

**CITY OF LAURINBURG
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 19, 2026
CITY HALL AND POLICE DEPARTMENT
303 WEST CHURCH ST.
6:00 PM**

Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

The City Council of the City of Laurinburg held its regular meeting on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, in the Council Chambers of the City Hall and Police Department at 6:00 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 & Management Services Director; Jennifer McGirt, Finance Director; Walker McCoy, Community Development Director.

Mayor Willis called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Councilmember Allen gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Adams moved to approve the agenda, with a second by Councilmember McLean, and the vote was unanimous.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There was no one present that wished to make a comment.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Willis read aloud the Consent Agenda:

- a. Consider the approval of the draft minutes for the April 21, 2026, Special Meeting and Regular Meeting.

- b. Set a public hearing to be held on June 16, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. to consider the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Proposed Budget.
- c. Set a public hearing for Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. to consider a request for a Special Use Permit for Parcel No. 01004202025 located east of Deluca Street, south of R. Graham Street, and north of West Allen Street.
- d. Consider Ordinance No. O-2026-08 to Amend the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Annual Budget Appropriations Ordinance No. O-2025-17 to transfer funds from the Vehicles and Equipment Capital Project Fund to the General Fund for planned capital projects in the Police Department and IT Department, and to the Electric Fund for planned capital projects in the Electric Operations Department.
- e. Consider Ordinance No. O-2026-09 to Amend the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Annual Budget Appropriations Ordinance No. O-2025-17 to transfer funds from the Electric Operations Department to the Electric Production Department to allocate the additional funding needed for electric wholesale power purchases.
- f. Consider Ordinance No. O-2026-10 to Amend the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Annual Budget Appropriations Ordinance No. O-2025-17 to increase funding needed for part-time salaries and wages expense for the Fire Department.
- g. Consider Ordinance No. O-2026-11 to Amend the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Annual Budget Appropriations Ordinance No. O-2025-17 to receive revenue for the McDuffie Stage Naming Rights Agreement and expend funds for signage and maintenance.
- h. Consider Ordinance No. O-2026-12 Amending the Water/Sewer Capital Project Fund to transfer funds from the Sewage Collection Department for the Bridge Creek Basin/S. Main Street Gravity Sewer Replacement Project in the amount of \$250,000.00.
- i. Consider the application to use the facilities at McDuffie Square by Scotland Youth Development for a Juneteenth Celebration on June 20, 2026, from 3:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.

- j. Consider the application to use the facilities at McDuffie Square by the Scotland County TDA for a Farmers Market on May 16, June 13, July 18, August 15, September 12, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- k. Consider the application to use the shelter facility at Hammond Park by an individual for a private event on June 13, 2026, from 9:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.
- l. Consider the application to use the facilities at McDuffie Square by the SDD Foundation, for a DOMO Festival on September 5, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Rainer moved to approve the Consent Agenda.
Councilmember Allen seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

(Copies of Ordinance No. O-2026-08, No. O-2026-09, No. O-2026-10, No. O-2026-11, and No. O-2026-12 are on file in the Clerk's office)

5. CITY MANAGER REPORTS

- a. Consider the application to use the facilities at McDuffie Square by Motivated4Greater Inc., for a gospel singing event on July 19, 2026, from 12:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.

The City Manager stated that the reason this application line item is not on the consent agenda is because, after consulting with the City Attorney, it was decided that two Councilmembers must recuse themselves due to a conflict of interest from being involved with the organization and event. He noted that Councilmember McLean was a Co-Creator of the non-profit and Councilmember Adams was a member of its Board of Directors.

Councilmember Williamson moved to approve the application to use the facilities at McDuffie Square by Motivated4Greater Inc., for a gospel singing event on July 19, 2026, from 12:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. as presented. Councilmember Allen seconded the motion. The vote carried unanimously between Councilmember Allen, Mayor Pro Tem Rainer, and Councilmember Williamson.

- b. Consider the bids and award the contract for the 127 Main Street Restoration Construction Project.

The City Manager stated that the City owns this building at 127 Main Street and it is a former Treasure Pawn and former First National Bank that the City inherited a few years ago. He stated that the City secured \$1.1 million of grant funding to rehabilitate the building, which would only cover a portion of that cost. He noted that the City signed a lease with Gaston Brewing Company and that this project is to utilize the grant funds through the 2026 calendar year, then Gaston Brewing Company would take ownership next year.

The City Manager explained that the City went out for bid on May 6, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. and received four bids. He stated that the lowest responsible bidder was Critical Past Solutions, LLC for \$669,979 and asked Council for rapid action to be able to use the grant funds by the end of the calendar year. He noted that work on the project must be completed by the end of November so that there is time to seek reimbursement from Commerce and the Main Street Groups.

Mayor Pro Tem Rainer moved to approve the bids and award the contract for the 127 Main Street Restoration Construction Project, to Critical Past Solutions, LLC for \$669,979. Councilmember McLean seconded the motion.

Mayor Willis expressed that the City Manager was pleased with the bid value. The City Manager confirmed, stating that the highest bid was approximately double the amount of the lowest bid value and adding that he aims to have a finalized rendering that'll show the building's color scheme and other details within the next week.

The vote was unanimous.

6. APPOINTMENTS

- a. Consider the reappointment of a Planning Board member.

Councilmember Williamson moved to approve the reappointment of Planning Board Member James Thomas for another three-year term on the Laurinburg Planning Board, with the term set to expire on June 30, 2029. Councilmember Adams seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

7. COMMENTS FROM MAYOR AND/OR COUNCILMEMBERS

Mayor Willis noted that all Councilmembers attended CityVision 2026 recently and shared notable anecdotes from the event, stating that there was lots learned. He thanked Mayor Pro Tem Rainer for filling in at an event he could not attend and

mentioned that he spoke at the Scottish Pines event. He concluded that he attended a League of Women Voters event with the City Manager.

Councilmember Adams provided airport updates and stated that she would be in Raleigh for the Council of Governments Forum Group. She commended Walker on the work done at McDuffie Square for the Friday night event.

Mayor Pro Tem Rainer noted that she was briefed on the work of the Lumber River Council of Governments by Mr. David Richardson.

Councilmember McLean stated that he had a chance to attend a couple of Town Hall meetings and heard some positive feedback from citizens.

8. CLOSED SESSION (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT)


Councilmember Adams moved to go into closed session at 6:17 p.m. pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4) to discuss economic development. Mayor Pro Tem Rainer moved to second the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Councilmember Adams moved to adjourn the closed session at 6:44 p.m. and return to the open meeting. Councilmember Allen moved to second the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:44 p.m.


James T. Willis, Mayor


Amanda K. Futrell, City Clerk

