

## EXCERPT OF MINUTES

### 1.) January 8, 2008

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – VICE CHAIR ANDERSON made the MOTION for Council to move into Executive Session at 5:52 P.M. to discuss a personnel matter, and Economic Development matter and a matter considering the purchase of county property. COUNCILMAN NASH SECONDDING; VOTE 7-0.

There was a COUNCIL CONSENSUS to reconvene in open session at 6:59 P.M.

- 1.) Personnel Matter – COUNCILMAN TRIBBLE made the MOTION for the staff to proceed with the job offer for the Director of Emergency Medical Services, COUNCILMAN TOLLISON SECONDDING; VOTE 7-0.
- 2.) Economic Development Matter – Chairman Coleman reported that no action was taken.
- 3.) County property purchase – COUNCILMAN TRIBBLE made the MOTION for Council to authorize the staff to proceed with negotiations towards the property purchase and to ask for clarification of the location of the property. VICE CHAIR ANDERSON SECONDDING; VOTE 7-0.

### 2.) February 26, 2008

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – COUNCILMAN TRIBBLE made the MOTION for Council to move into Executive Session at 6:10 P.M. VICE CHAIR ANDERSON SECONDDING; VOTE 6-1 (Councilman Wood was in opposition).

Prior to convening in executive session, there was a brief photo session with the Laurens County Disabilities and Special Needs Board representatives regards to the approved Resolution.

Council convened in executive session at 6:25 P.M. to discuss an economic development project.

There was a CONSENSUS OF COUNCIL to reconvene in open session at 6:45 P.M.

**OPEN SESSION** – Chairman Coleman reported that no action was taken during the executive session.

As a MOTION, VICE CHAIR ANDERSON requested Council consideration towards a Resolution for retiring Lex Walters of Piedmont Tech. COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL SECONDED; VOTE 6-1 (Councilman Wood was in opposition).

Administrator Segars noted that the Bell Street Middle School Academic Team was to be commended again this year for their recent accomplishments. COUNCILMAN TRIBBLE made the MOTION for Council to honor the team with a Resolution. VICE CHAIR ANDERSON SECONDDING; VOTE 7-0.

### 3.) June 24, 2008

**CITY OF CLINTON - PHARMACY SCHOOL AT PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE** – Mr. Josh Kay, Clinton City Manager, appeared before Council to officially request the assistance of the County towards the development of a Pharmacy School for Presbyterian College in the Town of Clinton, South Carolina.

Mr. Kay said, "This proposal has come before the City to assist with the location of the school at approximately \$1.5 million. We would like for the County to consider working with the City to help fund this development. This project is proposed to attract thirty new jobs along with the increased number of students for the area."

COUNCILMAN TRIBBLE made the MOTION to approve the concept and for the County Attorney and the County Administrator to determine the best possible source of funds to use. COUNCILMAN TOLLISON SECONDDING for discussion.

Councilman Tollison noted that a lot of preparation has already been put into place and that in the long term, the County proves to benefit.

Councilman Nash said, "This is not constitutional. Presbyterian College is a liberal arts college and I do not see using tax dollars for this project. It is clearly a violation of church and state."

Councilman Wood stated, "I feel that there were ethic conditions with this project and that there were two Council spouses sitting on various Boards at PC. This is not a County Council decision to give away tax dollars."

COUNCIL VOTED 5-2 (Council Members Nash and Wood were in opposition).

#### **COUNTY COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Councilman Wood requested for the County Attorney to bring back to Council an explanation as to how Laurens County can legally assist in the establishment of a Pharmacy School at Presbyterian College.

Councilman McDaniel noted Mr. Lumus Byrd who was recently elected to the South Carolina State College Chairman of the Board.

#### 4.) **July 8, 2008**

**REPORT – POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCE – PHARMACY SCHOOL AT PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE** – Administrator Segars reported, "The County Attorney and I met and discussed potential funding sources last week. From this brief meeting we highly recommend that the funds not come from the existing county revenue account but to consider a small general obligation bond. The general obligation bond with a tax levy of about a mill a year for three to five years seems to be the most feasible way to assist the City of Clinton with this project."

Attorney Cruickshanks explained, "Since this is a government to government action, the cleanest source of revenue and reoccurring revenue would be a small general obligation bond with a three to five year payback. In my discussions with the Bond Attorney and the banking industry, I am concerned with the requirement of an up front payment and insurance costs with a bond. With a bank, and using seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000), for three years the percentage rate would be 3.6% and for five years at 3.7%. With this being an in-house purchase by a bank and not being marketed, we would not have to deal with ratings, insurance factors, no pre-pay penalty and no origination fees. All of this would add another fifty to seventy thousand dollars on top of a bond. There will be procedural matters that will need to be implemented such as a Inducement Agreement that would outline the overall agreement between the City and the County; a Memorandum of Understanding that outlines the obligations of each party. The County's bond limit was in excess of ten million dollars."

Councilman Nash questioned, "How did this process originally evolve from Presbyterian College and now is coming from the City of Clinton. This is not true economic development." Attorney Cruickshanks replied, "Yes, it can be considered economic development but not so much as with industry asking for incentives if they bring in so many jobs. This is economic development in so much as a public purpose which allows for a millage to be placed. As I understand the request last week from Mr. Kay, the City of Clinton is asking the County of Laurens to participate with the City towards the funding of this project; meaning government to government. With the number of houses in that area of the County for sale, certainly it would be economically good for the County and the City. Both would benefit from the new employees brought in and the tax dollars by taking these homes off of the market listings. Economic Development is about creating new job markets. Those relocating to the area and the students would definitely put more money into the economy of Laurens County. Let's not to forget the utility meters that would be turned on."

Councilman Wood said, "I really never said that the County would not benefit. I only said that the County has no money to give. Especially when they have more money than we do. It has been said several times that this is what we need to do. In your estimation just how much will the County have in this project when you consider the interest and other factors; one million dollars." Attorney Cruickshanks replied, "One hundred thousand is a fair estimate on interest; making it around eight hundred thousand."

Councilman Wood went on to explain, "In a recent editorial of the Clinton Chronicle, the Editor noted that he had personally attended meetings with Mr. Kay and Mr. Randal over the preliminary strategies. It was noted that

everyone that sits on this Council wants it except Joe Wood and Ted Nash. He also said in the editorial that this was carried to the Development Corporation and was turned down.”

Chairman Coleman stated that this project was never carried to the Development Corporation. Addressing Chairman Coleman, County Attorney Sandy Cruickshanks stated that he had been to every Development Corporation meeting and had not heard anything about this

Councilman Wood went on to say, “Just because I referenced separation from the church and state, the editorial even went so far as to question my religion. This is just another way to get around the law.....it has been turned around by it being given to the City of Clinton to approach the County and then they will give it to PC.”

Councilman Tribble replied, “We are allowing this idea to be an unusual process. ICAR is an economic development project that is forming a nucleus for the upstate by means of all sorts of funding – state, federal and private. VISTA in Columbia is the same kind of thing – building a ball stadium and other things with state, federal, county and private monies. How can you deny that the University of South Carolina has not had an economic impact for the Columbia region and for South Carolina. I don’t understand how one can say that there will be no monies coming out of the project here. One thing that has not been mentioned here is the raw material and the people. From this, the people will be there to spend the money; the kids attending the school will spend money too. The big sewer program going on in Gray Court is going to be paid for by the sewer revenues of the rural water district. One of the big users is the City of Clinton claims eighty percent of the sewer revenues. This is about as good as it gets....its clean, straightforward.”

Chairman Coleman called for a vote of the general obligation bond. Attorney Cruickshanks asked for Council to allow him to present his briefing before a vote was cast as it relates to questions generated from the last meeting where this subject matter was discussed.

**LEGAL BRIEFING – PHARMACY SCHOOL** - Attorney Cruickshanks said, “The primary question that was raised was the church and state relationship. This project is moving forward as a City to County situation and is separate, you still have to look at the indirect result of the clause as to the separation of church and state. Presbyterian College is a non-profit corporation, established in 1903 by the South Carolina General Assembly. It is a free-standing, not for profit corporation; church supported as it relates to funding. It receives funding from a number of sources including federal and state funding; as does any other institution within the state except for Bob Jones University. It is my understanding that when the Pharmacy School is established, it will be established as a Corporation with no religious requirements and would be non-discriminatory as to enrollment requirements. As a matter of fact PC offers a major in religion. The County is not providing funds for religious purpose and we would not be violating the constitution. The primary benefit is regional economic development and students. I do not see any violations of the constitutional laws”.

Councilman Nash said, “Councilman Tribble spoke of the pharmacy school at the University of South Carolina. They are state supported and not private...there is a difference and the fees will be greater than those at USC. PC is not a state supported College. Why not make it legal and just deal with the City of Clinton.”

Attorney Cruickshanks replied, “The state supported colleges are more towards operational expenses and infrastructural expenses. This is a partnership that will not have reoccurring expenses; operations would be based on tuition, gifts and endowments that the Board of Trustees determines. The way this project was approached – City to County, I am comfortable with my opinion as stated.”

Addressing the issues of ethics with those Members of Council and spouses of Council Members serving on various Boards at Presbyterian College, Attorney Cruickshanks said, “Mrs. Anderson serves on the Alumni Board and on the Afro-American Alumni Board at the College while the wife of Councilman Tribble serves on the Alumni Board. Had this been a direct dealing with Presbyterian College and Mrs. Anderson and Mr. Tribble, Mrs. Anderson would have to recues herself from voting on the issue; Mr. Tribble may or may not have. The Pharmacy School has distanced the relationship and eliminates ethical conflicts.”

Chairman Coleman questioned if an ordinance would be the next step for Council. Attorney Cruickshanks replied that an Inducement Agreement that outlines the terms and first reading of an ordinance.

COUNCILMAN TRIBBLE made the MOTION for Council to approve the request from the City of Clinton to partner with them towards the Pharmacy School project and, to proceed with the necessary documents. COUNCILMAN TOLLISON SECONDING; VOTE 4-3 (Council Members McDaniel, Nash and Wood were in opposition).

**COUNTY COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

1.) Councilman Wood said, "I said that I was not going to mention this but, since our last meeting – it is a cruel world out there. I am elected by my peers and I have the right to ask questions. If I do not understand something, I have the right to ask questions. A local radio station has a man that comes on in the morning and tries to be funny. At the last meeting, I questioned the legalities of the separation of church and state. From this my wife was submitted with questions as to us being atheists. When all I asked was for an explanation of separation of church and state as it related to Presbyterian College and the proposed Pharmacy School. This radio station has cowards that sit behind a microphone and try to be funny. I have not said that I did not welcome a Pharmacy School; all I said was that we did not have the money to give. I listened to him after all of this and he wants to make issues with me asking about the constitution; he was addressing the right to bear arms the next day. Like my preacher spoke of on Sunday, it's not what the Constitution says, its what the Supreme Court says that they meant to say. I understand that he even brought up why I was allowed to conduct an invocation. This announcer always tries to put Laurens County down. He went on to say that Laurens County does not furnish Clinton anything but E911. He calls me ignorant because I said PC College. This person has to beg for people to call in to the radio station. I would stake my reputation up against any of them. They are not doing Laurens County any favors in doing this. There are advertisers for this radio station that I will not buy a car to a candy bar from now. I will not patronize advertisers on WLBG as long as they are allowed to go on like this. I personally can take it; just don't talk about my family".

**6.) July 22, 2008**

Council then considered Laurens County Ordinance #667, which is entitled, " An Ordinance to Provide for the Issuance and sale of a Not Exceeding Seventy Hundred and Seventy-five Thousand (\$775,000) General Obligation Bond, Series 2008 of Laurens County, South Carolina, to Prescribe for the Payment Thereof and Other Matters Relating Thereto."

Mr. Tribble made a motion to approve Ordinance # 667 on first reading and Mrs. Anderson offered a second to the motion.

In comments by Council members, Mr. Nash said that he is not satisfied with the Ordinance, because it does not offer any detail as to how the funds from the Bond will be used. Mr. Nash said that the primary function of county government is to provide public service, infrastructure and public safety. The county should not be in the business for providing funds for the development of a pharmacy school at Presbyterian College, he said.

Mr. Nash pointed to a recent report from the Laurens County EMS director in which he stated that the county does not have sufficient equipment or personnel to transport patients to hospitals outside of Laurens County. The county does not have a sufficient supply of patrol cars and funds will be needed to expand infrastructure to industrial parks

In responding to Mr. Nash's concerns about the brevity and lack of detail in the ordinance, Attorney Cruickshanks said that Ordinance 667 was presented for first reading " by title only." Prior to second reading, Council will receive the full text of the ordinance. The purpose of Ordinance 667 is to provide funding from Laurens County to assist the City of Clinton in locating a pharmacy school at Presbyterian College.

Mr. Tollison said that he agreed with Mr. Nash Laurens County needs better services. He said that he will support the Ordinance because of the economic growth that the pharmacy school will bring to the City of Clinton and to Laurens County.

In other comments, Mr. Wood said that he opposes the Ordinance because the full Council has never received a complete explanation as to what the funds will be used for. Mr. Wood said that no one from Presbyterian College has met with Council to discuss the project. The Clinton Development Corporation has approved the project at the urging of city officials, but the Laurens County Development Corporation has chosen not to participate, Mr. Wood said. "Laurens County has a property tax, an Accommodations Tax, a solid waste tax, a Piedmont Technical College and now a Presbyterian College tax,' Mr. Wood said. "There are people in this county who cannot buy a loaf of bread and we are approving a plan that will increase taxes. Now is not the time to be increasing taxes."

Mr. Wood said that, with \$750,000, the county could buy five new ambulances, 35 patrol cars, three new fire trucks, "turn-out gear" for firemen and new equipment for the Department of public works. He urged Laurens County citizens to join in opposition to the Ordinance. He also said that Mr. Tribble and Mrs. Anderson should abstain from the vote because of their ties to Presbyterian College.

Mr. McDaniel said that he will oppose the Ordinance because Presbyterian College is a private institution that does not contribute to the tax base of the county. The college has millions of dollars in endowment, Mr. McDaniel said, and he is not convinced that the pharmaceutical companies are in need of pharmacists.

Mr. McDaniel said that he is not convinced that professors at the school will choose to live in Laurens County and he does not believe that the college can require the professors to live in the county. "I do not believe that this project is in the best interest of Laurens County," he said.

Mr. Tribble said that the project will be a major economic boost for the county and that he will support the project enthusiastically.

Chairman Coleman called for the vote and Council voted 4-3 to Ordinance 667 on first reading. Mrs. Anderson, Mr. Coleman, Mr. Tollison and Mr. Tribble voted in favor of the Ordinance. Mr. McDaniel, Mr. Nash and Mr. Wood voted in opposition.

7.) **August 12, 2008**

**SECOND READING, ORDINANCE #667 - "AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF A NOT EXCEEDING SEVEN HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$775,000) GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND, SERIES 2008 OF LAURENS COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, TO PRESCRIBE THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE PROCEEDS SHALL BE EXPENDED TO PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT THEROF AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO"** - In attendance were Presbyterian College President John Griffith, Dr. Bob Staton, Co-Chairman of the Transition Team and Dr. Richard Stull, Director of the Pharmacy School. Dr Griffith appeared before Council to address the proposed Pharmacy School and the proposed program of work.

Dr. Griffith said, "Several years ago, pharmacy educators came to see me and to talk about the needs of the Upstate of South Carolina as it relates to pharmacy needs and how it relates nationwide. Each region of the nation is given a one to five scale and scale five is considered critical need. The South East Region has the highest rank within this scale. A pharmacy school is a four year doctorate program. In order to do this, we would bring in thirty five (35) new employees; thirty (30) would be faculty and public administration with support staff. Our motto is to prepare people for the community. One of the things I learned is that the students are required to experience learning. The four-year curriculum is nine different vocations and we believe that Laurens County is well positioned to provide this educational training and to support the Pharmacy School as a whole. This will be a steep mountain to climb and within the next four years we will need seven million dollars to make this work. Frampton Hall is an ideal location and we are reassured that the employees would live in Laurens County. Sixty percent of the student would be married and with children."

Councilman McDaniel stated that he keeps hearing if it is located here, and asked if the decision to locate here has not been determined. Dr. Griffith replied that the Board of Trustees passed a Resolution that if the proposal to the City of Clinton and the County of Laurens passed that they would support the project.

Mrs. Margaret Pope of the Pope and Zeigler Law Firm, representing bond attorney, appeared before Council to address the proposed Ordinance and to answer any questions posed by Council. Attorney Pope said, "This request was given to me in the form of a memorandum of understanding. The amounts needed were \$1.5 million which was to be divided up between Laurens County (\$750,000) and the City of Clinton (\$750,000). In speaking with the County Administrator and the County Attorney, the best way to accomplish this is with a general obligation bond which is a simple instrument that is purchased by a bank with a pay back over five to six years considering that the value of a mill is one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000). Solicitation from all banks will be implemented with the dollars used as per the provisions within the ordinance, which is laid

out simply and orderly. The points of law as it relates to public funds for religious uses, the County will be providing their funds to the City of Clinton and then on to the Clinton Economic Development Association; and all will be deeded in the name of the Development Corporation. It can not be held in the name of Presbyterian College. This is a very similar to the economic development bonds solicited for ICAR....the property can not be owned by a private institution...but, when the bonds mature it could then be deeded to Presbyterian College if Presbyterian College agrees that no religious courses or affiliations will be implied with the Pharmacy School. This is just one step in the process. Would you want that if the property is not used for the Pharmacy School that the property be reverted back to the Development Association?"

Councilman Wood questioned the publication of the public hearing and third reading before the second reading. Attorney Pope assured Council that the present ordinance would not be changes prior to the third reading and that there has to be fifteen days between second reading and a published public hearing. Attorney Cruickshanks added that a public hearing can be published any time prior to third reading and understandably this was not a traditional process this Council has used.

Councilman Wood replied that Council is trying to expedite this process with no comments or changes being made. Attorney Cruickshanks replied that drafting changes to any ordinance can be made prior to third reading and that the document provided to Council has been through numerous drafts prior to Council receiving it.

Councilman Nash questioned if the county procurement process was implemented towards the bidding process? Administrator Segars replied that no formal procurement process was implemented because the procurement code does not require a competitive bid for professional services. Attorney Cruickshanks replied that he personally made several phone calls to various bonding firms and concluded that Pope and Ziegler would best suit the needs of Laurens County and that all costs are included within the ordinance.

Councilman Nash asked why the Clinton Development Corporation or the County Economic Development Corporation was not asked for assistance.

Councilman McDaniel questioned what the total endowment for Presbyterian College was. Dr. Griffith replied ninety million dollars (\$90,000,000) which are donor restricted funds and can only be used for scholarships and existing faculty salaries; we have five million dollars (\$5,000,000) in unrestricted endowments for operations.

Councilman McDaniel said, "As a member of this Council, when it comes to economic development, this is non-traditional. When it comes to County Council and budgets and non-profit organization, at one time there was twenty one (21) agencies that this Council contributed funds to; we have given property away to agencies that promised a program for the property and to date nothing has been done. We have contributed thousands of dollars to non-profit agencies here in Laurens County that has been mismanaged and threatened us with going out of business if we did not support them. Our charge was to vote our conscience and our wishes. The reason I asked about the endowment was that we have never contributed to any school or college. I am one hundred percent for education. When the students walk away from PC they will walk away into sizeable salaries and areas. When it comes to education this is a separate agency and there are school taxes for this. Seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000) is not a lot of money to some people. The outcome of this is not hinged on what this County Council does now. The question is, is it a necessity and will it have an impact; not based on what this Council does."

Councilman Tribble asked what the economic benefits that ICAR will have on the upstate. Attorney Pope replied that she did not have any statistics

Chairman Coleman stated that this is a controversial issue and all have had their say and all will have their voted. There are other important issues in Laurens County to argue about and I ask that each vote their conscience and I hope that the votes are in the best interest of the County.

COUNCILMAN TRIBBLE made the MOTION to approve Ordinance #667 upon first reading as presented. VICE CHAIR ANDERSON SECONDDING for discussion.

Councilman Nash said, "In my opinion with Ordinance #667, it is good to have the possibility of the Pharmacy School coming to Laurens County. But, County Government is to provide services for the taxpayers. The way to provide these services is for this Council to continue to build the reserve funds; this was also advised by our Auditors. We need to help our employees by seriously considering the pay issues and the things they need to conduct these services. This is not a normal fee-in-lieu-of-taxes request but is all about borrowing seven hundred fifty thousand dollars. We are asked to approve bond indebtedness so that the City of Clinton can purchase an older building for its use by Presbyterian College. All Laurens County taxpayers will be paying

for this bond. This is taxpayer's money. The government can not be the same to all. I fell it more important to help our employees by bringing their salaries up to the mid range noted in the salary study. Remember government has no money and is what it is as it taxes money from the people. I do not support borrowing this money. This is not a taxable project"

Councilman Wood said, "Why is it that the Chairman always starts on this end of the table allowing Councilman Tribble the last voice. I ask, who wrote this ordinance? I have read it three times and still think it is a joke on the behalf of the taxpayers of Laurens County. It was written for the City of Clinton and not for Laurens County. On page two, item number seven, the only time that it mentions Clinton actually contributing to this was where it states that they will contribute a similar sum. A similar sum could be just a dollar. On page three, item "i" religious activities....just who are we trying to fool by saying that no religious type of activity can be conducted within the school. With this, we are taking prayer out of school now. There are all kinds of estimates in this document with no true facts. The legal fees, I understand now that fifteen thousand (\$15,000) of these monies will be going

to Attorney Pope; and at first I was told it would be twenty five thousand (\$25,000). We are going to exceed this ordinance in legal fees. There is absolutely nothing in this ordinance that provides a follow-up with this money. The early advertising was all done to expedite the process. Mrs. Pope spoke for five minutes telling us how we are going to break the laws of this state. We all were elected to this Council to provide services for the taxpayers of this County and not to give away tax money. If this was a true economic development project for the County it would bring a return back to the County Treasurer. We have spent thousands of dollars to develop the Laurens County Development Corporation. From the very start of this, it was handled selfishly by those for personal gain. This is nothing but a procedure to expand a business using tax payer dollars. This money will never be returned to the County Treasurer. This has been a project that has been held in private. There are several members on this Council that have been held in the dark and know nothing about it. The people in charge used their positions to get end results. Until this past week, I had nothing in writing about a building, estimates or impact studies; I had to ask for it. Three members of this Council were summoned to Clinton to discuss all of this. I know I will be told that what Clinton does is none of my business. You are coming to me asking me to sign my name for you to get close to a million dollars. The people of this County are struggling.....you are forgetting about those that have not. This is not a time to raise taxes on the people of Laurens County. I am ashamed that this has come to this Council to take the taxpayers money.”

Vice Chair Anderson said, “One of our missions on County Council is to bring about economic development....to improve the quality of life. To do this it is a required task to be creative, innovative and open to various types. This is a positive move and a positive change for Laurens County ....we all will be better in doing this. We need to have a vision for Laurens County.”

Councilman Tribble said, “While Mayor of Clinton, we had new industry every year for about five (5) years. Many of these industries have fallen with financial problems. Avery Dennison has prospered.....Clinton Mill for many years incredibly prospered...the Torrington Company and Whitten Center were classified as major employers within the County. The point I am making is that it is all about business all of the time....there is nothing better than something started here and prospering here. In one hundred fifty years from now, I have no doubt in my mind that this Pharmacy School will still be here and prospering.”

VOTE 4-3 (Council Members McDaniel, Nash and Wood were in opposition).

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- 1.) Joe Brouillette –Owner and Operator of L&L Office Supply stated, “The proposed Pharmacy School would certainly be a help for my business as well as positive move for Laurens County. In listening to the discussions earlier, I felt like I was at a Laurens-Clinton football game. We have lost major industry and I certainly would hate to see this chain being broken by the Laurens County Council and all that it would do and create for Laurens County.”
- 2.) Ed Burns – Greenpond Community, “I hate it that the Presbyterian College Delegation left so early to hear these comments. I am a property owner in Laurens county and this is my tax dollars being spent. How can this Council, in all honesty, break the law by making a decision of this magnitude with no facts. This is breaking the law as it relates to Church and State. This will not bring that much money back to Laurens County. You are breaking the law....this can be written any way that you want to write it. I thank you Council Members for standing up for Laurens County. I am a volunteer fireman with the Greenpond Fire Department. You won’t give us the money to operate our services but you will give it away to this school. The Sheriff’s Department does not have enough manpower to offer services to the citizens and here you want to give the money to an institution that has money in excess. I know for a fact about the ambulance situation because I am on call until they can get an ambulance out to our location.”
- 3.) Tom Fry – “I am a retired Microsoft Engineer and I now volunteer with a Laurens County Rural Fire Department. Gentlemen, I ask that you think this through.....there are not enough ambulances in Laurens County to serve the people, especially in Northern Laurens County....Greenville County has to be called in to help serve the people. We have to scrimp and save to make things happen and this Council is giving things away. There is no true economic development happening in Laurens County.....look at all of the empty buildings in Laurens County. The College will not find the quality of people to go to the school from Laurens County. We have crack houses going on in our county and we can not get any action from the law enforcement. Please don’t spend our money for Presbyterian College”.
- 4.) Alton Barrington – “I thank you for passing this Ordinance. We moved here fourteen years ago and we own a small business in Clinton. We love the City and the County. The school opens the doors for Laurens County by inviting students and their families here. These same people spend money here in Laurens County. Progress is being made here folks”.

- 5.) Ken Couser – “I have a housing rental business in Laurens County and if you think they are going to get your tax dollars they will. Looking at my reassessment notices, from what I paid in 2004 to 2008 is a one hundred sixty three percent (163%) increase, that is a lot of money; a one hundred thirty seven percent (137%) increase in market values on the rental properties.”

Having no one else wishing to address Council, Chairman Coleman closed the public session at 7:00 P.M.

#### **COUNTY COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

- 1.) Councilman Joe Wood – “Nothing said here is against Presbyterian College. I am not against the Pharmacy School coming to Clinton; I hope it does come to Clinton; my problem is that it is against the law to take tax money and give it to a private institution....a violation of church and state. In my opinion that is where it was going from the very start. This all started when Josh Kay and Randy Randall – the Mayor of Clinton and who also works for Presbyterian College came up with this idea; not Presbyterian College. Are we going to set a precedence here? This is nothing but a business expansion. Are we setting a precedence here for anyone that wants expand their business coming to Council asking for the money? The two ladies that wrote a letter to the editor, they just don’t know what is coming. We just gave Piedmont Tech some more money; reassessment is going to add to the taxpayers. The City of Clinton has already said that they were going to raise taxes help with this project; the residents of the City of Clinton pay county taxes too; this is double taxation. No one on Council against the school, just against the strategies and not including all on Council from day one.....only the present yes votes were privileged.”
- 2.) Councilman Ted Nash – “Enough has been said. This is against the law to spend tax dollars on private institutions that are not for profit. PC can take some of the ninety million dollars and start the school. This is not the taxpayers problem and it is not right to our county employees to spend the money this way when they are needing better compensation. We are telling them that they have to wait.”
- 3.) Councilman Keith Tollison – “There is a point to be made here and I agree with Mr. Nash. Council, as a County, and how it relates to a school is important. If I was sitting on their side of the fence, I would ask, if they can spend a lot, why can’t we spend a little to invest in Laurens County by bringing this school to Laurens County. This is a non-traditional economic development project; and that does not mean that it is not an economic development project. As I have said before, we are looking at three hundred students and in excess of eighty jobs. We are here to provide services to Laurens County and we can not do it by ourselves. This is a non-traditional economic development project that will help.”
- 4.) Councilman Wood – “This is not the time to do this. On top of all this there is a forty million dollar referendum set for the City of Clinton. These people are already struggling to put bread on the table. This is not the time to do this.”