



City of Laurens Council Responds to Legal Opinion

THE CITY OF LAURENS CITY COUNCIL WILL HOLD A MEETING AT THE
MUNICIPAL CENTER LOCATED AT
250 WEST LAURENS ST, LAURENS SC 29360 ON

Tuesday December 30, 2025

City of Laurens Council Responds to Legal Opinion on Emergency Oversight Measures

The Laurens City Council acknowledges receipt of the memorandum from Virginia P. Bozeman, Senior Counsel with Pope Flynn, LLC, regarding the Council's special-called meeting on December 23, 2025, and the proposed Resolution No. 12-22-2025 and Ordinance No. 12-22-25.

The Council also recognizes that these matters have required special-called meetings during the holiday season, including a second meeting scheduled for December 31, 2025, on New Year's Eve. The Council sincerely apologizes to residents, staff, and all affected parties for any inconvenience caused by meetings occurring during this time of year. These dates were not selected lightly.

However, when issues arise that may affect the **health, welfare, financial integrity, and public trust of the City of Laurens**, the Council believes its obligation to act responsibly and promptly must take precedence over holidays and festivities. Delaying consideration of credible, documented concerns solely due to the calendar would be inconsistent with the Council's fiduciary duty to the citizens it serves.

The Council remains mindful of the impact on the community and remains committed to conducting its work transparently, respectfully, and with full regard for due process, even when circumstances require action at difficult or inconvenient times.

The Council also recognizes that these meetings are occurring during the holiday season, a time traditionally reserved for family, reflection, and community celebration. The timing was not chosen lightly. However, when matters arise that may affect the **financial integrity of the City, the proper use of public funds, and the public's trust in local government**, the Council believes its responsibility to the **health, welfare, and financial well-being of the citizens of Laurens must take precedence over holidays and festivities**.

The core purpose of these measures was *not* to assign guilt or impose discipline, but to establish **temporary investigative procedures, financial safeguards, clear communication protocols, and continuity measures** in the event credible allegations arise involving the Mayor or senior appointed officials.

The Council respectfully disagrees with the assertion that it lacks the authority to address issues of public concern and to ensure accountability in municipal government.

Further, City Council notes for the record that on Tuesday, September 19, 2023, Council approved the appointment of Attorney Lawrence E. Flynn, III to provide legal services to the City on an as-needed basis, with compensation structured at a variable rate rather than a fixed salary.

Council further notes that this meeting represented the first occasion on which Council members had direct interaction with Mr. Flynn, or were made aware of his appointment as City Attorney. Mr. Flynn's professional focus is understood to be public finance and bond-related matters.

Council interacted with Attorney Virginia P. Bozeman one other time previously. She serves as senior counsel with Pope Flynn, LLC, and specializes in governmental law. Council has met with Ms. Bozeman twice to date and has requested legal guidance from her.

At this time, Council has not received confirmation of the full cost structure associated with current legal services, despite Council's statutory responsibility to approve the municipal budget. Council expresses concern that access to consistent legal counsel for the full governing body has been limited.

Accordingly, Council is reviewing the structure, cost, and accessibility of municipal legal services to ensure that legal counsel is available to the retire Council body, support transparent governance, and aligns with the City's fiscal responsibilities and stated values.