Meeting Notes – Dec. 3, 2024

The LaFayette Rotary Club met on Tuesday, December 3, 2024, in the Fellowship Hall of the First Baptist Church of LaFayette for its weekly meeting. Rotarian Steve Wheeler was responsible for the program and invited Craig Stapleton, airport manager at the Lanett Airport, and Peter Kambeitz, the assistant airport manager, to be our speakers.

Peter spoke first and after introducing himself to the club members, spoke to us about the airport itself. The Lanett airport actually has a longer runway than the Auburn airport and can land any size of business jet. The airport also has a multi-million-dollar terminal. Improvements for the future include the addition of a security fence, an access road off of Exit 77 on I-85, pavement rehab, parking expansion, on-site jet fuel, and hangar development for jets. The plan is to lay the pad next year for the jet fuel tanks. The tanks are on hold. The long-term goal of the airport is to increase jet traffic and ultimately increase industry in the area. More revenue is needed in order to increase federal funding. Most improvement projects are about 90% federally funded.

Craig has relocated here from New Mexico and will officially begin his position in January 2025. He was an aviator in the Navy and also has civilian flying experience. He spoke of his desire to grow the local airport and the positive impact that can have on the local area and economy.

Diane Sherriff