

**CITY OF LAURINBURG  
CITY COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING  
DECEMBER 16, 2025  
CITY HALL AND POLICE DEPARTMENT  
303 WEST CHURCH ST.  
12:00 PM**

**Minutes**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The City Council of the City of Laurinburg held its organizational meeting on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, in the Council Chambers of the City Hall and Police Department at 12:00 p.m. with the Honorable James T. Willis, Mayor, presiding. The following Councilmembers were present: Mary Jo Adams, DeMarco Allen, James McLean, Rosemary Rainer, and Andrew G. Williamson, Jr.

Also present were Charles D. Nichols III, City Manager; William P. Floyd, Jr., City Attorney; Amanda K. Futrell, City Clerk; Brooke Bathie, Deputy City Clerk; Harold W. Haywood, Budget and Management Services Director.

Mayor Willis called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

**2. INVOCATION**

Councilmember Rainer gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. INSTALLATION OF RE-ELECTED COUNCILMEMBER**

a. Oath of Office for Andrew "Drew" G. Williamson, Jr.

Mayor Willis stated that it was an honor to swear in a longtime friend for a fourth term on the Laurinburg City Council. He noted that Councilmember Williamson is a lifelong resident of Laurinburg, whose father previously served as an attorney in the City, and that he himself is an attorney in the City. Mayor Willis added that Councilmember Williamson has dedicated his heart and soul to the community and serves in many additional roles. Mayor Willis paraphrased Councilmember Williamson's remarks, noting that he expressed excitement about serving another term and his belief that many positive and exciting initiatives are planned for the City.

Mayor Willis administered the Oath of Office to re-elected Councilmember Williamson.

#### **4. INSTALLATION OF NEWLY ELECTED COUNCILMEMBERS**

a. Oath of Office for James McLean.

Mayor Willis called upon Councilmember James McLean to administer the Oath of Office, stating that he is a friend and neighbor whom he was delighted to welcome to the Laurinburg City Council. Mayor Willis noted that many in the community are familiar with the positive impact of newly elected Councilmember McLean's service over the years, including his organization, the Blue Blazers, which has influenced numerous lives over the past 11 years. He further emphasized Councilmember McLean's contributions as both a teacher and a coach, adding that he and his wife are educators and that a lifelong commitment to education is among the highest callings.

Mayor Willis administered the Oath of Office to newly elected Councilmember McLean.

b. Oath of Office for DeMarco Allen.

Mayor Willis called upon Councilmember DeMarco Allen to administer the Oath of Office, stating that it was an honor to welcome a member of the City's youth to the Laurinburg City Council. Mayor Willis congratulated newly elected Councilmember Allen on his election and expressed his respect for individuals willing to serve in public office, noting the level of public scrutiny such service entails. He remarked that undertaking this responsibility requires courage, along with a willingness and desire to serve, and commended Councilmember Allen for accepting the challenge at the age of 34.

Mayor Willis administered the Oath of Office to newly elected Councilmember Allen.

#### **5. APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR PRO-TEM**

Mayor Willis entertained nominations for the Mayor Pro Tem seat. Councilmember McLean nominated Councilmember Rainer for Mayor Pro Tem. Councilmember Adams seconded the nomination.

Councilmember Williamson moved to close the nominations. Councilmember Adams seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

The vote for Councilmember Rainer to be appointed Mayor Pro Tem was as follows:

Ayes — Adams, Allen, McLean, Rainer, Williamson  
Nays — None

a. Oath of Office for Mayor Pro-Tem.

Mayor Willis stated that it was an honor to recognize Councilmember Rainer as the newly elected Mayor Pro Tempore. He noted that she began her first term on Council following the passing of her late husband and has since fulfilled her duties with diligence. Mayor Willis added that Councilmember Rainer consistently remains well-informed on matters before Council, maintains close communication with her constituents, and demonstrates a strong work ethic. He stated that her election as Mayor Pro Tempore reflects the dedication and excellence she has shown in her service as a Councilmember.

Mayor Willis administered the Oath of Office to newly elected Mayor Pro Tempore Rainer.

Mayor Willis highlighted the local and statewide resources Council has access to regarding networking and continued education, including the Lumbee River Council Of Governments (LRCOG), North Carolina League of Municipalities (NCLM), and UNC School of Government.

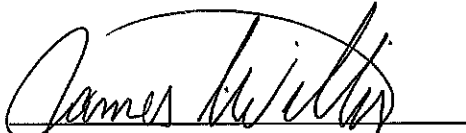
Mayor Willis congratulated the City Manager and staff on their hard work in restructuring personnel. He stated that Amanda Futrell was promoted to City Clerk and Brooke Bathie was promoted to Deputy City Clerk. He further stated that former City Clerk Harold Haywood has transitioned to the position of Budget and Management Services Director. He also noted that the Fire Chief and Police Chief were in attendance.

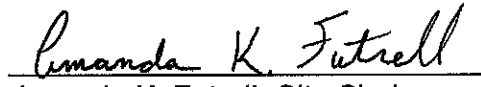
Mayor Willis highlighted that the City's tax rate is among the lowest in the region, noting that Pinehurst is the only other municipality with a comparable rate. He added that the City provides high-quality services and has recently embarked on more than \$60 million in infrastructure investments, including water, sewer, and stormwater improvements. Mayor Willis concluded by stating that there is significant progress underway in Laurinburg, expressing his pride in serving as Mayor of the community and his pleasure in welcoming the new members of Council.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Councilmember Adams, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Rainer, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:17 p.m.

  
James T. Willis, Mayor

  
Amanda K. Futrell, City Clerk