CITY OF LAURINBURG
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING/WORK SESSION
AUGUST 11, 2015
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
303 WEST CHURCH ST.
7:00 p.m.

Minutes

The City Council of the City of Laurinburg held a special meeting/work session on August 11, 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 Williamson gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion was made by Councilmember Hammond, seconded by Councilmember Adams, and unanimously carried to approve the agenda.

A discussion ensued concerning the addition of an item for Comments by Mayor and Councilmembers. The City Attorney explained that since this is a special meeting, only items listed on the agenda and advertised can be discussed.

AGENDA FOR AUGUST 18, 2015

The City Manager reviewed the agenda for August 18, 2015 as follows:

CONSENT AGENDA

3) Consider minutes of June 8, 2015 reconvened meeting; June 9, 2015 reconvened meeting; June 9, 2015 special meeting/work session; June 15, 2015 reconvened meeting; June 16, 2015 regular meeting

DELEGATIONS

4) Hal Jernigan, Laurinburg Presbyterian Church - Requesting permission for Columbarium
The City Manager explained that the City Attorney had researched this and a location of a columbarium, which falls within the definition of a cemetery, in the City limits requires permission of Council according to the City Code.

5) Noran Sanford, Chair, Crime & Drug Committee – Update on Committee and Request for Approval of Amendment to Committee Guidelines
Mayor Parker explained that the Committee was requesting several changes in order to

try to improve attendance at meetings.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

6) Authorize Mayor to execute Order to Collect Taxes to Tax Collector

7) Authorize the City Manager to execute Pole Attachment Agreement with AT&T
Upon question by Councilmember Williamson, the City Manager explained that the per pole charge is in line with what the cooperatives are receiving from AT&T.

8) Authorize the City Manager to execute Contract with Creech & Associates
The City Manager explained that the draft contract had been received from Creech & Associates; however, this item will need to be moved to the September agenda.

DIRECTION OF ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON CONSENT AGENDA

Following recommendation of the City Manager, it was consensus of Council to add Items 6 and 7 to the Consent Agenda.

DISCUSSION OF LICENSE AGREEMENT OMEGA RAIL

The City Manager explained that he is requesting Council approve the License Agreement with Omega Rail for the 150+ undocumented encroachments, pending final approval of the Agreement by the City Attorney. He added that the $15,000.00 would be placed in escrow with Mr. Floyd to be released once the contract is final and executed.

Motion was made by Councilmember Williamson, seconded by Councilmember Willis and unanimously carried to authorize the City Manager and City Clerk to execute the License Agreement with Omega Rail pending approval of the Agreement by the City Attorney.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Mr. Teddy Warner, Community Development Director, provided an update on Community Development as follows:

- The City is a finalist in the Downtown Associate Program and should know in early September if the City is accepted into the program. Staff will be meeting with Main Street staff next week.
- Interchanges are in the process of being maintained and updated by the beautification and litter teams. Partnership was established with regional NC Department of Transportation (DOT). DOT projects will begin this fall with high priority areas becoming a focus in the spring at no cost to the City.
- Adam Walls of UNC-P wants to do the design work on the Art Garden at no cost to the City. The long-term plan is that the City will get a commission when the art sculptures are sold every year. The goal is to have a design for the Art Garden in September for Council to review.
- The City has partnered with the County for a new location that does not require lot clearing on McDougald Avenue. County employees and volunteers from the community will be participating in planting on Friday, September 11th, the United Way Day of Caring/Beautification Day.

Motion was made by Councilmember Hammond, seconded by Councilmember Adams, and carried unanimously to proceed with the fruit orchard on McDougald Avenue.

Mr. Warner explained that the City owns approximately 90 lots and he recommends that the City sell some of the lots at public auction with a minimum bid of $300.00 and possibly donate other lots to Habitat for Humanity or to the Laurinburg Housing Authority.

Mr. Warner explained that the City owns over 30 acres of land along Leith Creek with mature hardwoods which are overgrown and primarily in a flood zone. He recommended that the City contract with a timber company to clear the area and create a green space for the community. He added that the goal is to at least break even from the sale of the timber.

Following a brief discussion, motion was made by Councilmember Willis, seconded by Councilmember Hammond, and carried unanimously to proceed with the timber/green space project.

Upon questions by Councilmember Adams, Mr. Mac McInnis, City Planner/Zoning Officer, explained that the lots are vacant and most of them are too small to build upon unless they are combined.

Motion was made by Councilmember Williamson, seconded by Councilmember Adams, and unanimously carried for the Community Development Department to pursue disposing of the unused City lots.

Mr. Warner explained that he and staff had developed a Strategic Plan for Community and Economic Development which included seven (7) goals. He suggested that Council review the plan and discuss it at next month's meeting.

Following a brief discussion, it was consensus of Council for Council to review the plan and provide feedback and recommendations to staff.

Discussion ensued concerning the Strategic Plan for Community and Economic Development as follows:

- Adding content on economic development to the website similar to what is on the Elizabethtown and Rolesville websites.
- Marketing of the City.
- Expansion of the Industrial Park and purchasing or having an option to purchase land.
- Downtown improvements

DISCUSSION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Upon question by Councilmember Hammond, Mayor Parker explained that details of the plan for Scotland County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) were not developed at the EDC meeting held on August 4, 2015. He added that there will be future meetings including one in September. He further added that discussion involved including other entities in the EDC who do not contribute funds for operating the EDC.

Councilmember Willis explained that he believed the EDC Board should remain as it is and the by-laws should be followed. He added that the meetings of the EDC are open and if individuals want to attend the meetings, they can do so.

Further discussion ensued concerning the EDC, hiring of the former EDC Director, addition of other entities on the EDC Board, the involvement of the Community Development Department in economic development for the City and the need to consider future funding requirements for economic development.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Councilmember Willis, seconded by Councilmember Adams, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Thomas W. Parker III, Mayor

Jennifer A. Tippett, City Clerk