CITY OF LAURINBURG
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 17, 2015
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
303 WEST CHURCH ST.
7:00 p.m.

Minutes

The City Council of the City of Laurinburg held its regular meeting on Tuesday, November 17, 2015 in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building at 7:00 p.m. with the Honorable Thomas W. Parker III, Mayor, presiding. The following Councilmembers were present: Mary Jo Adams, Dolores A. Hammond, Curtis B. Leak, Andrew G. Williamson, Jr. and J.D. Willis.

Also present were Charles D. Nichols III, City Manager; Jennifer A. Tippett, City Clerk; and William P. Floyd, Jr., City Attorney.

Mayor Parker called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Councilmember Hammond requested a moment of silence and she then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Parker recognized Ms. Jasmine Parker, an Intern from UNC-Pembroke who worked with the City this semester. He explained that she had done an outstanding job, and he thanked her for her service.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Parker explained that the agenda needed to be amended to remove Item 9, Community Development Update, since Mr. Warner was not present, and he would like to add Discussion of Energy Conservation Meetings after Item 12.

Motion was made by Councilmember Williamson, seconded by Councilmember Leak, and unanimously carried to approve the agenda as amended.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mr. Mike Schmidt explained that he was an attorney and represented Mr. Woody Pierce. He explained that Mr. Pierce had operated a business in downtown Laurinburg for many years and recently decided to retire. He further added that Mr. Pierce had an opportunity to sell his building to a pawn shop that is currently operating at another location downtown. Mr. Schmidt then explained that the City's Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) was recently revised and one of the revisions was the pawn shops were not a permissible use in the Central Business District. He added that he compared the City's UDO to some other UDOs that do allow pawn shops in the Central Business District. He expressed concern that Mr. Pierce is not able to sell his building to an interested buyer, so there will be one (1) more empty building downtown. He requested that Council take a look at the ordinance to allow pawn shops in the Central Business District.

Mr. Jim Henery explained that he retired to Scotia Village from New York in 2014. He expressed concern about the possible construction of a new city hall without public input and consideration of other options.

Mr. Michael Edds appeared before Council and explained that he spoken to Council about one (1) month ago to request that Council consider a curfew for youth. He added that he is gravely concerned about the rising crime rate, particularly among young people. He explained that many municipalities have curfews that require minimal manpower and that hold the parents accountable for their children. He also expressed concern that there is nothing for young people to do in the community, and he recommended that Council consider partnering with the school system to take over one of the vacant schools to develop a community center. He again expressed concern about the crime rate among youth.

Ms. Mary Evans expressed concern regarding the proposed new city hall and the citizens' opposition to the new building. She explained that there are alternative existing sites that should be explored before construction a new building. She also discussed the need for a recreation center for the community. She expressed concern about City Council transparency when spending taxpayers' dollars and that City Council needs to listen to its constituents.

Mr. Woody Pierce, 12740 Antler Circle, explained that he had operated Woody's Printing on Main Street for over 19 years. He added that within the last two (2) months he had an opportunity to sell his business and building, but ran into an obstacle in selling the building because a pawn shop is not allowed in the Downtown District. He requested that City Council consider allowing an existing pawn shop in the downtown area move across the street to a better building than where the pawn shop is currently located or consider an amendment to the UDO.

Mr. Jerry Jacobs explained that he is one of the owners of Town & Country Mobile Home Park and that in last year's City budget (2014-2015), funds were allocated to extend sewer to the mobile home park. He added that the project was not undertaken and funds were not included in the current year's budget because of an issue with the railroad that has a line between the mobile home park and the City's Hillside Memorial Park. He further added that he understood that the issue with the railroad was resolved so he was asking Council to fund this project because without City sewer, there is a possibility that three (3) lots in the mobile home park will have to be closed and move three (3) families out of the mobile home park. He explained that if City sewer is run to the mobile home park, 17 new mobile homes could be located at the park, thereby increasing revenue for the City.

Mayor Parker explained that Council would take this under advisement for consideration in the next budget.

Matthew Block, MD, explained that he lives on Turnpike Road in Laurinburg and that many Laurinburg citizens have serious reservations about the need for a new city hall and do not understand the need for it nor how it will be paid since citizens were not included in the process.

He added that many citizens prefer that Council partner with other organizations and build a community recreation center. He discussed the 2013 Occupational Safety and Health Standards (OSHA) report dated 2013 concerning the existing city hall. He further added that in response to controversial issues, most governing bodies appoint citizen committees or seek public input in order to get citizen feedback. He stated that on behalf of the citizens of Laurinburg, before going forward with the city hall project, that Council seek citizen input.

PRESENTATION OF ADVANCED LAW ENFORCEMENT CERTIFICATES

Mayor Parker presented Advanced Law Enforcement Certificates to Detective Chris Young and Officer Larry Bowman. He explained that the City has an excellent Police Department.

Officer Bowman explained that it took him 15 years to earn this certificate. He added that he enjoys serving and being a part of the community. He further added that he does the best job he can.

Detective Young stated that earning this certificate was one of his career goals, and it took him 15 years to do so. He added that he loves the City, the Police Department and enjoys serving the community.

CONSENT AGENDA

The City Manager presented the Consent Agenda as follows:

a) Consider minutes of October 14, 2015 special meeting/work session
b) Consider Ordinance No. O-2015-15 amending the FY 15-16 Budget Appropriations Ordinance (O-2015-09) for the Art Garden

Councilmember Adams moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Willis seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Adams, Willis, Leak, Williamson, Hammond
Nays: None

PUBLIC HEARINGS

CONSIDER REQUEST TO REZONE FROM OFFICE/INSTITUTIONAL TO RESIDENTIAL-20 PROPERTY LOCATED AT 8981 TARTAN RD.

Mr. Mac McInnis, City Zoning Officer, explained that Mr. Mark Ward, owner of 8981 Tartan Road, is requesting to rezone the property from Office/Institutional to Residential-20. He added that this zoning is consistent with all abutting property, and prior to the nursing home that was located on the property, it was zoned Residential-20. He further added that Planning Board heard the request at its October 13, 2015 meeting and unanimously recommended approval. He stated that it was staff’s recommendation that the request be approved.

Upon question by Councilmember Hammond, Mr. McInnis explained that the property is currently for sale and the interested buyer would like to build a single-family home on the property.

Mayor Parker opened the public hearing.

Mr. Mark Ward appeared before Council and explained that an individual interested in purchasing the property would like for all property around the site where he plans to build a home zoned Residential and also for the rezoning to be completed prior to purchase.

Upon question by Councilmember Leak, Mr. Ward stated that the property consisted of 1.9 acres of land.

There being no one else to speak on this matter, Mayor Parker closed the public hearing.

Councilmember Williamson moved to approve Ordinance No. O-2015-16 which rezones from Office/Institutional to Residential-20 property located at 8981 Tartan Road based upon the following:

> The rezoning of Scotland County Land Parcel Number 04019806008 from Office-Institutional to Residential-20 is consistent with an adopted comprehensive plan and any other officially adopted plan that is applicable because:

1. The R-20 zoning district was established to allow low density, single family residences, and agricultural land uses which are interspersed with large, undeveloped open areas. Single family residences (excluding manufactured homes), two family residences and multi-family residences are permitted in this district at a density of 2.1 dwelling units per acre.
2. The Comprehensive Use Plan Laurinburg 2035 recognizes the importance of preserving low-density residential uses, agricultural lands and woodlands within the city's planning jurisdiction.
3. The Plan promotes development which is consistent with the Rural Residential/Agriculture Future Land Use Sector, given that the subject parcel is located along the "rural fringe" of the City of Laurinburg. Rezoning to Residential-20 will maintain the present character of the City of Laurinburg by allowing continued agricultural and low density residential uses.

AND

1. The rezoning to R-20 will allow agricultural and residential uses that are safe for the citizens or the City of Laurinburg and Scotland County;
2. The rezoning to R-20 will allow uses consistent with surrounding uses;
3. The rezoning to R-20 will help maintain the present character of the City of Laurinburg;
4. The rezoning to R-20 will have little or no detrimental impact to the property values of surrounding landowners; and

5. The rezoning to R-20 will require limited or no infrastructure improvements by the City of Laurinburg.

The motion was seconded by Councilmember Willis, and carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Williamson, Willis, Hammond, Adams, Leak
Nays: None
(Ordinance No. O-2015-16 on file in the City Clerk's office)

CONSIDER REDUCTION OF ELECTRIC RATES

The City Manager explained that he had prepared five (5) handouts with information requested by Council as follows, all of which are attached to as Attachment "A" and incorporated into these minutes:

- Electric rate history for 10 years
- Copy of letter from the Local Government Commission (LGC)

Mr. Nichols explained that over the last 10 years, Council approved two (2) electric rate increases, one on January 27, 2009 and the recent one on January 20, 2015. He added that the letter from the LGC is what prompted Council to approve a rate increase in January. He then discussed the following points from the LGC letter:

- Audit showed net loss in the Electric Fund in the 2014 audit. Losses indicate the amounts being charged to customers are not sufficient to cover the cost of providing the electric services.
- The cash flow from operations was negative.
- The Electric Fund had to borrow $1.29 million from the Water/Sewer Fund in that year, which brought the total up to $1.87 million.

A brief discussion ensued concerning electric rate increases. Councilmember Leak explained that between 2008 and 2011, the City was in the middle of a recession, so Council decided not to pass wholesale rate increases on to the citizens, instead to absorb the rate increases.

Councilmember Willis clarified that instead of raising electric rates during that time period, the Council chose to take money out of the Electric Fund's fund balance.

The City Manager explained that the income loss in the last three (3) years in the Electric Fund has been as follows:

FY 2014-2015	income loss of $314,000.00
FY 2013-2014	income loss of $902,000.00
FY 2012-2013	income loss of $1.7 million

The City Manager explained that the income loss has trended down over the past several years due to staff cutting capital expenditures. He added that in FY 2014-2015, the income loss was lessened because of five (5) months of the electric rate increase approved in January, 2015.

Mayor Parker opened the public hearing.

Mr. Ed Tucker of Progressive Engineering explained that Progressive Engineering had been asked to conduct a rate study for the City. He added that in conducting the study, he considered the following:

- Decrease in wholesale power costs due to the asset purchase agreement between Duke/Progress Energy and NCEMPA.
- Electric Department budget levels and expenditures exclusive of power purchases.
- Projected revenues.
- Status of the Electric Fund.
- Forecasts of power costs for the next 5-6 year period.

Mr. Tucker explained that one component of future power costs that cannot be accurately predicted at this time is the coal ash cleanup required of Duke Progress Energy. The estimated cost for the coal ash cleanup is $3.5 to $4 billion for the next 4-5 years, and more than likely Duke Progress Energy will ask for permission to include these costs in its electric rates in the future. He added that his study included some increase in power costs due to the coal ash cleanup. He further added that he recommended a seven percent (7%) across the board electric rate reduction for the City and to roll the fuel adjustment into the electric rates.

Mr. Tucker discussed the following:

- The transformer at the substation is very old and at capacity. Progress Energy has said it should be changed out. The City would be charged for the transformer at a cost of between $2.5 to $3 million.
- The City's electric materials inventory has been depleted and needs to be replenished.
- The Electric Fund reserve needs to be built back up in the event of a major storm or other catastrophe.

Mr. Tucker discussed a comparison of the City's electric rates with nearby municipalities and other providers, as follows:

- Average rates for Duke Progress is comparable to the City rates.
- Lumber River Electric Coop rates are a little lower than the City.
- Pee Dee Electric Coop rates are comparable to the City.
- The City of Lumberton recently reduced its electric rates by 6.7% and the City's rates would be lower.

Mr. Tucker explained that he did not believe that unless there were significant increases in electric rates from Duke Progress Energy for the coal ash cleanup, he did not anticipate an electric rate increase for the City for approximately three (3) to four (4) years. He added that with a 7% electric rate reduction, the City would improve its revenues to build up the Electric Fund reserves and do some of the deferred capital projects.

Discussion ensued concerning the following:

- Replacement of the transformer.
- The need for an additional substation for the City.
- Impact of the Duke Progress Energy Coal Ash Cleanup.

Upon question by Councilmember Williamson, Mr. Tucker explained that the impact of the Coal Ash Clean Up should be known within the next two (2) years. He added that Duke is estimating that the cleanup will occur over a five (5) year period.

Upon question by Councilmember Adams, Mr. Robert Smith, Electric Services Director, explained that the working inventory has been depleted and needs to be replaced. He added that in an effort to keep costs down, supplies for inventory had not been purchased in several years. He further added that if the City experienced a hurricane or an ice storm, the City could be in trouble, and it is important to replenish the inventory.

Upon question by Councilmember Adams, Mr. Tucker explained that the rate study was comprised of two (2) parts, with the first part to look at the electric rates and the second component was to look at and simplify the City's electric rate structure. He added that the City has a lot of rates for the size of municipality. He further added that due to the complexity, this component would require more time and would be presented to Council in 2016.

Ms. Lauren Stubbs appeared before Council and expressed concern that instead of a seven percent (7%) reduction in electric rates, the reduction should be 10-12%. She added that citizens would be willing to face an increase in the future if the City needed to increase electric rates.

Ms. Emmie Averitt, 434 Elliott Drive, appeared before Council and expressed concern about rising costs and incomes remaining the same or shrinking. She requested that Council reduce electric rates by 14%.

Ms. Carol Leazer, 707 Highland Drive, appeared before Council and stated that she works for Dr. Block but was not speaking on his behalf. She stated that the citizens want and deserve a 10% reduction in electric rates.

Mr. Wayne Gibson, 511 Queensdale Street, appeared before Council and inquired about the purpose of solar farms.

Mayor Parker explained that the solar farms are generally owned by private investors who sell the solar energy to Duke Progress Energy. He added that the solar farms pay taxes, but get a reduction. He further added that the City will benefit with the lease payment for the solar farm being built on the City's property.

Ms. Betty Joseph, 713 Peden Street, explained that she works in the mental health field and is aware of many citizens that are living on incomes below $1,000.00 per month and who experience great hardship every month.

Ms. Shirley Campbell, 913 Isabelle Street, explained that she thinks the City should lower the electric rates by 14%.

Mr. J.B. Hair, 615 East Vance, appeared before Council and explained that it is difficult when one must decide between paying the light bill or buying groceries. He discussed responsibility of elected officials and the need to do everything humanly possible for the citizens.

Mayor Parker closed the public hearing.

Councilmember Adams thanked Mr. Tucker for the information he presented and explained that she heard the citizens' comments. She explained that she needs to do what she feels is in the best interest for all of the citizens of Laurinburg.

Motion was made by Councilmember Adams to approve a seven percent (7%) across the board decrease in electric rates effective for bills rendered on and after January 1, 2016. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hammond.

Following discussion, Councilmember Adams amended the motion for the electric rate reduction to be effective for bills rendered on and after December 1, 2016. Councilmember Hammond seconded the amended motion, and it carried unanimously.

Councilmember Hammond explained that City employees risk their lives during storms to ensure that the City's electric customers have power. She added that they must have good equipment and inventory with which to work.

Mayor Parker explained that Council cannot lower the electric rates more because in the past the City had absorbed wholesale electric increases for the benefit of the citizens.

Mayor Parker called for a short recess at 8:41 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 8:46 p.m.

DELEGATION

FY 2014-2015 AUDIT RESULTS

Mr. Carl Head of Parker, Wagoner & Roche, PLLC, presented the FY 2014-2015 audit of the City's financial books. He explained that as auditor, he was expressing an opinion of the City's financial statements, which means the firm conducts tests of the City's accounts and transactions, and state whether what the City has presented the auditor is materially correct or not. He added that in his firm's opinion, the financial statements are reasonable and were given an unmodified opinion. He further added that the financial statements were not the firm's, but are the responsibility of the management of the City.

Mr. Head discussed the following highlights of the audit:

- In 2015, the net change in fund balance in the General Fund was an increase of $387,944.00 compared to the prior year loss of $74,600.00.
- In 2015, the Electric Fund income or loss before transfers was a loss in 2015 of $314,000.00.
- In the prior year in the Electric Fund, the loss was $902,000.00.
- In 2015, the Water/Sewer Fund barely broke even with a gain of $10,311.00
- In the prior year in the Water/Sewer Fund, there was a loss of $672,000.00.
- In 2015, the Solid Waste Fund barely broke even with a gain of $10,249.00.
- In the prior year in the Solid Waste Fund, there was a positive increase of $44,959.00.

Mr. Head explained that the numbers he discussed are not synonymous with cash. He then discussed the Statement of Cash Flows (revenues from each fund minus normal operating expenses) as follows:

- In 2015, increase in Electric Fund of $414,802.00.
- In 2015, increase in Water/Sewer Fund of $1.2 million.
- In 2015, increase in Solid Waste Fund of $212,936.00

Mr. Head explained that the enterprise funds had an increase in cash from operating activities, which is an improvement in operating activities since in the prior two (2) years there were big losses in the Electric Fund. He added that in 2014, there was a loss of $986,000.00 from operations and in 2013, a loss of $741,000.00. He further added that in 2015, Council took corrective action and there was an increase of $414,000.00 in the Electric Fund from operations; however, after cash flow from construction of capital projects, mainly the industrial park, and interest and principal payments on the note, there was a total decrease in cash in the three (3) enterprise funds of $1.1 million, and the Electric Fund effectively borrowed funds from the Water/Sewer Fund and the General Fund. He explained in order to balance the budget, the Electric Fund had to dip into the General Fund because the Water/Sewer Fund was depleted, and this resulted in the General Fund having a decrease in cash of $681,000.000.

Mr. Head discussed the findings of the audit and that they had been the same findings from prior years:

- Mr. Head explained that the firm is substantially involved with the preparation of the financial statements and in effect is auditing its own work; therefore, this must be listed as a finding. He added that there had been great improvement from prior year in journal entries required.
- Mr. Head explained that another finding was that the Water/Sewer and Solid Waste Funds appropriated fund balance that did not exist. He added that this finding was a technical issue and the action was done in order to balance the FY 2014-2015 budget. He further added that this was a continued finding from the previous year's audit; however, the previous year involved only the Electric Fund.

Councilmember Willis explained that Council was aware of the issues with the audit several months ago and took corrective action. He added that hopefully the FY 2015-2016 audit will not have the same findings.

A discussion ensued concerning preparation of the financial statements and finance software. Upon question by Councilmember Williamson, Mr. Head explained that the City has the capability at the current time; however the Interim Finance Director is part-time. He added that he felt that if the City hired a full-time Finance Director with experience in preparing financial statements, the finding concerning preparation of the financial statements would probably no longer be a finding of future audits.

The City Manager explained that the City uses Munis software in Accounting. He added that the City currently uses Harris software in Consumer Billing, and there will be a conversion to have everything in Munis software. He added that the conversion should take place in January or February, and then Consumer Billing will run six (6) months where the two (2) software systems run parallel.

Upon question by Councilmember Adams, Mr. Head explained that the City's financial information should always be up-to-date, and the City has that now. He added that up-to-date financial information is different from preparing financial statements in accordance with governmental accounting standards. He further added that some municipalities hire another accounting firm to prepare the financial statements, thereby incurring an additional cost.

Mr. Head explained that another finding on the audit was that the City was still utilizing an Excel spreadsheet to track capital equipment and depreciation. He added that it has been recommended for many years for the City to purchase fixed asset software to more accurately track fixed assets and record depreciation.

The City Manager explained that staff will be adding the fixed asset information to the Munis software.

Mayor Parker explained that he wanted to clarify that he has no relationship with the auditing firm of Parker, Wagoner & Roche, PLLC. He thanked Ms. Neal, Interim Finance Director, for her and her staff's work.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

UPDATE ON CITIZEN REQUEST FOR CURFEW

Police Chief Darwin Williams explained that he had researched the possibility of a juvenile curfew as requested by several citizens and based upon his research, at this time he did not believe that a curfew was necessary. He discussed that a curfew would necessitate the hiring of four (4) police officers and two (2) administrative staff members, along with equipment including vehicles. He cited statistics concerning juvenile arrests and that the majority of arrests occur during school hours. He also discussed that his department is more involved with youth in the community in an effort to nurture youth in the community. He added that there is an increased effort to develop neighborhood watch groups.

CONSIDER APPROVING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLAN

The City Manager explained that Mr. Warner had discussed the Community Development Strategic Plan with Council and had made changes recommended by Council previously.

Motion was made by Councilmember Willis, seconded by Councilmember Adams, and unanimously carried to approve the Community Development Strategic Plan.

QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Carrie Neal, Interim Finance Director, presented the Quarterly Financial Report to Council. She explained that this report was generated directly from Munis and provided a high level review of the City's financial status as of October 31, 2015. She suggested that a monthly financial report be presented to Council as it is an excellent overview of the expenditures by line item.

Upon question by Councilmember Adams, Mrs. Neal explained that revenue from taxes is the largest income item in the General Fund. She added that the largest percentage of taxes are paid in December each year, so that is why income in the Tax Department is at 60% or budgeted at this time. She further added that the Tax Department is exactly where she would expect it to be.

Councilmember Leak requested the report in color.

Discussion ensued concerning the level of detail that Council would like to see monthly in the financial report. The City Manager explained that this report could be as detailed as Council wanted.

Councilmember Willis stated that he would like to see just totals.

Mayor Parker explained that on a monthly basis he recommended pointing out where the totals are out of compliance, but for the quarterly report, the detailed report would be good.

Mrs. Neal clarified that Council wanted to see totals in the monthly report with explanations for any areas that are out of the expected range, and for the quarterly report to be detailed.

CONSIDER AMENDING INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT

The City Attorney explained that since Council approved the Interconnection Agreement with Laurinburg Farm, LLC, estimates for the infrastructure improvements have increased from $67,400.00 to over $200,000.00. He added that the agreement calls for Laurinburg Farm, LLC to reimburse the City for the infrastructure costs. He further added that because the estimate of costs was so much more than the original, the Interconnection Agreement needs to be amended.

Following discussion, motion was made by Councilmember Williamson, seconded by Councilmember Hammond, and unanimously carried to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the amendment to the Interconnection Agreement with Laurinburg Farm, LLC.

ENERGY

Mayor Parker explained that he would like to provide energy education sessions for the public on ways to manage their energy consumption and help reduce their electric bills. He added that staff had requested energy kits from ElectriCities to give to attendees.

Ms. Tammie Simmons, explained that two (2) staff members, Brian Morrison, and Harry Gale, will lead the discussion at the sessions to educate attendees. She added that Mrs. Walker with the Laurinburg Housing Authority has expressed interest in education sessions for her tenants.

APPOINTMENT

LAURINBURG FIREFIGHTERS RELIEF FUND

Mayor Parker explained that the City Manager's term on the Laurinburg Firefighters Relief Fund Board of Directors had expired, and he needed to be reappointed.

Motion was made by Councilmember Willis, seconded by Councilmember Williamson, and unanimously carried to appoint the City Manager to the Board of Directors of the Laurinburg Firefighters Relief Fund for a 2-year term.

COMMENTS FROM MAYOR AND/OR COUNCILMEMBERS

Upon question by Councilmember Willis, Mr. Robert Smith, Electric Services Director, explained that dispatchers from the 911 Center are given a call sheet in the event of a fire in the City for the electric crew to disconnect electricity. He added that his crews had been called to disconnect electricity when there was a fire.

Upon question by Councilmember Leak, the City Manager explained that Chief Williams, Chief Gibson and he represent the City on the Consolidated Public Safety Committee.

Councilmember Hammond requested that Council consider a retreat in January to review rules and procedures of Council and roles and expectations. She added that she feels that this should be done anytime there is a new elected official. She further added that she would like someone from the School of Government to facilitate the retreat.

Following discussion, it was consensus of Council for the City Manager to touch base with the Mayor-Elect and the School of Government to schedule the retreat.

Mayor Parker explained that there was nothing that Council could have done to reduce the electric rates until the asset purchase agreement between Duke Progress Energy and NCEMPA was finalized and the rate study was conducted. He added that the City has no reason to stockpile money for an ulterior motive. He further added that the City operates in transparency. He explained that he did not appreciate anyone insinuating that the City does not operate in transparency.

Mayor Parker then challenged Council to look at how services are delivered and to ensure that they are delivered in the most efficient manner. He added that as prices go up, people with limited incomes have a tougher time. He further added that he hoped that Council can find a no cost or low cost way to assist in recreation. He explained that the City at one time was in the recreation business because the City was funding a recreation department when the County did not have a recreation department and County residents were participating in City-funded recreation. He further explained that the City's recreation needs need to be addressed by the recreation authority, which is the County.

Councilmember Leak reminded everyone to be safe during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

Councilmember Adams reminded everyone that Christmas on Main was November 22, 2015.

Councilmember Williamson commended staff on the new street signs downtown.

CLOSED SESSION

At 9:52 p.m., Councilmember Adams moved to go into closed session pursuant to NC General Statute 143-318.11(a)(4) to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body, including agreement on a tentative list of economic development incentives that may be offered by the public body in negotiations. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Willis, and carried unanimously.

At 10:02 p.m., Councilmember Adams, moved to adjourn the closed session and resume the open meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hammond, and unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Williamson, seconded by Councilmember Willis, for the City accept a 20 acre tract of land adjacent to Scotland Crossing Center pending the determination of the City Attorney that the property has no restrictions whereby the property could not be developed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Councilmember Hammond, seconded by Councilmember Williamson, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:04 p.m.

Thomas W. Parker III, Mayor	Jennifer A. Tippett, City Clerk