Approved

CITY OF LAURINBURG
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 16, 2022
CITY HALL AND POLICE DEPARTMENT
303 WEST CHURCH ST.
7:00 p.m.

Minutes

The City Council of the City of Laurinburg held its regular meeting on Tuesday, August 16, 2022 in the Council Chambers of the City Hall and Police Department at 7:00 p.m. with the Honorable James T. Willis, Mayor, presiding and physically present. The following Councilmembers were physically present: Mary Jo Adams, Mary Evans, Rosemary Rainer, Barbara Rogers, and Andrew G. Williamson, Jr.

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

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

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The City Manager requested that the agenda be amended to include as Item 3 Presentation by Representative Pierce, add Item 20 Discussion of COVID State of Emergency, Item 21 Update on North Fire Station, and Item 22 Update on the State Budget Appropriation Funds. This will move Item 20 on the presented agenda to Item 23.

Motion was made by Councilmember Evans to approve the agenda with the amendments requested. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Rainer, and the vote was unanimous.

PRESENTATION BY REPRESENTATIVE GARLAND PIERCE

Mayor Willis welcomed Representative Garland Pierce to the meeting.

Representative Pierce explained that he was glad that he worked in a non-partisan way to get funding for the City from the State budget. He thanked councilmembers and the City Manager for meeting with and talking with him about the City’s needs. He presented a check in the amount of $11,623 million to Mayor Willis.

Mayor Willis thanked Representative Pierce for his long service in the legislature and for his aid to the community. He added that the money would be going to water and wastewater projects.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There was no one present to speak.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Willis reviewed the Consent Agenda:

a) Consider minutes of July 19, 2022 regular meeting
b) Consider Resolution No. R-2022-22 Findings of Fact for Special Use Permit for microblading at 1783 South Main Street
c) Consider setting public hearing to be held on September 20, 2022 to consider request for special use permit to operate a RV Park on Old Johns Road

Councilmember Adams moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Williamson moved to second the motion, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Adams, Williamson, Rainer, Rogers, Evans
Nays: None

PUBLIC HEARING

CDBG-I CLOSEOUT – PRODUCE MARKET ROAD AREA SEWER IMPROVEMENTS

Mayor Willis opened the public hearing to close-out the Community Development Block Grant-Infrastructure for the Produce Market Road Area Sewer Improvements Project.

Ms. Karen Kiehna of McGill Associates explained that this public hearing on August 16, 2022, we will provide an explanation and the Laurinburg the Produce Market Road Wastewater Collection System Improvement Project CDBG-I Grant #17-I-2966 funded through the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Community Development Block – Infrastructure Grant (CDBG-I) program. Improvements to sewer system and was area with serious backup issues.

We are present to discuss the purpose of the public hearing for the City's CDBG-I grant #17-I-2966. The purpose of the public hearing is to obtain citizen's views and to respond to the questions related to the Produce Market Road Wastewater Collection System Improvement Project and answer any questions posed by citizens. This public hearing must cover the City's community development needs, and review of program compliance before the closeout of the City's CDBG-I, Produce Market Rd. Wastewater Collection System Improvement Project.

The City of Laurinburg was awarded a 2017 CDBG-I grant totaling $2,000,000 to rehabilitate and replace approximately 10,000 LF of existing 8" gravity sewer lines and approximately 40 brick manholes and related appurtenances in an existing low-income area of Laurinburg that experienced significant issues with infiltration and inflow (I/I). The existing wastewater collection system serving the project area (includes Produce Market Road and numerous side streets that extend to the west and east from Produce Market Road) is comprised of 8" vitrified clay pipe and brick manholes that were installed around 1974 (48 years old). The project also included replacement of the City's existing Produce Market Road Lift Station on Geneva Street. The improvements included construction of a new wetwell and the installation of new pumps, piping, valves, and related appurtenances. Improvements also included installation of an emergency generator in accordance with NCDEQ standards.

The project included one (1) amendment and 10 change orders. The amendment description is as follows:

> The rehabilitation of approximately 5,580 LF of existing 8" gravity sewer mains. Existing line area located in both City-maintained and NCDOT roadways on Purcell Street, Shaw Street, McGirt's Bridge Road, Port Street, and Lila Street. The sewer force main proposed to be partially replaced discharges in the area of Memory Lane. During design of this amendment area it was determined that point repairs to the existing sewer lines and manholes would be adequate to repair the lines in this area and therefore only those repairs and the force main replacement were completed with the amendment.

The final project included rehabilitation or replacement of a total of approximately 9,282 LF of gravity sewer, 1,000 LF of force main, manhole replacement and rehabilitation and the lift station replacement. The low-to-moderate income percentage of the project area is 92.41 percent, and the poverty level for the entire town is 33.3 percent. The low-to-moderate income percentage of the project area is 92.41 percent, and the poverty level for the entire town is 33.3 percent.

Original Project Budget $2,000,000. Final Project Cost $1,778,073.85. Deobligated Funds $221,926.15 (send back to DEQ)

The project benefited a total of 208 person and 133 households, 91% of whom are low- and moderate-income individuals based on surveys performed by McGill Associates and City of Laurinburg staff. No individuals were displaced, nor required temporary relocation assistance as a result of the project.

The following is a list of the project activities.

The purpose of the CDBG-I grant program is to improve the quality of life for low-to moderate-income people by providing a safe, clean environment and clean drinking water through water and sewer in infrastructure improvements and extensions of service.

- To benefit a residential area where at least 51% of the beneficiaries are low to moderate income as defined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- To perform eligible activities.
- To minimize displacement, and
- Provide displacement assistance, as necessary.

The range of activities covered by the Laurinburg CDBG-I funds for the Laurinburg Sewer System Improvements Phase 2 project included:

- Construction.
- Environmental Review.
- Engineering Design.
- Construction Administration and observation.
- Legal activities.
- Grant Administration.

Mayor Willis asked if there were any for comments and questions about the CDBG program, and about the completed project.

Upon question by Councilmember Rainer, Ms. Kiehna explained that some streets near the project area were not included in the project because the I/I was much lower than some other streets. The goal of the grant was to mitigate the greatest levels of I/I.

Upon question by Councilmember Rainer, Ms. Kiehna explained that the project was amended in order to spend more of the grant funds; however, all of the work submitted in the amendment to the grant project was completed.

Councilmember Rainer asked if closing the grant project could be delayed in order to test the completed work with a major storm.

Ms. Kiehna explained that there are completion timelines on grants, and this grant has to be closed now.

Upon question by Councilmember Evans, the City Manager explained that when the grant began, cameras were used in the sewer lines to determine where replacing pipes was needed. He added that the Geneva Street pump station was replaced with a larger pump station so that it could handle more flow and more I/I. He added that this grant began in 2017, and it was necessary to close it at this time.

Ms. Kiehna explained that the City's staff has been monitoring the I/I in the grant area to ensure that the improvements were doing the job which they were intended.

There being no one to speak regarding this matter, Mayor Willis closed the public hearing.

Motion was made by Councilmember Adams to approve the minutes of the public hearing.

The City Clerk requested that the minutes be approved as submitted with the addition of the questions and answers.

Councilmember Adams amended her motion to approve the minutes with the questions and answers during the public hearing added. The motion as seconded by Councilmember Williamson, and the motion carried unanimously.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY UPDATE

Mr. Seth Hatchell, Assistant Director of the Laurinburg-Maxton Airport (LMA), explained that the Southeast Regional Airport Authority was the governing body of the Laurinburg-Maxton Airport because of legislation passed in 2020. He recognized Mrs. Joann Gentry, Executive Director, as having been with LMA for 40 years. The board consists of three (3) voting members from the City of Laurinburg, three (3) from the Town of Maxton, one (1) from Scotland County, and the Scotland County Economic Development Corporation Director as an ex-officio member. Members from the City are Councilmember Mary Jo Adams, Mr. Tom Parker and Mr. Quinn DeBerry. Members from the Town of Maxton are Mr. Ritchie McCrimmon, Mr. Emmett Morton III, and Mr. Joe Clark, and from Scotland County the member is Mr. Guy McCook who serves are Chairperson. The terms are two (2) years, and after two (2) consecutive terms, a member must go off the board but can be reappointed at a later date.

Mr. Hatchell reviewed economic impact information performed every two (2) years by the North Carolina Department of Transportation - Division of Aviation:

- The goal of the economic impact study is to determine the impact of each airport on the local economy and the state economy.
- Projected economic impact of the LMA is projected to be $95,430,000.
- There are 62 general aviation airports in North Carolina, and LMA ranks as the 13th best in the state.
- Just approved Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget of $1,857,955. Largest budget in LMA history.
- Twenty-two (22) aircraft based at the airport.

Mr. Hatchell explained that LMA was embarking on numerous infrastructure improvements including the following:

- Sewer rehabilitation improvements to reduce Infiltration and Inflow (I&I)
- Additional T-hangers
- A new airport terminal.
- New fuel farm to be above-ground.
- Apron rehabilitation.
- Update of airport master plan.
- Runway expansion so that LMA will have the longest general aviation runway in the state, which involves environmental assessment and engineering.
- All of the projects will be beneficial to the local economy and job creation.

Upon questions by Councilmember Evans, Mr. Hatchell explained that he anticipated jobs at LMA relating to selling water and sewer, and expansion or relocation of industries in the Industrial Park. He added that LMA was working with Richmond Community College and St. Andrews for job training.

Mayor Willis thanked Mr. Hatchell and Mrs. Gentry, and stated that a lot has happened in the last few years at LMA.

REQUEST TO REVIEW REGULATIONS CONCERNING MARKER SIZES IN CITY CEMETERIES

Mrs. Molly Flowers explained that she was a salesperson at Heritage Memorials in Laurinburg, and she introduced Mr. Andrew Smith, owner of Heritage Memorials in Laurinburg and Pembroke. She explained that they were requesting some minor changes in the size of foundations around the markers and the size of the memorials. She discussed the industry standards for foundation and marker sizes and the possible reduction in cost for consumers. She also explained that the military markers are the same size which she is discussing.

Following discussion, it was consensus of Council for staff to conduct research on this matter, and to gather input from the funeral homes as well.

PRESENTATION OF BICYCLE PLAN

Mr. Michael Mandeville, Community Development Director, explained that the project to develop a Bicycle Plan for the City began in January, 2021 with consultant Stantac. He presented a PowerPoint with the following highlights about the Bicycle Plan:

- The purpose of the Bike Plan is to establish policies, projects and standards that improve safety and mobility for biking/bicyclists, and to develop a list of prioritized projects to implement over the next 20 years to submit to North Carolina Department of Transportation for inclusion in the State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP).
- The process included the following:
  - Stakeholder Outreach
    - Advisory Committee meetings (May-June-Sept-Dec 2021)
    - Focus Group meetings (June 2 meetings)
  - Public Engagement
    - Project Website
    - Online Survey
    - Interactive Map
    - Public Workshop #1 – June
    - Public Workshop #2 – September
- Existing Plans
  - Sandhills Regional Bike Plan 2019 that includes plan from Morgan Recreation Complex to Downtown with an estimated cost of $1.3 million.
  - Laurinburg Walks Plan 2015 which is a planning tool to improve walkability in the City.
    - Includes cross city trail of 10.25 miles at a cost of $4.9 million
    - Includes 25 miles of sidewalks at $5.2 million
- Recommendations: (see Attachment A to these minutes which is hereby incorporated)
  - Forming the Bike Network
    - Prioritization

        - 90+ projects can be daunting, so we Prioritized into Near-, Mid-, and Long-term based on:
            - Accessibility
            - Safety
            - Constructability
            - Public Input
            - Cost
    - Concept Designs
    - Design Guidance
    - Program & Policy Recommendations

- Funding Sources
    - Leverage NC Department of Transportation Integrated Mobility Division for awareness of Federal/State funding resources
    - Include biking needs into every roadway improvement project (State or Local)
    - Align with pavement restriping plans/lists
    - Seek funding for off-road trail connections

Following a brief discussion, motion was made by Councilmember Williamson, seconded by Councilmember Rainer, and unanimously carried to approve the Bicycle Plan.

CONSIDER SITE PLAN FOR SHELL BUILDING ON WALLACE WAY

The City Manager explained that according to the Unified Development (UDO) the site plan for the shell building being built by the Scotland County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) on Wallace Way must be approved by Council.

Motion was made by Councilmember Adams, seconded by Councilmember Evans, and unanimously carried to approve the site plan for the shell building on Wallace Way.

UPDATE AND REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR SHELL BUILDING TO BE LOCATED ON WALLACE WAY

Mr. Mark Ward, President of the Scotland County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) explained that although he is President of the EDC, he is also an employee of Scotland County. He reviewed the composition of the EDC board. He added that after presenting information to the Scotland County Board of Commissioners, he was asked to determine if the City would contribute to the construction costs of the building.

Mr. Ward then reviewed the construction costs as follows:

Site work and shell	$2,164,660
Windows and side lights	$63,905
Partial office completed, full bathrooms	$623,600
Concrete manufacturing portion	$229,500
Parking lot and access road	$187,615
Sprinkler system	$280,390

Electrical system	$153,000
Contingency	$150,000
Total	$3,852,670

Mr. Ward explained that funding obtained thus far for the building included:

$2,000,000	Economic Development Agency Grant
$262,000	North Carolina Southeast Grant
$600,000	Loan from local bank
$2,862,000	Total Funds Available

He further explained that for a shell building the shortfall of funding was $407,280 for a building without windows and other finishings, and the shortfall for a more useable building was $990,670,000. A more finished building would make the site more competitive in site selection of industries that are looking. He added that the property is located in the City limits and the City would provide water, sewer and electricity. Fiber optics would be the customer's choice.

Following a lengthy discussion, it was consensus of Council for the City Manager and Finance Director to look at the City's financial situation to see if the City could financially assist with bridging the shortfall of funds needed to complete the shell building.

DISCUSSION OF ACQUISITION OF 127 SOUTH MAIN STREET FROM SCOTLAND COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The City Manager explained that the Scotland County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) had purchased two (2) buildings downtown, the former Treasure City Pawn Shop building, and the former Creech Hardware Building shortly after the former Market Furniture Building fell during Hurricane Matthew. The former Creech Hardware Building now houses Railroad Bar & Grill, but the former Treasure City Pawn Building remains empty. The City would like to apply for a second round of the Rural Transformation Grant to revitalize that building, and since the first application failed because the City did not own the building, staff City would like to take over ownership of this building. The idea was presented to the EDC Board, and the EDC would deed the property to the City for free with the caveat that the City would eventually deed to the non-profit arm of the Downtown Associates Committee.

The City Manager explained that staff had been researching options for uses and possible amount needed to refurbish. Staff has estimated that it would cost approximately $100,000 just to remove the asbestos. With eh $950,000 Rural Transformation Grant, if the City is awarded, would go towards that and other improvements.

Upon question by Councilmember Williamson, the City Manager explained that based upon assistance from the Lumber River Council of Governments, the City applied for the grant in the mixed-use category.

Following discussion, motion was made by Councilmember Williamson to accept the property located at 127 South Main Street from the Scotland County Economic Development Corporation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Evans, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Williamson, Evans, Adams, Rainer, Rogers
Nays: None

REQUEST FROM LAURINBURG/SCOTLAND COUNTY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO HOLD CANDIDATES FORUM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON OCTOBER 25, 2022

The City Manager explained that several events had been held in the council chambers; however, staff wanted Council to determine if the Laurinburg/Scotland County Area Chamber of Commerce could hold its Candidates Forum on October 25, 2022 in the council chambers. He added that this was a political event, but there would be no municipal candidates.

Motion was made by Councilmember Rainer, seconded by Councilmember Rogers, and unanimously carried to approve request by the Laurinburg/Scotland County Area Chamber of Commerce to hold the Candidates Forum in the Council Chambers on October 25, 2022.

CONSIDER RESOLUTION FOR FEDERAL CLEAN WATER ACT GRANT FOR STORMWATER PROJECT(S)

The City Manager explained that staff and Willis Engineers were trying to grab any and all state and federal dollars. He added that if approved, this grant could potentially fund three (3) of the seven (7) priority stormwater projects that were not completed in the last few years. Those projects are: Isabelle Street (private property); Blue Drive (private property); and Barnes Bridge Road (outside the City and on private property).

Councilmember Rainer moved to approve Resolution No. R-2022-23 Resolution for Federal Clean Water Act Grant for Stormwater Projects(s). The motion was seconded by Councilmember Williamson, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Rainer, Williamson, Rogers, Adams, Evans
Nays: None
(copy of Resolution No. R-2022-23 on file in city clerk’s office)

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Mr. Michael Mandeville, Community Development Director, presented a PowerPoint on Community Development Activities with highlights as follows:

- Brownfields Grant
  - Revised workplan and budget forms for Brownfields Grant award application were submitted to EPA on June 28th
  - We will begin advertising for RFQ's from potential consultants within the next month
  - Project and budget period will be from October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2026
  - EPA Brownfields Grant awardees kickoff meeting- September 22-23 in Charlotte

- NC Department of Transportation Bik Helmet Initiative Grant
  - Community Development with assistance of the Laurinburg Fire Department distributed bike helmets on August 2nd at National Night Out
  - Helmets were awarded to the City through the NCDOT Bike Helmet Initiative
  - This is the second time the City was awarded this grant
  - We will continue to apply for this grant as long as NCDOT makes it available

- Downtown News
  - Mary Allison Yancey, Downtown Development Coordinator, began working for the City of Laurinburg on July 15th
  - Annual Statistics were submitted in July 29th to NC Main Street
- Mary Allison attended the statewide managers meeting in Elizabeth City from August 3-5
- Upcoming events
  - Farmers Market, August 27th- McDuffie Square; 9AM-12PM
  - United Way Day of Daring- September 9
  - Fall Litter Sweep- September 10-24
  - Farmers Market- September 24- McDuffie Square; 9AM-12PM
  - Laurinburg After 5- October 6th; 5:30-9 PM

- Beautification
  - Addressing the right of way conditions at McDuffie Square
  - Rented a Sod cutter to remove the grass that is elevated above the sidewalk
  - Beautification will lay new sod that is flush with the sidewalk
  - United Way Day of Caring- Friday, September 9, 2022, and the project is landscaping the corner of N. King St. and Highway 401 where City Tree crew cut down 3 big pine trees in April
  - Volunteers will landscape the area where the trees stood

DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION ON VACANT BUILDINGS ORDINANCE

Mrs. Mary Allison Yancey, Downtown Coordinator, explained that at last meeting, Mr. Jay Todd, Chairman of the Downtown Associates Committee (DAC) presented the request that Council consider an ordinance governing the vacant buildings downtown. The priorities for such an ordinance would be to prevent downtown deterioration, and blight thru the proper maintenance of the vacant properties, crime prevention, eliminating dangers and hazards to the community, and secondary goal is preserving property values and the attraction of tourism and the preservation of historic downtown. In addition to those, the all encompassing goal is really the economic vitality of downtown Laurinburg.

She reviewed the vacancy registration possible requirements:

- 30 days to submit registration form after receipt of notice.
- 30 days after Main Street Coordinator's receipt of registration form, owner's are required to submit a plan of corrective action.
- Includes but not limited to a description of work to be done and a schedule of anticipated progress.
- Owners must maintain at a minimum a liability insurance policy of $500,000 for vacant properties; must provide policy.
- Evaluations and inspections of progress, and future renewals will be up to the discretion of the Main Street Coordinator with the support of the Code
- Enforcement and Inspections Officers, and will be categorized according to the scope of work needed.
- No up front registration fee.
- After 1 year, failure to comply with plan of corrective action results in a $500 penalty.
- After 2 years, penalty increases to $750.
- Extensions beyond 2 years will be determined on an individual basis.
- Goal: encouragement of registration and corrective action resulting in the improved vitality of Downtown Laurinburg.

Following discussion, it was consensus of Council for staff to move forward drafting an ordinance regulating vacant buildings downtown.

CONSIDER BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR EMERGENCY REPAIRS IN WATER/SEWER FUND

The City Manager explained that the City serves water to the Scotch Meadows subdivision, and recently there was a water line break which required emergency directional boring in order to back feed the water service. The total cost was $103,320, and a budget amendment is needed to transfer funds from the Water/Sewer Fund Balance Appropriated to Water Construction.

Councilmember Williamson moved to approve Ordinance No. O-2022-25 amending the FY 2022-2023 Budget Appropriations Ordinance (Ordinance No. O-2022-21) by increasing Appropriated Fund Balance in the Water/Sewer Fund by $103,320 and increasing expenditures in Water Construction by $103,320. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Rainer, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Williamson, Rainer, Evans, Rogers, Adams
Nays: None
(copy of Ordinance No. O-2022-25 on file in city clerk's office)

CONSIDER RESOLUTION APPROVING INSTALLMENT FINANCING FOR

PURCHASE OF SANITATION TRUCKS

The City Manager explained that the FY 2023 budget includes the purchase of three (3) refuse collection trucks for the Sanitation Department. These trucks were budgeted to be purchased in the current fiscal year and to be financed over an 8-year period. The City issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Installment Financing on July 12, 2022. This RFP was posted on the City's website, as well as State procurement websites, and emailed to banking/financial institutions. The proposals were due by Tuesday, July 26, 2022. The City received five (5) proposals to provide this financing. The most advantageous proposal for the City was submitted by Truist Bank to provide the financing of $850,000.00 to be repaid over an 8-year term with an interest rate of 3.22%.

Councilmember Adams moved to approve Resolution No. R-2022-24 approving installment financing for purchase of sanitation trucks and to authorize the City Manager and Finance Director to execute the loan documents for the financing of the funds needed for the purchase of the sanitation trucks. Councilmember Rainer seconded the motion, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Adams, Rainer, Williamson, Rogers, Evans
Nays: None
(copy of Resolution No. R-2022-24 on file in city clerk's office)

CONSIDER THE PURCHASE OF BODY CAMS PACKAGE FROM MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS AND ACCEPT THE FINANCING PROPOSAL TO ALLOCATE THE COST OVER A 5-YEAR PERIOD

The City Manager explained that the Police Department received a proposal for the purchase of body cams and management software as a package from Motorola Solutions. Motorola has proposed to provide vendor financing for the purchase of this equipment, along with management software subscriptions, over a 5-year period. G.S. 143-129(e)(3) allows local governments to purchase from suppliers who are selected through a group purchasing program that is a formally organized program that offers competitively obtained purchasing services at discount prices to two or more public agencies as an exception to competitive bidding. The NC Sheriff's Association's (NCSA) Technology Procurement Program meets this requirement. Motorola Solutions is an awarded vendor for the NCSA Contract # 23-02-0222 and has extended the same items, pricing, and terms in this contract awarded by the NCSA to the City of Laurinburg.

Motion was made by Councilmember Adams, seconded by Councilmember Evans, and unanimously carried to authorize the purchase of body cams package from Motorola Solutions and to accept the financing proposal to allocate the cost over a 5-year period.

CONSIDER VENDOR FINANCING AGREEMENT FOR TASERS FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

The City Manager explained the Police Department received a proposal for the purchase of tasers from Axon Enterprise, Inc. Axon has proposed to provide vendor financing for the purchase of this equipment, along with management software licenses, over a 5-year period. G.S. 143-129(e)(6) allows for a sole source exception to competitive bidding when a needed product is available from only one source of supply. Axon Enterprise, Inc. is the only manufacturer and the sole distributor and retailer for TASER brand products.

Motion was made by Councilmember Rogers, seconded by Councilmember Adams, and unanimously carried to use the sole source exception for the purchase of tasers from Axon Enterprise, Inc. and to accept the financing proposal to allocate the cost over a 5-year period.

CONSIDER MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE SCOTLAND COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

The City Manager explained that Police Chief Johnson has been in discussion with the Superintendent of the Scotland County Schools regarding a memorandum of understanding with the Scotland County School System clarifying roles of the school resource officers. He added that the City Attorney will need to prepare a service contract, and this will be presented at the September meeting.

Following a brief discussion, Councilmember Adams moved to adopt the Memorandum of Understanding and to authorize the City Manager to execute. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Evans, and carried unanimously.

STATE OF EMERGENCY

The City Manager explained that Governor Cooper had lifted the State of Emergency for COVID-19 as of 5:00 p.m. this afternoon. He added that staff recommended that the City terminate the City's State of Emergency.

Councilmember Evans moved to terminate the City's State of Emergency for COVID-19. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Adams, and carried unanimously.

UPDATE ON NORTH FIRE STATION

The City Manager explained that the North Fire Station groundbreaking would be held on Monday, September 12, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. He added that representatives from The GoldenLeaf Foundation and the State would be present.

STATE BUDGET APPROPRIATION FUNDS

The City Manager explained that as presented at the beginning of the meeting, the City was awarded $11.25 million for water/sewer capital projects. Due to the large number of water/sewer infrastructure needs, staff requested the assistance of Willis Engineering to prioritize and determine the best projects to dedicate the funds as well as the American Rescue Plan Appropriations. Below is a summary of projects and funding allocations:

PROJECT	**REQUESTED**	**STATE ARPA AWARDED**	**SUBMITTED TO STATE ON HOW FUNDS WERE ALLOCATED**
City Water Storage Tanks Rehabilitation	$4,500,000	$3,890,000	$3,890,000
City Raw Water System Improvements	$15,000,000		
City Wastewater System Renovations/Expansion	$30,000,000	$7,360,000	$9,900,000
TOTAL	$49,500,000	$11,250,000	$13,790,000

The City Manager explained that there may be additional state funds available for infrastructure in the future, and the staff will submit projects for consideration.

APPOINTMENT

NORTH CAROLINA EASTERN MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY

The City Manager explained that the late Donald Rainer was the alternate member to the North Carolina Eastern Municipal Power Agency (NCEMPA) board, and that an alternate member needed to be appointed to attend in the event he is unable to attend

Motion was made by Councilmember Williamson, seconded by Councilmember Adams, to appoint Councilmember Rosemary Rainer as the alternate member to the NCEMPA board.

MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

Councilmember Williamson suggested that Council consider moving the council meetings to 6:00 p.m. instead of 7:00 p.m.

The City Clerk explained that Council would need to pass a resolution changing the time of the meetings in 2022 to 6:00 p.m., and then every year after that, the time would be included in the council meeting schedule adopted by Council every year in December. She added that if Council wanted to make this change effective with the September council meeting, Council could draft a resolution making said change pending approval by the City Attorney.

Motion was made by Councilmember Williamson to approve a draft resolution prepared by the City Clerk and approved by the City Attorney to change the time of the council meetings for the remainder of 2022 to 6:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Rainer, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Williamson, Rainer, Adams, Rogers, Evans
Nays: None
(copy of Resolution No. R-2022-25 on file in city clerk’s office)

CLOSED SESSION

At 9:22 p.m., Councilmember Evans moved to go into closed session to discuss personnel. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Williamson and carried unanimously.

At 9:52 p.m., motion was made by Councilmember Adams, seconded by Councilmember Rogers, and unanimously carried to adjourn the closed session and resume the regular meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Councilmember Rogers, seconded by Councilmember Rainer, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

James T. Willis, Mayor

Jennifer A. Tippett, City Clerk