

Laurens County Council gives Caime 3-year extension

By John Clayton
Editor

Laurens County Council voted unanimously to extend the contract of County Administrator Jon Caime following an executive session at its April 23 meeting.

Caime's extension is for three more years, and he said its com-

pensation package is the same as his original three-year deal. Caime was hired away from the same post in Hart County, Ga., in March of 2016 and began work here in April of that year.

He said he is pleased with where the county is sitting after his initial three years at the helm.

"Everything has gone exactly

according to plan based on the original priorities outlined by council," Caime said. "I quickly realized there were dreams and priorities of council and dreams and priorities of the residents of Laurens County."

Caime said his first goal was to work on the county's budgeting process and make sure it was on sound financial footing.

"We had three years to put together a program to get the county finances going in the right direction, and we were able to do that," he said.

Caime credited his team of administrators and employees for the work they've accomplished over the past three years, including getting employee compensation levels in line

across the board.

"We've been able to do that and some other things without any increase in taxes," he said.

During his first three years in Laurens County, Caime was also a finalist for the top jobs in Spartanburg and Oconee counties. He said those would-be moves would have meant significant pay increases. He currently

makes about \$120,000 per year.

"Oconee County was my home as well," he said. "But Laurens County is my home now, and I'm proud to say that it is. I'm happy to be here."

Also in executive session, council members considered a fire services contract with the City of Clinton but did not take any action on the proposal.

New record annual rainfall total set in S.C.

After a thorough review of the available data, the State Climate Extremes Committee (SCEC) unanimously voted to accept the 2018 rainfall total of 123.45 inches observed by the National Weather Service (NWS) Cooperative Station, known as Jocassee 8 WNW, as the new official state annual rainfall record for South Carolina. This value surpasses the previous official record of 119.16 inches measured at Hogback Mountain in 1979.

The SCEC examined rainfall data from the surrounding area, along with weather patterns throughout the twelve-month period to come to their conclusion to validate the total. The SCEC team was comprised of representatives from the South Carolina State Climatology Office and a member from the NWS Office in

Greenville-Spartanburg, along with delegates from the Southeast Regional Climate Center (SERCC), NWS Eastern Region Headquarters and the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI).

The January 2018 SCDNR press release provides background information about the station and record:

The final report is available on the NCEI SCEC website at: <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/monitoring-content/extremes/scec/reports/20190405-South-Carolina-Annual-Rainfall.pdf>

A complete list of the current state records can also be found on the NOAA website.

The complete URL is: <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/extremes/scec/records/sc/>

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SATURDAY • MAY 11 • 10 A.M.

Bring Your Lawn Chairs & Enjoy The Day!

AUCTION ITEMS:	Strawberry Jam Child Airplane Swing Dog Crate End Table Hand-Turned Pan Wild Horse Wall Hanging 40"x35"	Ground Beef Candle Holders Western Style Plant Pots John Deere Wall Hanging 43"x35" Sewing Machine Planters Bird House Hallway Bench with Storage	2 Mid-Century Style End Tables 3 Quilted Throw Pillows Camping Cot Storage Reading Nook Compost Bin House Plants Collapsible All-Terrain Wagon Lawn Swing Set
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FIND US ON FACEBOOK AT CHMS ANNUAL BENEFIT AUCTION

Breakfast 8-10 a.m. BISCUITS & GRAVY FRESH DOUGHNUTS FRIED PIES	Quilts Hand-Stitched & Pieced Heart of Rose ~ 100"x112" Long Star Quilt ~ 114"x104" Peacock Quilt ~ 111"x106" Star Quilt & Deer Quilt ~ Queen Log Cabin Quilt ~ 94"x104" Lone Star Applique ~ 100"x112"	Lunch 11 a.m.-1 p.m. BBQ PORK & CHICKEN Plate Includes Slaw or Potato Salad, Beans, Dinner Roll
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Laurens Electric's 2019 Annual Meeting!
Saturday, June 1

Laurens Electric's Main Office, 2254 Highway 14, Laurens, SC 29360

Registration & Voting for Board of Trustees
8:30-10:30 a.m.

Entertainment
9-10 a.m.

Early Bird Prize Drawing
10 a.m.

Business Meeting Begins
10:30 a.m.

Prize drawings will follow the business meeting.

Entertainment
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Laurens Electric Cooperative

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Registration Gift
Each member who is present and registers at the Annual Meeting will receive a

- **\$25 Credit on their electric bill.** (Limit one \$25 electric bill credit per membership)

Grand Prize

- **2014 Chevrolet 1500 Truck**
Grand Prize vehicle similar to the one pictured.

Early Bird Prize

- **YETI® Tundra Haul Portable Wheeled Cooler** that holds 45 cans (Must be registered prior to 10 a.m.)

Just for High School Seniors

- **Two \$1,000 Scholarships**
Two \$1,000 scholarships will be given away to high school seniors whose parents, grandparents or guardians are members in attendance (student does not have to attend). The member at the annual meeting can register for the scholarship drawing on the student's behalf.

L.E.C. Laurens Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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Registration cards for the Annual Meeting will be mailed by May 17. You should receive **one card** and will be given **one gift**, even if you have multiple accounts. Only members who register in person will receive a gift.