council Member Brown Patterson

ATTENDING COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF: Jerre Threatt, County Administrator; Melissa Ferqueron, Deputy County Administrator; Wes Meetze, County Attorney; Darbi Jackson, Legal Assistant

ATTENDING DEPARTMENT HEADS: Chris McCord, 911 Director; Sherry Edge, Interim HR Director; Tammi Hanks, IT Director; Greg Lindley, Fire Director; GW Dailey, Assessor; Patti Canupp, Coroner; Sonny Ledda, Emergency Management Director; Kayse Fabans, Finance Director; Andy Howard, PRT Director; Sheriff Don Reynolds; Chief Deputy Sheriff Chris Martin; Kevin Uldrick, EMS Director; Renita Barksdale, Library Director; Billy Wilson, Public Works Director; Cortni Motes, Waste Management Supervisor

ATTENDING PRESS: John Clayton, The Advertiser; Ida Cadmus, The Buzz

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Call to Order- Chairman Carroll
2. Invocation- Council Member Patterson
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Approval of Agenda – June 8, 2026
5. Approval of Minutes – May 11, 2026: Regular Session
May 11, 2026: Budget Workshop
May 14, 2026: Committee on Health and Emergency Services
May 14, 2026: Budget Workshop
6. Special Recognitions
 - a. Waste and Recycling Workers Week: June 15-21, 2026
 - b. Certificate of Acknowledgement and Community Gratitude to Ron and Nancy Lane
 - c. Approval- Resolution 2026-11: A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING THE CELEBRATION OF AMERICA’S 250TH ANNIVERSARY “CAROLINA DAY” WITHIN LAURENS COUNTY
7. Public Comment
8. Reports to Council
 - a. Report from Committee on Health and Emergency Services
 - b. County Administrators Report
9. Old Business:
 - a. Council Submission – Approval of Appointments – County Boards, Commissions & Committees
 - i. Assessment Appeals Board- District 6- Lee McDaniel
 - b. Public Hearing, Ordinance #1009: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THAT CERTAIN AGREEMENT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A JOINT COUNTY INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS PARK BY AND BETWEEN LAURENS COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND GREENVILLE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA (HUNTER INDUSTRIAL PARK) TO ENLARGE THE PARK TO ADD CERTAIN PROPERTY LOCATED IN LAURENS COUNTY.
 - c. Third Reading, Ordinance #1009
 - d. Second Reading, Ordinance #1010: AN ORDINANCE TO REGULATE THE STORAGE OF HAZARDOUS AND NON-HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITIES IN LAURENS COUNTY.
 - e. Second Reading, Ordinance #1007: FY 26-27 General Operating Budget

June 8, 2026- Regular Session

- f. Second Reading, Ordinance #1008: FY 26-27 Fire Budget
- 10. New Business:
 - a. First Reading, Ordinance #1011: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND LAURENS COUNTY ORDINANCE 935; ADDING RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP AND TARGETED SPAY/NEUTER PROVISIONS; AND OTHER MATTERS APPERTAINING THERETO- “BY TITLE ONLY”
- 11. County Council Comments
- 12. Adjournment

MEETING NOTIFICATION: County Council members and applicable Department Heads, press, and general public were notified of the meeting in a timely manner, including postings of the Agenda on the County website.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Carroll called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chairman Carroll invited all to stand for the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, where Council Member Patterson led both.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Council Member Lane COUNCIL MEMBER CLARK made a MOTION to approve June 8, 2026: Regular Session agenda; it was SECONDED by COUNCIL MEMBER PATTERSON, **vote 6-0.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: VICE CHAIRMAN BROWNLEE made a MOTION to approve minutes from April 13, 2026- Regular Session and March 23, 2026- Quarterly Input Meeting; it was SECONDED by COUNCIL MEMBER PHILSON, **vote 6-0.**

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS:

- a. **Waste and Recycling Workers Week: June 15-21, 2026:** Chairman Carroll presented Cortni Motes, Rural Collections Supervisor with a proclamation for June 15-21, 2026, as Waste and Recycling Workers Week.
- ~~b. **Certificate of Acknowledgement and Community Gratitude to Ron and Nancy Lane**~~
- c. **Approval- Resolution 2026-11: A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING THE CELEBRATION OF AMERICA’S 250TH ANNIVERSARY “CAROLINA DAY” WITHIN LAURENS COUNTY:** Chairman Carroll read the resolution into the minutes to recognize and support the celebration of America’s 250th Anniversary “Carolina Day” within Laurens County. COUNCIL MEMBER PATTERSON made a MOTION to approve Resolution 2026-11; it was SECONDED by VICE CHAIRMAN BROWNLEE, **vote 6-0.**

Council Member Philson recognized Carey Bolt on his retirement as Veteran Affairs Director, and his 22 years of dedicated service to Laurens County. Mr. Philson also recognized Chairman Jeff Carroll, Council Member Brown Patterson, and Council Member Kemp Younts for their years of dedicated service on the Laurens County Council and their steadfast commitment to the citizens of Laurens County.

Going on to mention their leadership, integrity, and public service have greatly contributed to the growth and success of our community. Lastly, he recognized Brenda Stewart and Iva Cadmus with the Laurens County BUZZ; Jim Brown, Judith Brown, and John Clayton with The Advertiser; Christopher Patterson and Vic MacDonald with The Clinton Chronicle; and Billy Dunlap with GoLaurens for their dedicated service to informing and engaging the Laurens County community through their media outlets.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Nancy Garrison approached the podium to praise Ordinance #1010 and Ordinance #1011 for being proactive.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL:

- a. **Report from Committee on Health and Emergency Services:** Council Member Lane communicated that the Committee on Health and Emergency Services met to discuss creation of an ordinance to regulate the storage of hazardous and non-hazardous waste facilities in Laurens County. He went on to mention that the committee determined this ordinance would allow for the county to be proactive and not reactive.
- b. **County Administrators Report:** County Administrator Threatt voiced that he a few reports to Council that included Jamie McDowell, Vice Chief of PAIA; GW Dailey, Laurens County Assessor; and Ernie Seagars, Chairman of the Laurens County 250th Committee.

Vice Chief of PAIA Lower Eastern Cherokee Nation, Jaime McDowell approached the podium to relay that their Tribe has partnered with Dogwood Alliance, who has purchased and donated 13.5 acres of land to the Tribe. Vice Chief McDowell further communicated that the donation of the land from Dogwood Alliance had a stipulation that the land must be turned into a 2-mile walking trail. He voiced that the Tribe would be holding a ribbon cutting on June 27, 2026, at 11:00am and invited Council and the community to join.

Assessor GW Dailey continued his Reassessment Update, communicating that reassessment notices would be mailed out the morning of June 9, 2026, and advised if anyone had not received their notice by July 1, 2026, to contact the Assessor's Office. He reiterated that appeals for the reassessment will be accepted until September 8, 2026. Furthering to voice that the tax bills would go out in the fall and appeals will not be taken based on tax bills, unless you are a new property owner.

Lastly, Chairman of the Laurens County 250th Committee, Ernie Seagars began his report by thanking County Council for everything they have done to the Historic Courthouse, as he sat in the County Administrators seat 28 years ago. He went on to recollect how County Council designated, in 2021, the Laurens County 250th Committee as the sole entity to handle the events revolving around the 250th Anniversary of the Revolutionary War in Laurens County. Mr. Seagars also relayed that the Committee has created bicycle trails with kiosks pertaining very substantial map narratives of key locations. Mr. Seagars concluded his report with inviting all of Council and the community to "Carolina Day" on Sunday, June 28, 2026, at 3:00pm, initially held at First Baptist Church of Laurens.

Mr. Threatt concluded the reports to Council with appreciation to Public Works Director, Billy Wilson and his team for their fast acting with an AC mishap.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **Council Submission- Approval of Appointments- County Boards, Commissions & Committees:**
 - i. **Assessment Appeals Board- District 6- Lee McDaniel:** Appointments to the Assessment Appeals Board does not require a vote.
- b. **Public Hearing, Ordinance #1009: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THAT CERTAIN AGREEMENT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A JOINT COUNTY INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS PARK BY AND BETWEEN LAURENS COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND GREENVILLE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA (HUNTER INDUSTRIAL PARK) TO ENLARGE THE PARK TO ADD CERTAIN PROPERTY LOCATED IN LAURENS COUNTY:** Chairman Carroll opened Public Hearing for Ordinance #1009 at 6:30pm. Nancy Garrison approached the podium to express concerns of the three massive tracks already included in the industrial park with no active economic development attached to them. County Attorney Meetze advised that it is not unusual to have properties already included in the park as it streamlines the process. Public Hearing for Ordinance #1009 was closed at 6:37pm.

- c. **Third Reading, Ordinance #1009:** COUNCIL MEMBER PATTERSON made a MOTION to approve Third Reading, Ordinance #1009; it was SECONDED by COUNCIL MEMBER PHILSON, **vote 6-0.**
- d. **Second Reading, Ordinance #1010: AN ORDINANCE TO REGULATE THE STORAGE OF HAZARDOUS AND NON-HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITIES IN LAURENS COUNTY:** COUNCIL MEMBER LANE made a MOTION to approve Second Reading, Ordinance #1010; it was SECONDED by VICE CHAIRMAN BROWNLEE, the motion was opened for discussion. Council Member Lane reiterated how this ordinance would be proactive in addressing some of the concerns revolving around waste facilities. Council Member Patterson inquired how this ordinance would affect the current non-hazardous waste ordinance, Attorney Meetze responded that if a situation were to arise that this ordinance would trump the old one. **Vote 6-0.**
- e. **Second Reading, Ordinance #1007: FY 26-27 General Operating Budget:** COUNCIL MEMBER LANE made a MOTION to approve Second Reading, Ordinance #1007; it was SECONDED by COUNCIL MEMBER CLARK, the motion was opened for discussion.

Chairman Carroll communicated that this ordinance was based off the numbers coming out of the May 14, 2026, Budget Workshop. Mr. Threatt added that this ordinance outlined a balanced and consent budget that included the Part Time Shelter Attendant mention at the Budget Workshop on May 14, 2026. **Vote 5-1**, Vice Chairman Brownlee in opposition.

- f. **Second Reading, Ordinance #1008: FY 26-27 Fire Budget:** COUNCIL MEMBER PATTERSON made a MOTION to approve Second Reading, Ordinance #1008; it was SECONDED by CHAIRMAN CARROLL, the motion was opened for discussion.

Chairman Carroll again reiterated that this ordinance is representative of the numbers from the Budget Workshop on May 14, 2026. Finance Director, Kayse Fabans voiced that there was an adjustment to insurance but the budget remained balanced. **Vote 5-1**, Vice Chairman Brownlee in opposition.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **First Reading, Ordinance #1011: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND LAURENS COUNTY ORDINANCE 935; ADDING RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP AND TARGETED SPAY/NEUTER PROVISIONS; AND OTHER MATTERS APPERTAINING THERETO-“BY TITLE ONLY”:** County Attorney Meetze voiced that this ordinance is “By Title Only” due to some proposed changes that have been shared with the Sheriff, diligently working towards a full draft by Second Reading. Vice Chairman Brownlee communicated that this ordinance would give Animal Control an avenue to address some of the issues they come in contact with pertaining to the altered state of the animal: repeat offenders, aggressive/nuisance dogs, etc.

VICE CHAIRMAN BROWNLEE made a MOTION to approve First Reading, Ordinance #1011, “By Title Only”; it was SECONDED by COUNCIL MEMBER PHILSON, the motion was opened for discussion.

Council Member Patterson recommended assurance that the penalties are in the ordinance and requested that the there isn’t language in there that inadvertently penalize roaming dogs who have owners. **Vote 6-0.**

Chairman Carroll referred discussion of the ordinance to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety.

COUNTY COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Lane thanked everyone who had a hand in the renovation of the Historic Courthouse. He concluded mentioning to reach out to him if anyone has anything they want to express and encouraged everyone to go vote.

Council Member Clark thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting. She mentioned the celebration of Juneteenth and encouraged everyone to get out and vote.

Council Member Patterson thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and expressed his appreciation to those who believed in this project (Historic Courthouse), the need for it, and to those who see the true value in the Historic Courthouse. He continued his comments by thanking the 250th Committee and encouraged everyone to vote, as well.

Council Member Philson thanked those who attended the meeting, as well as every department of Laurens County for what they do every day. He concluded by encouraging everyone to go out and vote.

Vice Chairman Brownlee echoed sentiments regarding voting, adding luck wished on the candidates, and expressed his excitement for the future of the county.

Chairman Carroll finished County Council comments with honor for being able to sit in the newly renovated Historic Courthouse, recollecting his tenure as it nears the end. He wished luck to the candidates and appreciation for those who are willing to serve and take on the responsibility of leading a community. He concluded by thanking the citizens and Council for their support in making sure Laurens County continues to move forward.

ADJOURNMENT: COUNCIL MEMBER LANE made a MOTION to adjourn; it was SECONDED by VICE CHAIRMAN BROWNLEE, **vote 6-0**. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Cheyenne G. Noffz,
Clerk to Laurens County Council



MINUTES
LAURENS COUNTY COUNCIL- COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL
JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY
JUNE 22, 2026 – 5:00 PM
LAURENS COUNTY HISTORIC COURTHOUSE
200 W. PUBLIC SQUARE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Matthew Brownlee, Chair; Kemp Younts; Shirley Clark

ATTENDING COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF: Cheyenne Noffz, Clerk to Council; Wes Meetze, County Attorney

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Call to Order – Committee Chair Matthew Brownlee
2. Invocation – Committee Member Clark
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Approval of Agenda- June 22, 2026: Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety
5. Public Comment
6. Committee discussion pertaining to Ordinance #1011: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND LAURENS COUNTY ORDINANCE 935; ADDING RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP AND TARGETED SPAY/NEUTER PROVISIONS; AND OTHER MATTERS APPERTAINING THERETO
7. Adjournment

MEETING NOTIFICATION: County Council members and applicable Department Heads, press, and general public were notified of the meeting in a timely manner, including postings of the Agenda on the County website.

CALL TO ORDER: Committee Chair Brownlee called the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety to order at 5:00pm.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Committee Chair Brownlee invited all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and invocation; where it was led by Committee Member Clark.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Pam Riddle approached the podium to communicate her appreciation and push to pass this ordinance.

Summer, a volunteer at the Laurens County Animal Shelter, followed Ms. Riddle to commend Caroline for her around-the-clock work on this and express her push for this ordinance to pass, as well.

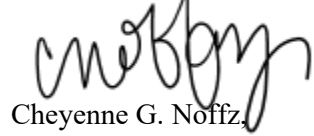
Committee discussion pertaining to Ordinance #1011: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND LAURENS COUNTY ORDINANCE 935; ADDING RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP AND TARGETED SPAY/NEUTER PROVISIONS; AND OTHER MATTERS APPERTAINING THERETO: Caroline Benard from Animal Control advised that this would be a mandatory spay and neuter ordinance for any animal that has received two offenses in a two-month period. It would also require all breeders to register with Animal Control as an official breeder to make sure they are following other current ordinances, to prevent “backyard breeders”. Ms. Benard also communicated that during the first call, the owner would receive a form to get the animal altered; if not complied with then the fees pertaining to this ordinance would be on top of the \$1,087.50 fine received from the original offense.

Chief Deputy Chris Martin added that the only changes from the previous draft were the fees and who would oversee the appeals process, reverting it back to the Magistrate Office.

Committee Chair Brownlee commended everyone for their work on this ordinance and for everything they do for Animal Control.

ADJOURNMENT: COMMITTEE MEMBER CLARK made a MOTION to adjourn, it was SECONDED by COMMITTEE MEMBER Younts; **vote 3-0.** The meeting was adjourned at 5:22pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Noffz', is written over the printed name.

Cheyenne G. Noffz,
Clerk to Laurens County Council



MINUTES
LAURENS COUNTY COUNCIL
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
JUNE 22, 2026 – 5:30 PM
HISTORIC COURTHOUSE – 200 W. PUBLIC SQUARE

ATTENDING COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS: Chairman Jeffrey Carroll; Vice Chairman Matthew J. Brownlee; Council Member Justin Lane; Council Member Arthur Lee Philson, Jr.; Council Member Shirley H. Clark; Council Member Brown Patterson

ATTENDING COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF: Jerre Threatt, County Administrator; Melissa Ferqueron, Deputy County Administrator; Wes Meetze, County Attorney; Darbi Jackson, Legal Assistant

ATTENDING DEPARTMENT HEADS: Chris McCord, 911 Director; Sherry Edge, Interim HR Director; Tammi Hanks, IT Director; Greg Lindley, Fire Director; GW Dailey, Assessor; Patti Canupp, Coroner; Sonny Ledda, Emergency Management Director; Kayse Fabans, Finance Director; Andy Howard, PRT Director; Sheriff Don Reynolds; Chief Deputy Sheriff Chris Martin; Kevin Uldrick, EMS Director; Renita Barksdale, Library Director; Billy Wilson, Public Works Director; Cortni Motes, Waste Management Supervisor

ATTENDING PRESS: John Clayton, The Advertiser; Ida Cadmus, The Buzz

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Call to Order- Chairman Carroll
2. Invocation- Vice Chairman Brownlee
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Approval of Agenda – June 22, 2026: Special Called Meeting
5. Reports to Council
 - a. County Administrators Report
6. Old Business:
 - a. Public Hearing, Ordinance #1007: AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE BUDGET FOR LAURENS COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2026, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2027.
 - b. Third Reading, Ordinance #1007: FY 26-27 General Operating Budget
 - c. Public Hearing, Ordinance #1008: AN ORDINANCE TO IMPLEMENT THE LAURENS COUNTY FIRE SERVICE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027.
 - d. Second Reading, Ordinance #1008: FY 26-27 Fire Budget
7. New Business:
8. County Council Comments
9. Adjournment

MEETING NOTIFICATION: County Council members and applicable Department Heads, press, and general public were notified of the meeting in a timely manner, including postings of the Agenda on the County website.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Carroll called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chairman Carroll invited all to stand for the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, where Vice Chairman Brownlee led both.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Council Member Lane COUNCIL MEMBER CLARK made a MOTION to approve June 22, 2026: Special Called Meeting agenda; it was SECONDED by VICE CHAIRMAN BROWNLEE, **vote 6-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL:

- a. **County Administrators Report:** County Administrator Threatt reiterated that Carolina Day would be on June 28, 2026, beginning at 3:00pm at Laurens First Baptist Church.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **Public Hearing, Ordinance #1007: AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE BUDGET FOR LAURENS COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2026, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2027.:** Chairman Carroll opened Public Hearing on Ordinance #1007 at 5:34pm. Nancy Garrison approached the podium to respectfully request clarification on the 10.45% millage increase. Finance Director, Kayse Fabans advised that state statute allows for the county to look back three years for unused millage. Public hearing was closed at 5:37pm.
- b. **Third Reading, Ordinance #1007: AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE BUDGET FOR LAURENS COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2026, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2027:** CHAIRMAN CARROLL made a MOTION to approve Third Reading, Ordinance #1007; it was SECONDED by COUNCIL MEMBER YOUNTS. The motion was opened for discussion.

County Administrator Threatt communicated through presentation an overview of what transpired with the budget over the course of the budget workshops and meetings. Concluding that administration recommended a 3% COLA to all employees plus longevity to applicable employees; recommended 9 full-time employees and 3 part-time employees; noting the following comparison of millage rate:

6/22/2026 – FY26 vs. FY27

General Fund:	FY26 71.67	FY27 78.69	+7.02
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County Wide Levy:	FY26 105.05	FY27 110.29	+5.24
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Some questions regarding expected revenues from new construction arose, as well as an impact fee study. Attorney Meetze relayed that the impact fee study is currently in progress and meeting with relevant entities with hopes to have an initial draft to Council before the end of the year.

Vote 4-2, Vice Chairman Brownlee and Council Member Lane in opposition.

- c. **Public Hearing, Ordinance #1008: AN ORDINANCE TO IMPLEMENT THE LAURENS COUNTY FIRE SERVICE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027.:** Chairman Carroll opened Public Hearing on Ordinance #1008 at 5:54pm; seeing no one approach to speak on Ordinance #1008, public hearing was closed at 5:57pm.
- d. **Third Reading, Ordinance #1008: AN ORDINANCE TO IMPLEMENT THE LAURENS COUNTY FIRE SERVICE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027.:** VICE CHAIRMAN BROWNLEE made a MOTION to approve Third Reading, Ordinance #1008; it was SECONDED by CHAIRMAN CARROLL. The motion was opened for discussion. Council Member Philson inquired about FILOT distribution and why Fire no longer received funds from FILOT. County Attorney Meetze advised that each MCIP had a different distribution

percentage and there are MCIP's that distribute a percentage back to the county, which then goes back into the General Fund. Mr. Philson then inquired how to go about getting Fire back into the FILOT distribution; it was relayed that County Council can look at restructure of MCIP's at any time. **Vote 6-0.**

NEW BUSINESS: None.

COUNTY COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Lane thanked everyone for their attendance. He concluded mentioning to reach out to him if anyone has anything they want to express and encouraged everyone to go vote.

Council Member Clark expressed that she loved seeing everyone in attendance to express and address their concerns and issues, adding that together, things can get resolved.

Council Member Philson expressed his appreciation to those who worked hard on the budget; inquired about the PRISMA ambulance contract; and finished his comments by mentioning Council needed to start looking into the next CPST.

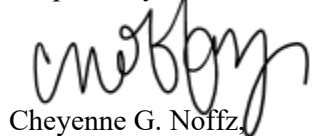
Council Member Younts had no comment.

Vice Chairman Brownlee voiced his appreciation for everyone coming to the meeting, as well as to the people who worked diligently on the budget. He concluded with hopes to be in a better financial place next year.

Chairman Carroll finished County Council comments by recounting the difficulty of the budget season and stated that the millage increase was necessary to provide the resources that the county needs. He expressed his appreciation to PRISMA for what they have done to staff ambulances in Laurens County, as it cost a great amount of money to provide an ambulance with Paramedics on it 24/7.

ADJOURNMENT: VICE CHAIRMAN BROWNLEE made a MOTION to adjourn; it was SECONDED by COUNCIL MEMBER CLARK, **vote 6-0.** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Cheyenne G. Noffz,
Clerk to Laurens County Council



MINUTES
LAURENS COUNTY COUNCIL
QUARTERLY PUBLIC INPUT SESSION
JUNE 22, 2026 – 6:00 PM
LAURENS COUNTY HISTORIC COURTHOUSE
200 W. PUBLIC SQUARE

ATTENDING COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS: Chairman Jeffrey Carroll; Vice Chairman Matthew J. Brownlee; Council Member Shirley H. Clark; Council Member Arthur Lee Philson, Jr.; Council Member Kemp Younts; Council Member Justin Lane

ATTENDING COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF: Melissa Ferqueron, Interim County Administrator; Wes Meetze, County Attorney; Darbi Jackson, Legal Assistant

ATTENDING DEPARTMENT HEADS: GW Dailey, Assessor; Tammi Hanks, IT Director; Sherry Edge, Deputy HR Director; Billy Wilson, Public Works Director; Andy Howard, PRT Director; Greg Lindley, Fire Director; Gabe Mull, Deputy Fire Director; Chris McCord, 911 Director; Carey Bolt, Veterans Affairs Director

AGENDA ITEMS: 1) Call to Order- Chairman Carroll; 2) Invocation- Council Member Younts; 3) Pledge of Allegiance; 4) Approval of Agenda- March 23, 2026; 5) Quarterly Public Input Session; 6) County Council Comments; 7) Adjournment

MEETING NOTIFICATION: County Council members and applicable Department Heads, press, and general public were notified of the meeting in a timely manner, including postings of the Agenda on the County website.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Carroll called the meeting to order at 6:22 PM.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: COUNCIL MEMBER LANE made a MOTION to approve the June 22, 2026 agenda for the public input session; it was SECONDED by VICE CHAIRMAN BROWNLEE, **vote 6-0.**

QUARTERLY PUBLIC INPUT SESSION:

Jonathan Dickerson voiced his concerns with the increase in taxes and the services provided to the county.

Nick Lyons brought forward his issues pertaining to reassessment and inquiry of how the assessment numbers were determined.

Assessor GW Dailey approached the podium to advise of the MASS Assessment method that began in September of 2023, the 15% cap for taxable increase and explained the appeal process, if one feels like their reassessment is wrong.

Jeff Shockley inquired about those whose property was not assessed, if they could keep their current taxes until someone comes out to assess the property.

It was reiterated that each person's property was reassessed, through Mass Assessment and are unable to know when someone loses a building unless the Assessor's Office is notified.

Katie Shockley inquired about the method of reassessment.

Timothy Cogdill asked if comparable sales were brought in, if it would change the reassessment value.

Ashley Riddle spoke his concerns regarding a subdivision that plans to be named “Riddle Farms” and the conflict that it has with his business and name. He stated that he believes the issue resides with the county for allowing them to use that name. It was rebutted that the county’s only duty and research is to make sure the planned subdivision name is not one that is currently constructed; outside of that would be an issue between the complainant and the developer.

Jimmy Canfield expressed his concerns pertaining to the road conditions, especially in Waterloo and Cross Hill; stating that the road in front of his property becomes impassable when it rains.

Nancy Garrison brought worries of the strain that the growth coming puts on Laurens County’s roads and emergency services.

Angel Bible was accompanied by Allen Lawson with a request for the South Carolina Empowerment Center to be placed on the next agenda to be the primary subrecipient of the county’s SCORF funds.

Joseph Kohler brought forward concerns regarding the last Planning Commission meeting.

Lee Cunningham suggested imposing a structured tax fee for those that are moving to Laurens County from elsewhere. It was conveyed that there is no legal mechanism to do that.

Kay Roland with concerns regarding the rumor of data centers coming to Laurens County.

Chris Grant expressed his issues with how funds were being used by Laurens County.

Nick Babb articulated his feelings as to why County Council is in the predicament they are in now.

Frank Sprouse expressed his concerns with taxation.

A new resident of Laurens by the name of Allison spoke on her reasoning for moving to Laurens and expressed she was for impact fees. She also brought up that it has been rumored that Laurens County was scammed out of a sizable amount of money, adding that if that was the reasoning behind raising taxes, then it should be said. County Attorney Meetze communicated that due to it being an ongoing investigation, he is limited to what he can say, however, Mr. Meetze went on to voice that no taxpayer of Laurens County is going to pay a dime for any money that was misappropriated because the county was taken advantage of by an online scammer. He continued to add that a large portion of the funds have already been recovered, certain portions are still being recovered and there is insurance coverage to replace anything that is not recovered by the outside law firms.

Shannon Wilson expressed her concerns of the impact of these subdivisions have on the roads.

COUNTY COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Lane commented on the TRC and looking at re-evaluating that process.

Council Member Younts had no comment.

Council Member Clark communicated that she has heard everyone who brought up issues and concerns forward; voicing that it was time for Council to get to work. She thanked everyone for voicing their concerns.

Council Member Philson began his comments relaying that a lot of things were done before his time on County Council. He continued to thank all the departments and what they do for Laurens County and

June 22, 2026- Public Input Session

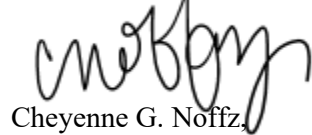
ended his comments mentioning if impact fees were in place, a lot of the comments from the meeting wouldn't have happened.

Vice Chairman Brownlee thanked everyone for attending the public input session and voiced that this meeting was the greatest turnout since holding the public input sessions.

Chairman Carroll initiated his comments by articulating the good that comes from everyone coming out tonight and saying what they needed to say. He voiced that the budget is going to be what the budget is for the sake of supporting services and staff of Laurens County.

ADJOURNMENT: COUNCIL MEMBER CLARK made a MOTION to adjourn; it was SECONDED by COUNCIL MEMBER LANE, **vote 6-0**. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Noffz', written over the printed name.

Cheyenne G. Noffz,
Clerk to Laurens County Council



Special Recognitions

- a. Approval- Resolution 2026-12: A Resolution to proclaim June 26th of each year in Laurens County as “Timberwolves Gold Medal Day”
- b. Recognition of Team South Carolina 5v5 Unified Basketball for their Special Olympics USA Games Minnesota 2026 Gold Medal
- c. Recognition of Ansley Hayes for her Special Olympics USA Games Minnesota 2026 Silver Medal
- d. 36th ADA Anniversary in Laurens County

RESOLUTION 2026-12

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA) A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND PROCLAIMING
) JUNE 26 OF EACH YEAR AS “TIMBERWOLVES GOLD
COUNTY OF LAURENS) MEDAL DAY” WITHIN LAURENS COUNTY

WHEREAS, The Timberwolves Unified Basketball Team was established in 2025 to provide opportunities for athletes and unified partners to compete, grow, and exemplify the values of teamwork, inclusion, perseverance, and sportsmanship; and

WHEREAS, under the outstanding leadership of Coaches Lew Blakely and Kayla Taylor, the team has demonstrated unwavering dedication, determination, and excellence both on and off the court; and

WHEREAS, the Timberwolves team members include Shawn Gunthrie, Francini Chalmers-Dawn, Maurice Johnson, Jeffery Ensley, and Herman Beckford, whose commitment and athletic accomplishments have inspired the Laurens County community; and

WHEREAS, the team's Unified Partners, Ta'Volicé Boyd, Timothy Williams, Braelyn McMorris, and Raheim Cheeks, have exemplified the true spirit of inclusion by competing alongside their teammates and fostering unity through sport; and

WHEREAS, the Timberwolves earned qualifying scores during the 2025 River Bluff High School Tournament, securing the honor of representing the State of South Carolina at the 2026 Special Olympics USA Games held June 20–26, 2026, in Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, while preparing to compete on the national stage, the team captured the 2026 South Carolina Special Olympics State Games Gold Medal, demonstrating exceptional talent, perseverance, and teamwork; and

WHEREAS, competing against the nation's best Unified Basketball teams at the 2026 Special Olympics USA Games, the Timberwolves proudly represented the State of South Carolina and earned the Gold Medal in 5-on-5 Unified Basketball, bringing national recognition to Laurens County through their outstanding achievement; and

WHEREAS, the accomplishments of the Timberwolves have brought great pride and distinction to Laurens County and serve as a shining example of determination, inclusion, teamwork, and the limitless potential of every athlete.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Laurens County Council hereby proclaims June 26 of each year as "Timberwolves Gold Medal Day" in Laurens County in recognition of the team's remarkable achievements, their representation of not only, the State of South Carolina, but the County of Laurens, at the 2026 Special Olympics USA Game; their Gold Medal in 5-on-5 Unified Basketball; and their lasting impact on the citizens of Laurens County.

1. PURPOSE: The purpose of this Resolution is to adopt and designate the 26th day of June each year, as “Timberwolves Gold Medal Day” in Laurens County.
2. ACTION: Laurens County Council affirms and agrees on the 13th day of July, 2026 that the 26th day of June each year, be designated as “Timberwolves Gold Medal Day” in Laurens County.
3. AUTHORITY: Laurens County Council is authorized to take such actions pursuant to the powers designated and delegated to the County in Title 4 and Title 6 of the South Code of Laws, 1976, as amended.
4. CONFLICT: All Orders and Resolutions in conflict herewith, to the extent of such conflict only, are repealed and rescinded.
5. SEVERABILITY: Should any part or portion of this Resolution be deemed unconstitutional or otherwise unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, such finding shall not affect the remainder hereof, all of which is hereby deemed separable.
6. EFFECTIVE DATE: This Resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon enactment by a majority vote of the County Council.

(Signature page attached)

BE IT RESOLVED this 8th day of June, 2026.

LAURENS COUNTY COUNCIL

Jeffrey D. Carroll, Chairman

ATTEST:

Cheyenne G. Noffz, Clerk
Laurens County Council
Laurens County, South Carolina

VOTE: _____

	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Carroll	☐	☐	☐	☐
Brownlee	☐	☐	☐	☐
Patterson	☐	☐	☐	☐
Younts	☐	☐	☐	☐
Clark	☐	☐	☐	☐
Philson	☐	☐	☐	☐
Lane	☐	☐	☐	☐

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Marcus W. Meetze
Laurens County Attorney



Old Business:

Public Hearing and Third Reading, Ordinance #1010:
AN ORDINANCE TO REGULATE THE STORAGE
OF HAZARDOUS AND NON-HAZARDOUS
WASTE FACILITIES IN LAURENS COUNTY



AGENDA ITEM – REQUEST SHEET – COUNTY COUNCIL

ALL REQUESTS should be submitted by 12:00 P.M. on the Wednesday prior to the Tuesday meeting of Council. All other requests not submitted by the deadline will be retained and scheduled for the next meeting of Council

AGENDA ITEM: _____ DATE OF REQUEST: July 10, 2026 (For July 13, 2026 Meeting)

DEPARTMENT / AGENCY: Legal Department

NAME: Marcus Meetze

ADDRESS: 100 Hillcrest Square

CITY: Laurens STATE: South Carolina ZIP: 29360

PHONE NUMBER: (864) 681-3155 EMAIL: marcusmeetze@laurenscountysc.gov

SIGNATURE: _____

COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED: _____

SUBJECT MATTER DESCRIPTION (please be as specific as possible): Public Hearing - Ordinance 1010 - To regulate non-hazardous waste facilities in Laurens County; to promote public health, safety, and environmental protection; to prohibit commingling of waste types; to provide for enforcement and penalties, and other matters related thereto.

FINANCIAL AMOUNT REQUESTED: _____

SOURCE OF FUNDING: _____

(PLEASE – attach subject matter document pages as necessary)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

REQUEST ASSIGNED TO: _____ DATE RECEIVED: _____

DATE OF ASSIGNMENT: _____ DATE OF AGENDA: _____

DATE RESPONSE DUE: _____

COUNCIL ACTION: _____



AGENDA ITEM – REQUEST SHEET – COUNTY COUNCIL

ALL REQUESTS should be submitted by 12:00 P.M. on the Wednesday prior to the Tuesday meeting of Council. All other requests not submitted by the deadline will be retained and scheduled for the next meeting of Council

AGENDA ITEM: _____ DATE OF REQUEST: July 10, 2026 (For July 13, 2026 Meeting)

DEPARTMENT / AGENCY: Legal Department

NAME: Marcus Meetze

ADDRESS: 100 Hillcrest Square

CITY: Laurens STATE: South Carolina ZIP: 29360

PHONE NUMBER: (864) 681-3155 EMAIL: marcusmeetze@laurenscountysc.gov

SIGNATURE: _____

COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED: 3rd Reading of Ordinance 1010 - To regulate the storage of hazardous and non-hazardous waste facilities in Laurens County; to promote public health, safety, and environmental protection; to prohibit commingling of waste types; to provide for enforcement and penalties, and other matters related thereto.

SUBJECT MATTER DESCRIPTION (please be as specific as possible): See attached

FINANCIAL AMOUNT REQUESTED: See attached

SOURCE OF FUNDING: See attached

(PLEASE – attach subject matter document pages as necessary)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

REQUEST ASSIGNED TO: _____ DATE RECEIVED: _____

DATE OF ASSIGNMENT: _____ DATE OF AGENDA: _____

DATE RESPONSE DUE: _____

COUNCIL ACTION: _____

The above space is reserved for recording information.

AN ORDINANCE TO REGULATE THE STORAGE OF HAZARDOUS AND NON-HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITIES IN LAURENS COUNTY; TO PROMOTE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION; TO PROHIBIT COMMINGLING OF WASTE TYPES; TO PROVIDE FOR ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

First Reading: April 13, 2026
Second Reading: June 8, 2026
Public Hearing: July 13, 2026
Third Reading: July 13, 2026

VOTE: _____

FOR AGAINST ABSTAIN ABSENT

Carroll	☐	☐	☐	☐
Brownlee	☐	☐	☐	☐
Patterson	☐	☐	☐	☐
Clark	☐	☐	☐	☐
Younts	☐	☐	☐	☐
Philson	☐	☐	☐	☐
Lane	☐	☐	☐	☐

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF LAURENS)

ORDINANCE #1010

AN ORDINANCE TO REGULATE THE STORAGE OF HAZARDOUS AND NON-HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITIES IN LAURENS COUNTY; TO PROMOTE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION; TO PROHIBIT COMMINGLING OF WASTE TYPES; TO PROVIDE FOR ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

WHEREAS, Laurens County Council finds that the proper management and storage of hazardous and non-hazardous (solid) waste is essential to protect the public health, safety, welfare, and environment of Laurens County residents; and

WHEREAS, Laurens County operates rural solid waste collection services, transfer sites, green box convenience sites, and recycling facilities, which accept only non-hazardous solid waste; and

WHEREAS, hazardous waste is regulated primarily by the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (SCDES) under the South Carolina Hazardous Waste Management Act (S.C. Code Ann. § 44-56) and Regulation 61-79, while non-hazardous solid waste falls under the South Carolina Solid Waste Policy and Management Act (§ 44-96) and Regulation 61-107, with counties authorized to adopt supplemental local rules; and

WHEREAS, the County desires to supplement state requirements with local standards for storage, prevent illegal dumping and commingling of hazardous and non-hazardous waste, and coordinate enforcement with SCDES;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE LAURENS COUNTY COUNCIL, duly assembled, pursuant to the authority granted by the laws of the State of South Carolina, Ordinance as follows:

Section 1. Short Title.

This ordinance shall be known and may be cited as the “Laurens County Waste Storage Facilities Ordinance.”

Section 2. Purpose.

The purpose of this ordinance is to establish local standards for the safe storage of hazardous and non-hazardous waste, ensure compliance with applicable state and federal laws, prevent contamination of soil, groundwater, surface water, and air, and protect the health, safety, and welfare of Laurens County citizens. This ordinance supplements but does not supersede SCDES permitting and regulatory requirements.

Section 3. Applicability

This ordinance applies to all persons, businesses, generators, and facilities operating within the unincorporated areas of Laurens County, as well as to all County-owned or operated solid waste facilities. It does not apply to radioactive waste, medical/infectious waste, or other materials regulated exclusively under separate state or federal authority.

Section 4. Definitions.

Terms used in this ordinance shall have the meanings provided in S.C. Code Ann. §§ 44-56-20 and 44-96-40, and SCDES Regulations 61-79 and 61-107, unless otherwise defined:

Hazardous waste: Any solid, liquid, semisolid, or contained gaseous waste that may cause or significantly contribute to increased mortality or serious illness, or pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly managed.

Non-hazardous waste (solid waste): Garbage, refuse, yard trash, construction and demolition debris, and other discarded materials that do not qualify as hazardous waste.

Storage: The containment of waste, whether temporary or long-term, at a facility or on-site by a generator, prior to treatment, disposal, or transfer.

Facility: Any building, structure, site, or operation used for the storage, collection, transfer, or handling of waste.

Generator: Any person or entity whose act or process produces hazardous or non-hazardous waste.

Section 5. Prohibitions.

- (a) No person shall store, accumulate, or manage hazardous waste except in full compliance with a valid SCDES permit (if required) and this ordinance.
- (b) Hazardous waste shall not be mixed with, deposited in, or accepted at any non-hazardous solid waste storage facility, transfer site, green box site, recycling center, or receptacle operated or permitted by Laurens County.
- (c) No person shall engage in speculative accumulation of hazardous waste or store it beyond applicable SCDES quantity and time limits without proper authorization.
- (d) Non-hazardous waste shall not be stored in a manner that creates a public nuisance, harbors vectors, creates fire hazards, or causes environmental contamination.
- (e) Illegal dumping or unauthorized outdoor storage of any waste on public or private property is strictly prohibited.
- (f) No person shall construct, establish, expand, or operate a waste storage facility without first obtaining Laurens County Council approval as required by this ordinance.

Section 6. Operational Standards for Waste Storage.

- (a) All waste storage facilities and generators must comply with applicable SCDES regulations (Regulation 61-79 for hazardous waste and Regulation 61-107 series for solid waste).
- (b) Hazardous waste storage must utilize compatible, structurally sound, closed containers on impermeable surfaces with adequate secondary containment. Containers must be clearly labeled “Hazardous Waste” with the accumulation start date and appropriate hazard warnings. Generators must adhere to SCDES generator categories and accumulation time/quantity limits. Weekly inspections, spill response equipment, and coordination with local emergency services are required.
- (c) Non-hazardous waste storage must be contained in covered, watertight containers or enclosed areas to control litter, odors, vectors, and runoff. Storage at County transfer sites or convenience centers shall not exceed operational timelines before transfer to permitted disposal facilities. Facilities shall be maintained in a sanitary condition. Records of waste volumes shall be maintained for at least three (3) years and available for County inspection.
- (d) Laurens County solid waste facilities (including the transfer station and green box locations along Landfill Road) shall accept only non-hazardous solid waste as defined herein. The County may operate or sponsor Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection events in coordination with SCDES.

Section 7. Laurens County Council Approval for Waste Storage Facilities.

No person or entity shall construct, establish, expand, or operate a waste storage facility — whether for hazardous waste or non-hazardous (solid) waste — within the unincorporated areas of Laurens County without first obtaining approval from the Laurens County Council. This requirement is in addition to, and does not replace or supersede, any permit or authorization required by the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (SCDES) under applicable state law and regulations (including Regulation 61-79 for hazardous waste and Regulation 61-107 for solid waste).

- (a) **Applicability.** This section applies to dedicated storage facilities, transfer stations, processing sites, material recovery facilities, or long-term accumulation sites. It does not apply to:
 - (i) Routine on-site accumulation by generators that complies with SCDES generator rules and time/quantity limits (for hazardous waste) or normal collection activities (for non-hazardous waste);
 - (ii) County-owned or operated facilities (e.g., existing transfer station, green box convenience centers, or recycling center along Landfill Road); or
 - (iii) Facilities expressly exempt under state or federal law.

(b) Application Process. An applicant must submit a complete application to the Laurens County Rural Collections Department (or other designated department). The application shall include, at a minimum:

1. A detailed site plan, engineering drawings, and location map;
2. Proof of compliance with all applicable zoning, land-use, and/ or setback ordinances;
3. Documentation showing consistency with the Laurens County Solid Waste Management Plan and any local comprehensive plan;
4. An environmental and public health impact assessment addressing potential effects on groundwater, surface water, air quality, traffic, noise, and surrounding properties;
5. For hazardous waste facilities: a detailed emergency response and contingency plan coordinated with local fire, law enforcement, and emergency management services, plus proof of financial assurance;
6. For non-hazardous waste facilities: operational details including projected waste volumes and impacts on existing County infrastructure; and
7. Any other information reasonably required by County staff.

(c) Review and Public Process. Upon receipt of a complete application, County staff shall review it and forward a recommendation to the Laurens County Council. The application shall be considered at a minimum of two (2) public meetings of the County Council, including at least one (1) public hearing where interested persons may submit comments. Notice of the hearing shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in Laurens County at least fifteen (15) days in advance.

(d) Council Action. The Laurens County Council may approve, approve with conditions, or deny the application by majority vote. Approval shall be granted only if the Council finds that the proposed facility:

1. Complies with all zoning and land-use requirements;
2. Is consistent with the public health, safety, and welfare of Laurens County residents;
3. Will not create undue burdens on local infrastructure, emergency services, or existing County solid waste operations; and
4. Meets or exceeds applicable state and federal standards

(e) Conditions and Revocation. Any approval may include reasonable conditions related to hours of operation, monitoring, reporting, security, traffic controls, or other operational standards. Failure to comply with any condition, this ordinance, or the

underlying SCDES permit (if applicable) may result in revocation of the local approval after notice and a hearing.

- (f) **Coordination with State Agencies.** The County shall notify SCDES of any application for a hazardous waste storage facility and may coordinate its review with the state permitting process.

Section 8. Permitting, Registration, and Fees

The County may require local registration for waste storage activities and establish reasonable fees by separate resolution to cover administrative costs, inspections, and emergency preparedness. Such fees shall be consistent with state law.

Section 9. Enforcement.

- (a) The Laurens County Code Enforcement Officer, Rural Collections Department, or their designees shall enforce this ordinance and may coordinate inspections with SCDES.
- (b) Violations shall be punishable by:
- i. Civil penalties of up to One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) per day per violation;
 - ii. Criminal penalties as provided under state law (including S.C. Code § 44-56-140 for hazardous waste violations).
 - iii. Injunctive relief, mandatory cleanup orders, and recovery of all enforcement and remediation costs.
 - iv. Suspension or revocation of County licenses or access to County facilities.
- (c) Each day a violation continues constitutes a separate offense.

Section 10. Severability.

If any provision of this ordinance is held invalid, the remainder shall not be affected and shall continue in full force and effect.

Section 11. Effective Date.

This ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days after its adoption by the Laurens County Council.

AND IT IS SO ORDAINED this ____th day of _____, 2026.

LAURENS COUNTY COUNCIL:

Jeffrey Carroll, Council Chairman

Matthew Brownlee, Council Vice Chairman

W. Brown Patterson, Jr., Council Member

Shirley H. Clark, Council Member

Kemp Younts, Council Member

Arthur L. Philson, Jr. Council Member

Justin Lane, Council Member

ATTEST:

Jerre Threatt, Administrator
Laurens County, South Carolina

Cheyenne G. Noffz, Clerk
Laurens County Council
Laurens County, South Carolina

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Marcus W. “Wes” Meetze
Laurens County Attorney

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

{Affidavit of Publication

COUNTY OF LAURENS

Christopher Patterson being duly sworn, says: that (s)he is
Publisher of THE CLINTON CHRONICLE, a newspaper
published weekly in the City of Clinton, County of Laurens, State of South Carolina: and that the
notice to Public of which a printed copy is attached
hereto was published in said newspaper once a week for 1 successive weeks in its issues
of 6/17

Sworn to before me this 18 day of June 2026



Publisher



Notary Public of South Carolina

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given by the County Council of Laurens County, South Carolina, of a public hearing relating to the proposed enactment of Ordinance 1010 entitled:

AN ORDINANCE TO REGULATE THE STORAGE OF HAZARDOUS AND NON-HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITIES IN LAURENS COUNTY; TO PROMOTE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION; TO PROHIBIT COMMINGLING OF WASTE TYPES; TO PROVIDE FOR ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

The public hearing will be held in the Laurens County Council Chambers located at the Laurens County Courthouse, 200 W Public Square, Laurens, South Carolina, beginning at 6:00 P.M., MONDAY, JULY 13, 2026.

Subject to the rules of County Council regarding appearances, members of the public are invited to attend and make comments concerning the proposed Ordinance 1010.

LAURENS COUNTY COUNCIL

Jul17-1p



Roxanne Patterson
NOTARY PUBLIC
State of South Carolina
My Commission Expires 10/2/2033

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given by the County Council of Laurens County, South Carolina, of a public hearing relating to the proposed enactment of Ordinance 1010 entitled:

AN ORDINANCE TO REGULATE THE STORAGE OF HAZARDOUS AND NON-HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITIES IN LAURENS COUNTY; TO PROMOTE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION; TO PROHIBIT COMMINGLING OF WASTE TYPES; TO PROVIDE FOR ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

The public hearing will be held in the Laurens County Council Chambers located at the Laurens County Courthouse, 200 W Public Square, Laurens, South Carolina, beginning at **6:00 P.M. MONDAY, JULY 13, 2026.**

Subject to the rules of County Council regarding appearances, members of the public are invited to attend and make comments concerning the proposed Ordinance 1010.

LAURENS COUNTY COUNCIL



Old Business:

Second Reading, Ordinance #1011: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND LAURENS COUNTY ORDINANCE 935; ADDING RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP AND TARGETED SPAY/NEUTER PROVISIONS; AND OTHER MATTERS APPERTAINING THERETO



AGENDA ITEM – REQUEST SHEET – COUNTY COUNCIL

ALL REQUESTS should be submitted by 12:00 P.M. on the Wednesday prior to the Tuesday meeting of Council. All other requests not submitted by the deadline will be retained and scheduled for the next meeting of Council

AGENDA ITEM: _____ **DATE OF REQUEST:** July 10, 2026 (For July 13, 2026 Meeting)

DEPARTMENT / AGENCY: Legal Department

NAME: Marcus Meetze

ADDRESS: 100 Hillcrest Square

CITY: Laurens **STATE:** South Carolina **ZIP:** 29360

PHONE NUMBER: (864) 681-3155 **EMAIL:** marcusmeetze@laurenscountysc.gov

SIGNATURE: _____

COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED: 2nd Reading of Ordinance 1011 - Amend Ordinance 935 Animal Control Ordinance

SUBJECT MATTER DESCRIPTION (please be as specific as possible): See attached

FINANCIAL AMOUNT REQUESTED: See attached

SOURCE OF FUNDING: See attached

(PLEASE – attach subject matter document pages as necessary)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

REQUEST ASSIGNED TO: _____ **DATE RECEIVED:** _____

DATE OF ASSIGNMENT: _____ **DATE OF AGENDA:** _____

DATE RESPONSE DUE: _____

COUNCIL ACTION: _____

The above space is reserved for recording information.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)

ORDINANCE #1011

COUNTY OF LAURENS)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND LAURENS COUNTY ORDINANCE 935; ADDING RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP AND TARGETED SPAY/NEUTER PROVISIONS; AND OTHER MATTERS APPERTAINING THERETO.

SEE THE ATTACHED ORDINANCE, DATED _____

First Reading: June 8, 2026
Second Reading: July 13, 2026
Public Hearing:
Third Reading:

VOTE: _____

FOR AGAINST ABSTAIN ABSENT

Carroll	☐	☐	☐	☐
Brownlee	☐	☐	☐	☐
Patterson	☐	☐	☐	☐
Clark	☐	☐	☐	☐
Younts	☐	☐	☐	☐
Lane	☐	☐	☐	☐
Philson	☐	☐	☐	☐

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF LAURENS)

ORDINANCE #1011

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND LAURENS COUNTY ORDINANCE 935; ADDING RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP AND TARGETED SPAY/NEUTER PROVISIONS; AND OTHER MATTERS APPERTAINING THERETO.

WHEREAS, Laurens County Council approved Ordinance 935 on December 13, 2022, establishing animal control regulations for Laurens County; and

WHEREAS, Laurens County continues to experience high numbers of nuisance dogs running at large, increased complaints of aggressive dog incidents, uncontrolled breeding contributing to shelter overcrowding, and growing public safety and quality-of-life concerns; and

WHEREAS, Laurens County Council believes it to be in the best interest of the citizens of Laurens County to amend Ordinance 935 to add targeted, behavior-based spay/neuter provisions focused on problem situations rather than responsible pet owners;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE LAURENS COUNTY COUNCIL, duly assembled, pursuant to the authority granted by the laws of the State of South Carolina:

1. AMENDMENT TO SECTION 1 — FINDINGS AND INTENT.

Section 1 of Ordinance 935 is hereby amended by adding the following additional findings:

Laurens County Council further finds that uncontrolled and irresponsible breeding practices, particularly involving dogs that have demonstrated aggressive behavior, been declared nuisance animals, or been found running at large on multiple occasions, contribute significantly to public safety risks, shelter overcrowding, and the financial burden on county animal control resources. It is the intent of this Amendment to address these specific problem situations through targeted spay/neuter requirements that focus on animals demonstrating risk factors, without imposing burdens on responsible pet owners.

2. AMENDMENT TO SECTION 2 — DEFINITIONS.

Section 2 of Ordinance 935 is hereby amended by adding the following definitions:

- j.** Mandatory Spay/Neuter Order means a written order issued by Animal Control requiring the owner of a dog to have the animal spayed or neutered by a licensed veterinarian within the time period specified in the order.
- k.** Licensed Breeder means any person who breeds dogs for sale or compensation and holds a valid breeder's permit issued by Laurens County Animal Control.

- l. Domestic Animal means any dog, cat, or other animal commonly kept as a pet, companion, animal, or household animal.
- m. Medically Exempt means a determination by a licensed veterinarian, documented in writing, that spay or neuter surgery would present an undue risk to the animal's health due to age, illness, or other medical condition.

3. ADDITION OF SECTION 6A — RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP AND TARGETED SPAY/NEUTER.

Ordinance 935 is hereby amended by inserting a new Section 6A immediately following Section 6, to read as follows:

6A. RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP AND TARGETED SPAY/NEUTER.

a. PURPOSE. The provisions of this Section are intended to improve public safety, reduce the number of animals roaming at large, decrease dog bite incidents, prevent unwanted litters, hold irresponsible breeders accountable, and reduce shelter intake. These provisions are targeted and behavior-based and shall not be construed to require spay or neuter of all pets, to target responsible owners, to ban breeding, or to create breed-specific requirements.

b. MANDATORY SPAY/NEUTER — TRIGGERING CONDITIONS. A Mandatory Spay/Neuter Order may be issued by Animal Control against the owner of any dog under the following circumstances:

- i. The dog has been found running at large and the owner has received two (2) or more violations of Section 6 or this Ordinance for the same dog within any rolling twelve (12) month period;
- ii. The dog has been declared a nuisance animal pursuant to this Ordinance;
- iii. The dog has been declared a dangerous animal pursuant to this Ordinance;
- iv. A female dog in heat has been found roaming at large in violation of this Ordinance; or
- v. The owner is found to be engaged in breeding without a valid breeder's permit as may be required under this Ordinance or applicable county regulations.
- vi. A registered breeder in violation of Ordinance 935 with two (2) or more violations within any rolling twelve (12) month period.

c. COMPLIANCE WITH MANDATORY SPAY/NEUTER ORDER. Upon issuance of a Mandatory Spay/Neuter Order, the owner shall:

- i. Have the dog spayed or neutered by a licensed veterinarian within thirty (30) days of the date of the Order, unless a Medically Exempt determination is obtained and provided to Animal Control within the same thirty (30) day period;

- ii. Provide Animal Control with written documentation from a licensed veterinarian confirming that the procedure was performed, within ten (10) days of the procedure; and
- iii. Pay all associated veterinary costs. The County shall not be responsible for the cost of spay/neuter surgery except as provided in subsection (f) of this Section.

d. MEDICAL EXEMPTION. An owner may seek a Medically Exempt determination by submitting to Animal Control a written statement signed by a licensed veterinarian explaining the specific medical condition that makes spay or neuter surgery inadvisable. Animal Control may grant a temporary exemption for a period not to exceed six (6) months, subject to renewal upon submission of updated veterinary documentation. During any exemption period, the owner shall take all additional precautions required by Animal Control to prevent the animal from running at large or breeding.

e. APPEALS. Any owner who receives a Mandatory Spay/Neuter Order may appeal the Order by submitting a written request to the Laurens County Magistrate's Office within fifteen (15) days of the date of the Order. The filing of an appeal shall stay the requirements of the Order pending a hearing. The hearing shall be scheduled within thirty (30) days of receipt of the appeal. The owner shall bear the burden of demonstrating that the triggering condition was not met. The Magistrate Judge shall issue a written decision affirming, modifying, or rescinding the order. The decision of shall be final.

f. LOW-COST SPAY/NEUTER SUPPORT. Laurens County Animal Control is authorized, subject to the availability of funding and appropriation by County Council, to offer low-cost spay/neuter clinics and hardship assistance to owners who demonstrate financial need and are subject to a Mandatory Spay/Neuter Order. The availability of such assistance shall not excuse or delay compliance with any Order.

g. BREEDER REGISTRATION. Any individual, business, organization, or other entity residing in or operating within Laurens County that engages in the breeding of domestic animals shall register annually with Laurens County Sheriff's Office Animal Control. Registration shall require submission of the breeder's name, address, telephone number, species bred, and such additional information as Animal Control may reasonably require. Registration shall not be construed as authorization to violate any county ordinance or applicable state or federal law. All registered breeders shall remain in full compliance with Ordinance 935 and all applicable animal control regulations of Laurens County.

h. UNLICENSED BREEDING. No person shall engage in the breeding of dogs for sale or compensation within Laurens County without first obtaining a breeder's permit from Animal Control. Animal Control is authorized to establish permit requirements, fees, and procedures by administrative policy subject to the approval of the Laurens County Sheriff.

i. ANIMAL WELFARE CHECKS AND COMPLIANCE INSPECTIONS. Registered breeders shall be subject to animal welfare checks and compliance inspections by Animal Control no fewer than two (2) times per calendar year, conducted in accordance with applicable law, for the purpose of verifying compliance with this Ordinance and ensuring the health, safety, and welfare of animals maintained by the breeder.

j. **BREEDER ENFORCEMENT.** Any registered breeder found in violation of Ordinance 935 may be issued a citation. Repeated violations involving breeding practices, animal welfare concerns, animal-at-large incidents, dangerous animals, nuisance animals, or other conduct demonstrating a risk to public safety or animal welfare shall result in the issuance of a Mandatory Spay/Neuter Order pursuant to this Section.

k. **FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH MANDATORY SPAY/NEUTER ORDER.** In addition to the penalties set forth in Section 10 of Ordinance 935, failure to comply with a Mandatory Spay/Neuter Order within the time period specified, absent a timely filed appeal or approved medical exemption, shall constitute a separate violation of this Ordinance subject to the penalty schedule in Section 10. Each day of noncompliance following the compliance deadline shall constitute a separate offense.

l. **PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION OF SPAY/NEUTER ORDER.** Any person who fails to comply with a Mandatory Spay/Neuter Order shall be subject to a mandatory civil fine of One-Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) up-to Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00). The owner shall provide proof of sterilization by a licensed veterinarian within thirty (30) days following the issuance of the violation citation, unless a medical exemption has been approved or a timely appeal is pending.

4. AMENDMENT TO SECTION 6 — OBLIGATIONS AND VIOLATIONS.

Section 6(b) of Ordinance 935 is hereby amended by adding the following subsection:

vii. Fail to comply with a Mandatory Spay/Neuter Order issued pursuant to Section 6A of this Ordinance.

5. SAVINGS CLAUSE.

All other provisions of Ordinance 935 not expressly amended herein shall remain in full force and effect. In the event of any conflict between the provisions of this Amendment and any provision of Ordinance 935, the provisions of this Amendment shall control.

6. AUTHORITY.

This Amendment is adopted under the authority and process expressly granted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina and the Constitution of the State. Jurisdiction is exclusively within Laurens County.

7. APPLICABILITY.

The provisions of this Amendment shall apply to all unincorporated areas of Laurens County.

8. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Amendment shall take effect after a public hearing and third reading.

(Signature page follows)

2nd Reading. 07132026

AND IT IS SO ORDAINED this ____ day of _____, 2026.

LAURENS COUNTY COUNCIL:

Jeffrey Carroll, Council Chairman

Matthew Brownlee, Council Vice Chairman

W. Brown Patterson, Council Member

Shirley H. Clark, Council Member

Kemp Younts, Council Member

Justin Lane, Council Member

Arthur Philson, Jr., Council Member

ATTEST:

Jerre Threatt, Administrator
Laurens County, South Carolina

Cheyenne G. Noffz, Clerk
Laurens County Council
Laurens County, South Carolina

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Marcus W. "Wes" Meetze
Laurens County Attorney



New Business:

Approval- 2026 LEMPG Grant



AGENDA ITEM – REQUEST SHEET – COUNTY COUNCIL

ALL REQUESTS should be submitted by 12:00 P.M. on the Wednesday prior to the Tuesday meeting of Council. All other requests not submitted by the deadline will be retained and scheduled for the next meeting of Council

AGENDA ITEM: _____ DATE OF REQUEST: 6/16/26

DEPARTMENT / AGENCY: Laurens County Emergency Management

NAME: Sonny Ledda

ADDRESS: 321 S Harper St

CITY: Laurens STATE: SC ZIP: 29360

PHONE NUMBER: 864-984-0812 EMAIL: sonnyledda@laurenscountysc.gov

SIGNATURE: [Signature]

COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED: Approval of the 2026 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)

SUBJECT MATTER DESCRIPTION (please be as specific as possible): This is an annual preparedness grant that allows the county to enhance their response & capabilities. Per the letter of intent, Laurens County is set to receive \$59,538.00.

FINANCIAL AMOUNT REQUESTED: _____

SOURCE OF FUNDING: _____

(PLEASE – attach subject matter document pages as necessary)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

REQUEST ASSIGNED TO: _____ DATE RECEIVED: _____

DATE OF ASSIGNMENT: _____ DATE OF AGENDA: _____

DATE RESPONSE DUE: _____

COUNCIL ACTION: _____



New Business:

Approval- Airport Commission recommendation
to use Ardurra as their Consulting Firm, in
accordance with FAA Guidelines



AGENDA ITEM – REQUEST SHEET – COUNTY COUNCIL

ALL REQUESTS should be submitted by 1:00 P.M. on the Wednesday prior to the Tuesday meeting of Council. All other requests not submitted by the deadline will be retained and scheduled for the next meeting of Council.

Agenda Item #: _____

DEPARTMENT / AGENCY: Laurens County Airport Commission **Date of Request:** 7/6/2026

COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED: Council Approval is being sought to Approve Consultant selection of Airport Commission for next 5 years as required by FAA

Short Description of Item for Consideration: The airport Commission is requesting approval to of its selection of Ardurra as the next consulting firm for the Laurens county Airport. The RFQ procedure has been followed and the selection was made by the Commission after receiving 9 applications and narrowing down the applications to 3 interviews Of the three interviewed applicants Ardurra was selected based on its relationship with the FAA and the relationship with the SC Aeronautics Commission as well as its relationship that they believe it will provide with Laurens County in its progression and Airport Layout plan over the next 5 years. The Commission is requesting a vote to affirm this selection.

More Detailed Description (if needed): _____

FINANCIAL AMOUNT REQUESTED NA

SOURCE OF FUNDING: NA

(PLEASE – attach subject matter document pages as necessary)



New Business:

First Reading, Ordinance #1012: AN
ORDINANCE IMPOSING A TEMPORARY
MORATORIUM ON THE ACCEPTANCE,
REVIEW, APPROVAL, AND ISSUANCE OF
DEVELOPMENT PERMITS FOR DATA
CENTER WITHIN LAURENS COUNTY



AGENDA ITEM – REQUEST SHEET – COUNTY COUNCIL

ALL REQUESTS should be submitted by 12:00 P.M. on the Wednesday prior to the Tuesday meeting of Council. All other requests not submitted by the deadline will be retained and scheduled for the next meeting of Council

AGENDA ITEM: _____ DATE OF REQUEST: July 10, 2026 (For July 13, 2026 Meeting)

DEPARTMENT / AGENCY: Legal Department

NAME: Marcus Meetze

ADDRESS: 100 Hillcrest Square

CITY: Laurens STATE: South Carolina ZIP: 29360

PHONE NUMBER: (864) 681-3155 EMAIL: marcusmeetze@laurenscountysc.gov

SIGNATURE: _____

COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED: 1st Reading of Ordinance 1012 - An ordinance imposing a temporary moratorium on the acceptance, review, approval, and issuance of development permits for data centers within Laurens County

SUBJECT MATTER DESCRIPTION (please be as specific as possible): See attached

FINANCIAL AMOUNT REQUESTED: See attached

SOURCE OF FUNDING: See attached

(PLEASE – attach subject matter document pages as necessary)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

REQUEST ASSIGNED TO: _____ DATE RECEIVED: _____

DATE OF ASSIGNMENT: _____ DATE OF AGENDA: _____

DATE RESPONSE DUE: _____

COUNCIL ACTION: _____

The above space is reserved for recording information.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF LAURENS)

ORDINANCE #1012

AN ORDINANCE IMPOSING A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON THE ACCEPTANCE, REVIEW, APPROVAL, AND ISSUANCE OF DEVELOPMENT PERMITS FOR DATA CENTERS WITHIN LAURENS COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

First Reading: July 13, 2026

Second Reading:

Public Hearing:

Third Reading:

VOTE: _____

FOR AGAINST ABSTAIN ABSENT

Carroll	☐	☐	☐	☐
Brownlee	☐	☐	☐	☐
Patterson	☐	☐	☐	☐
Clark	☐	☐	☐	☐
Younts	☐	☐	☐	☐
Philson	☐	☐	☐	☐
Lane	☐	☐	☐	☐

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF LAURENS)

ORDINANCE #1012

AN ORDINANCE IMPOSING A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON THE ACCEPTANCE, REVIEW, APPROVAL, AND ISSUANCE OF DEVELOPMENT PERMITS FOR DATA CENTERS WITHIN LAURENS COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

WHEREAS, Laurens County Council is empowered pursuant to Title 4, Chapter 9, Section 4-9-25 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, as amended, to adopt regulations, resolutions, and ordinances not inconsistent with the Constitution and general law of the State of South Carolina (the “*State*”), including the exercise of these powers in relation to health and order in the County or respecting any subject as appears to the Council necessary and proper for the security, general welfare, and convenience of the County or for preserving health, peace, order, and good government therein, to include providing for land use regulations pursuant to Section 4-9-30 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, as amended; and

WHEREAS, the South Carolina Local Government Comprehensive Planning Enabling Act of 1994, Section 6-29-310 et seq., of the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, as amended, authorizes the County to enact or amend its land development regulations to guide development in accordance with existing and future needs and to protect, promote and improve public health, safety, and general welfare; and

WHEREAS, recent market conditions have resulted in substantial interest in the development of large-scale data centers and associated infrastructure within the County; and

WHEREAS, data centers may create unique impacts on electric utility systems, water resources, wastewater systems, transportation infrastructure, emergency services, land use compatibility, noise levels, and environmental resources; and

WHEREAS, the County’s current zoning, land development, and permitting regulations do not specifically address data center development standards; and

WHEREAS, the County requires a reasonable period of time to evaluate the potential impacts of data center development and to consider appropriate regulations governing site design, buffering, setbacks, utility infrastructure, emergency response planning, noise mitigation, water use, and related matters; and

WHEREAS, the approval of data center developments before completion of this study could result in development patterns inconsistent with the public health, safety, and welfare and could frustrate the County’s ability to implement comprehensive regulations; and

WHEREAS, a temporary moratorium is necessary to preserve the status quo while the County conducts its review.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE LAURENS COUNTY COUNCIL, duly assembled, pursuant to the authority granted by the laws of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Ordinance is to provide the County with adequate time to evaluate and adopt regulations governing data center development and to protect the public health, safety, and welfare during that review period.

SECTION 2. MORATORIUM.

For a period of twelve (12) months from the effective date of this Ordinance, the County shall not accept, process, review, approve, or issue:

1. Rezoning applications principally intended to facilitate a data center;
2. Conditional use, special exception, or special use applications for a data center;
3. Land development permits for a data center;
4. Building permits for a new data center facility;
5. Site plan approvals for a data center;
6. Any other discretionary development approval required for a data center.

SECTION 3. DEFINITION.

For purposes of this Ordinance, “Data Center” means a facility or group of facilities primarily used for the storage, management, processing, transmission, or hosting of digital data, including associated server infrastructure, cooling equipment, substations, backup power systems, and supporting facilities.

SECTION 4. EXEMPTIONS.

This Ordinance shall not apply to:

- A. Routine maintenance, repair, replacement, or upgrade of existing facilities lawfully operating on the effective date of this Ordinance;
- B. Facilities owned and operated by a governmental entity for governmental purposes.

SECTION 5. STUDY PERIOD.

During the moratorium period, County staff, the Planning Commission, and County Council shall evaluate and develop recommendations concerning:

1. Appropriate zoning districts;
2. Setback requirements;
3. Buffering and landscaping standards;
4. Noise standards;

5. Water and wastewater requirements;
6. Electrical infrastructure requirements;
7. Emergency services coordination;
8. Environmental impacts;
9. Traffic impacts; and
10. Decommissioning requirements.

SECTION 6. REVIEW OF MORATORIUM.

County Council shall review the status of the study not later than six (6) months after adoption of this Ordinance.

SECTION 7. EXPIRATION.

This Ordinance shall automatically expire twelve (12) months after its effective date unless repealed earlier by County Council.

SECTION 8. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this Ordinance is determined invalid, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. PENDING ORDINANCE DOCTRINE.

This Ordinance is subject to the Pending Ordinance Doctrine. Upon first reading of this Ordinance, County staff, the Planning Commission, County Administrator, and all departments involved in development review are directed to hold in abeyance any application received after first reading involving a proposed Data Center pending final action on this Ordinance, consistent with the Pending Ordinance Doctrine.

SECTION 10. REPEALER

All ordinances, resolutions or parts of any ordinances or resolutions inconsistent or in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of the conflict or inconsistency. Nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed to affect any suit or proceeding impending in any court, or any rights acquired or liability incurred, or any cause of action acquired or existing, under any act or ordinance hereby repealed; nor shall any just or legal right or remedy of any character be lost, impaired or affected by this Ordinance, except as expressly set forth herein and as may be permitted under State law.

SECTION 11. RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING DATA CENTER REGULATIONS.

During the pendency of the Moratorium, County staff and the Planning Commission are hereby directed to study the areas of the County where Data Centers may be an appropriate land use and the conditions under which Data Centers may appropriately be developed within such areas. The Planning Commission and County staff are further directed to prepare and recommend appropriate amendments to the PZO to apply County-wide to development of Data Centers.

SECTION 12. MORTARIUM EXTENSION.

The Council hereby finds and determines that the Moratorium imposed hereby may be extended by resolution of the Council.

SECTION 13. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon third reading and execution as required by law.

1st Reading.071326

AND IT IS SO ORDAINED this ____th day of _____, 2026.

LAURENS COUNTY COUNCIL:

Jeffrey Carroll, Council Chairman

Matthew Brownlee, Council Vice Chairman

W. Brown Patterson, Jr., Council Member

Shirley H. Clark, Council Member

Kemp Younts, Council Member

Arthur L. Philson, Jr. Council Member

Justin Lane, Council Member

ATTEST:

Jerre Threatt, Administrator
Laurens County, South Carolina

Cheyenne G. Noffz, Clerk
Laurens County Council
Laurens County, South Carolina

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Marcus W. “Wes” Meetze
Laurens County Attorney