

**CITY OF LAURINBURG
COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 19, 2011
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
303 WEST CHURCH ST.
LAURINBURG, NC
7:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

The City Council of the City of Laurinburg held its regular monthly meeting July 19, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the council room of the Municipal Building with the Honorable Matthew Block, Mayor, presiding. The following Councilmembers were present: Curtis B. Leak, Thomas W. Parker III, Herbert M. Rainer, Jr., Kenton T. Spencer, and Joy Ellison.

Also present were: Edward F. Burchins, City Manager, Dolores A. Hammond, City Clerk, and William P. Floyd, Jr., Assistant City Attorney.

Mayor Block called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Councilmember Spencer gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Parker moved to adopt the agenda. Councilmember Leak seconded the motion and it unanimously carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approves minutes from the regular meeting of April 19, 2011; the recessed meeting of April 19, 2011 held on April 28, 2011; the special meeting held May 9, 2011; the agenda workshop minutes of May 10, 2011; the regular meeting of May 17, 2011; and the special meeting held May 26, 2011

Councilmember Leak moved for the approval of the Consent Agenda as submitted. Councilmember Rainer seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Leak, Ellison, Rainer, Spencer, Parker
Nays: None

Mayor Block recognized Junior Service League representatives Melanie Norton and Leslie Coughenour and presented them with a City pin.

LUMBER RIVER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (COG) - ADRIAN LOWERY

Mayor Block explained that as part of an ongoing effort to inform Region N jurisdictions about the COG, Mr. Adrian Lowery has been assigned to the City of Laurinburg. Mayor Block then welcomed Mr. Lowery.

Mr. Lowery gave an overview of the COG. He informed Council that there are four departments

- Administration and Finance, an area agency on aging; technical assistance; and workforce development.

Mr. Lowery then provided information to Council about what services are offered through each department. He explained that one of the areas of the agency on aging that the City of Laurinburg benefits from is the “Meals on Wheels” as well as a support group program. He also stated that they have a grandparent program in development. The program is for grandparents who are raising school age children and is designed to help them to get food, clothes etc. It will be serviced at Scotland Place.

Mr. Lowery explained that the Technical Assistance Program has two programs for Scotland County. He stated that one of the programs is a single-family rehabilitation program that provides assistance to moderately deteriorated homes. Mr. Lowery informed Council that the COG has been able to assist several homeowners within the City of Laurinburg

He then stated that the COG provides planning services for some of the smaller towns as well as webinars on planning board training and regional water studies.

He then discussed the workforce development department that deals with workforce related issues. He explained that one of the programs that might assist the citizens of Laurinburg is the career readiness certification. He then explained the components of this certification.

A discussion ensued on the services provided by the COG.

Councilmember Rainer suggested that the City Manager talk with Mr. Lowery about informing the citizens of Laurinburg/Scotland County about the housing program through the City’s utility billing process.

Mayor Block thanked Mr. Lowery for his presentation.

PROPOSED REGIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN – ROYLIN HAMMOND

Mr. Roylin Hammond, Scotland County Emergency Management Coordinator, explained that he is the liaison between Scotland County, all of its municipalities and North Carolina’s Emergency Management Department.

Mr. Hammond explained the Hazardous Mitigation Plan. He informed Council that after Hurricane Floyd in 1999 there was a lot of flooding that occurred. He then explained that Hazardous mitigation historically deals with relocating dwellings, buildings, etc. that are in flood plain areas. He stated that those areas are typically coastal areas or areas that are on large riverbanks.

He continued to explain that during Hurricane Floyd that there was inland flooding and the North Carolina Legislators decided that every county should have a plan to deal with repetitive issues that arise from flooding and other issues due to natural disasters.

Mr. Hammond reminded Council that in July 2005 the Laurinburg City Council passed a Resolution adopting the Scotland County Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan. He

informed Council that it was a five-year plan. He explained that the State of North Carolina has now decided that, because there has not been a lot of activity related to the issues originally covered by that plan, a Regional Multi-Jurisdiction Hazardous Mitigation Plan should be developed. The counties included in our regional plan are Scotland, Richmond, Anson, and Montgomery counties. The counties are grouped based upon similar populations and similar hazardous profiles.

He explained that one of the stipulations for this plan is that he present to all governing bodies within the county the request to participate in the Regional Hazardous Mitigation Plan. He then explained that once the plan is developed, Council would have to approve it.

Upon question by Mayor Block, he explained that if a municipality does not agree to participate in the plan there would not be any assistance during an Emergency Presidential Declaration.

Mr. Hammond informed Council that there is an annual hurricane meeting to prepare the participating agencies if a hurricane should happen to hit the area.

Motion was made by Councilmember Parker, seconded by Councilmember Spencer, and unanimously carried to authorize the Mayor to sign Agreement to Participate in the Development of the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan for Scotland, Richmond, Anson, and Montgomery Counties and all municipalities therein.

AUTHORIZE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE PAPERWORK AND CONSIDER AN ORDINANCE WHICH AMENDS THE BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE (O-2011-11) TO ALLOCATE FUNDS FROM A STATE GRANT TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

The City Manager explained that one of the goals this year for the Laurinburg Fire Department is to improve the ability to provide fire safety inspections and to create a fire safety program. He stated that the Laurinburg Fire Department has received a grant through the State that will allow both of those goals to be accomplished. He informed Council that the grant is entitled the "Get Alarmed North Carolina" program.

Mr. Randy Gibson, Laurinburg Fire Department, informed Council that the Laurinburg Fire Department was awarded the grant for Laurinburg and Scotland County. He stated that the City of Laurinburg Fire Department would take the lead to administer the grant.

Mr. Gibson gave a brief background on the "Get Alarmed North Carolina" program

He explained that fire department staff has been recently training and working towards Fire Prevention State Certification. He stated that this certification would allow the fire department to increase the number of fire inspections throughout the City and the Town of East Laurinburg.

He then explained that there is currently one level three certified inspector. He stated that currently there are five level one probationary inspectors.

A discussion ensued on the grant.

Mr. Gibson stated that the City would receive \$5,994.00 in grant funds. He explained that Council would also need to make a budget amendment in order for the City to receive the grant funds.

Councilmember Parker motioned to authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary paperwork for the state grant and moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. O-2011-12 which amends the Budget Appropriation Ordinance (O-2011-11) to allocate funds (\$5,994.00) from the state grant to the fire department. Councilmember Rainer seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Parker, Rainer, Spencer, Ellison, Leak

Nays: None

(Ordinance No. O-2011-12 on file in the City Clerk's Office)

ORDINANCE NO. O-2011-13 WHICH AMENDS CHAPTER 16, ARTICLE IV, ABANDONED, NUISANCE AND JUNKED MOTOR VEHICLES, SECTION 16-101 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LAURINBURG

Mrs. Brandi Deese, Planning and Zoning Officer, stated that this proposed amendment would require motor vehicles to be licensed unless the vehicle is stored within an enclosed building, garage or carport. She explained that, as advised by legal counsel, staff chose to propose an amendment that would address the problem areas and avoid creating a broad policy that would be difficult to enforce.

She explained that Council has a draft of the proposed amendment. She then explained that there is one other change in the proposed amendment and that is one which changes the definition of such a vehicle to be one worth less than \$500.00 rather than \$100.00.

Upon question by Councilmember Ellison, Mrs. Deese stated that the amount chosen is based on the majority of ordinances reviewed by staff.

Upon question by Councilmember Ellison regarding the definition of "Motor vehicle or vehicle", the City Attorney stated that the definition includes buses, motorcycles and may include a trailer but not necessarily a boat.

Councilmember Ellison stated that she felt that the ordinance should address any type of motor vehicle. She then stated that it would be a nuisance to have any type vehicle that is unsightly around one's property.

The City Attorney stated that an addition could be added to the definition of "Motor vehicle or vehicle"

Councilmember Ellison moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. O-2011-13 which amends Chapter 16, Article IV Abandoned, Nuisance And Junked Motor Vehicles, Section 16-101 with the ordinance having an effective date of August 1, 2011, and with the definition of "motor vehicle or vehicle" to read as follows:

Motor vehicle or vehicle means all machines designated or intended to travel over land or water by self-propulsion or while attached to any self-propelled vehicle.

Councilmember Rainer seconded the motion.

At this point of the meeting, a citizen in the audience asked to be heard regarding the proposed Ordinance.

Mayor Pro Tem Parker stated that the Mayor had to step out and asked that he preside in his absence as Mayor Pro Tem. He also asked Council if the citizen could address Council before a vote is taken:

There was a consensus among Councilmember to let the citizen speak.

Mr. Sammy Brunson stated that he is a resident of Scotland County and read in the newspaper about the ordinance. He expressed concern about the number of jobs that have left Scotland County and the unemployment. He then stated that some citizens might have a vehicle parked on their property because the person did not have the funds to insure it. He also expressed concerns about classic cars that may not have a license plate.

Following Mr. Brunson's statements and discussion among Council a vote was taken, and the proposed ordinance was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Ellison, Leak, Parker, Spencer, Rainer

Nays: None

(Ordinance No. O-2011-13 on file in the City Clerk's Office)

ESTIMATE TO FENCE PROPERTY AROUND THE NORTH FIRE STATION

The City Manager stated that staff had been asked to get an estimate to fence around the North Fire Station property. He informed Council that a \$16,000.00 quote had been received. He explained that the price was guaranteed for only ten days after it was received. He informed Council that the time frame has lapsed.

The City Manager stated that the question is "Does the City want to spend \$16,000.00-\$17,000.00 to build a fence around the North Fire Station property?" He explained that a budget amendment would have to be prepared and that staff would get more bids.

A discussion ensued on securing the North Fire Station property because of training equipment on the grounds.

Mayor Pro Tem Parker suggested that this matter be tabled until the Fire Chief can be present and that staff acquire two bids and thoroughly analyze where the fence needs to be erected.

A discussion ensued on the location of the fence and the bid process.

The City Manager then informed Council that the Police Chief had received two bids and that the \$16,000.00 bid was low bid.

The City Manager suggested that staff informally bid out the installation of the fence, receive bids, and bring a budget amendment to Council at the meeting.

Councilmember Spencer stated he would like the City Manager to send out the quotes to all Councilmembers prior to the scheduled meeting in August.

Councilmember Leak motioned to table this request until August 20, 2011, that the City Manager inform the contractors that the earliest date to receive a bid will be August 11, 2011 in order to comply with any bid quote that is good for only ten days, that bids be presented to Council for approval, and that a budget amendment be prepared for adoption. Councilmember Spencer seconded the motion, and it unanimously carried.

A discussion continued regarding bids, and there was a consensus that staff bring all bids before Council.

The City Attorney commented that if the desire of Council is to safeguard the fire training facility so that it is not accessible and to limit the City's liability, his opinion is that the City would be better to put a fence completely around the training facility rather than only partially around it.

A discussion ensued regarding the fire station land and the location of the flood plain.

APPOINTMENT TO THE LAURINBURG AIRPORT COMMISSION

Mayor Pro Tem Parker stated that Councilmember Kenton Spencer was previously appointed to fill the unexpired term of Ann B. Slaughter to the Laurinburg/Maxton Airport Commission which expired June 30, 2011. A new appointment needs to be made with the new term expiring June 30, 2014.

Motion was made by Councilmember Leak, seconded by Councilmember Rainer, and unanimously carried to appoint Councilmember Kenton Spencer to a three-year term to the Laurinburg/Maxton Airport Commission expiring June 30, 2014.

COMMENTS FROM MAYOR AND/OR COUNCILMEMBERS

Councilmember Rainer suggested that staff discuss an appropriate command station whenever there might be an emergency that affects the entire City such as a hurricane or a natural disaster.

The City Manager stated that there is ongoing discussion regarding the City's emergency plan.

Mayor Pro Tem Parker suggested that Mr. Roylin Hammond, Scotland County Emergency Management Coordinator, be involved in the discussions.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no present for the public comment session.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Councilmember Ellison, seconded by Councilmember Leak, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Matthew Block, Mayor

Dolores A. Hammond, City Clerk