

**CITY OF LAURINBURG
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
June 20, 2023
CITY HALL AND POLICE DEPARTMENT
303 WEST CHURCH ST.
6:00 p.m.**

Minutes

The City Council of the City of Laurinburg held its regular meeting on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, 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, Mary Evans, Rosemary Rainer, Barbara Rogers, and Andrew G. Williamson, Jr.

Also present were Charles D. Nichols III, City Manager; William P. Floyd, Jr., City Attorney; Harold W. Haywood, City Clerk; Susan K. Coble, Deputy City Clerk.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The City Manager informed the Council that the Mayor would be out of town for the week of July 18, 2023, and proposed moving the regular monthly meeting to July 25, 2023. He explained that if the Council was agreeable, then this item would need to be added to the agenda for consideration and approval. A discussion ensued and Council agreed to add this item to the agenda.

Councilmember Williamson moved to approve the agenda with second by Councilmember Evans and the vote was unanimous.

RECOGNITION OF RETIREE

Mayor Willis recognized retiree Lieutenant Richard A. Snipes with the Police Department by presenting a plaque of appreciation. The wording on the plaques read as follows:

PRESENTED IN RECOGNITION AND SINCERE APPRECIATION TO

**Richard A. Snipes
LIEUTENANT**

MARCH 16, 1998 – JUNE 30, 2023

In special tribute for over 26 years of dedicated public service as an employee of the City of Laurinburg. Richard took an Oath of Office and became a Laurinburg Police Officer on March

16, 1998; and then was promoted, as a Sergeant September 9, 2005. On November 23, 2012, he was promoted to Police Lieutenant where he remained until retirement effective July 1, 2023. Richard Snipes has completed his Advance Law Enforcement Certificate on February 13, 2015. During his long tenure with the City of Laurinburg, he has been a Standardized Field Sobriety Facilitator in the State and has received the certification as a Drug Recognition Expert. Richard Snipes has a great desire to serve the community residents and assist fellow officers with their needs and concerns.

The Mayor and the Laurinburg City Council express their sincere appreciation for his unselfish professional service to the citizens of Laurinburg and this community. He worked to make our city a better place to live for all the citizens of Laurinburg.

We wish him many more years of continued success in this next chapter of his life.

Presented this the 20th day of June 2023, by the Mayor and City Council.

Mayor James "Jim" Willis

Mayor Pro Tem Mary Evans

Councilmember Mary Jo Adams

Councilmember Rosemary Rainer

Councilmember Barbara Rogers

Councilmember Drew Williamson

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There was no one present to speak.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Willis read aloud the Consent Agenda:

- a) Consider minutes of May 16, 2023, special meeting, and May 16, 2023, regular meeting.
- b) Consider Applications for Use of Facilities-McDuffie Square from Laurinburg/Scotland County Area Chamber of Commerce & Downtown Advisory Committee
- c) Consider Road Closure Request from Laurinburg/Scotland County Area Chamber of Commerce
- d) Consider Road Closure Request from the Downtown Advisory Committee
- e) Approve Road Closure Request from African Heritage Committee - Juneteenth Celebration
- f) Set public hearing on Tuesday, July 25, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. to consider a special use permit to allow 72-unit low-income housing development on Tarboro Street

g) Consider Agreement with Scotland County Board of Elections for 2023 Municipal Elections

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

Ayes: Adams, Evans, Rainer, Rogers, Williamson

Nays: None

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Consider Incentive Agreement

Mayor Willis opened the public hearing for the consideration of an Incentive Agreement. The City Manager explained that the purpose of considering this incentive agreement was to extend an economic development grant to Carolina Commercial, LLC. With this agreement, Carolina Commercial, LLC will invest at least four million dollars on the total project and will create a substantial number of new full-time equivalent jobs over the next five (5) years due to the investment. The City of Laurinburg owns the parcel of land that is in consideration with this project. The City of Laurinburg will convey 8.75 acres of land to Carolina Commercial, LLC in order to move forward with this project. The City of Laurinburg would also make yearly economic development grants of \$100,000 for five (5) years. The manager explained that it would help offset a portion of the \$1.15 million dollar site development that Carolina Commercial, LLC has pledged for this potential retail project.

There being no one to speak in favor or opposition to the request, Mayor Willis closed the public hearing.

Councilmember Adams moved to authorize the Mayor and the City Clerk to execute the Incentive Agreement. Councilmember Rainer moved to second the motion, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Adams, Evans, Rainer, Rogers, Williamson

Nays: None

Consider Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget

The City Manager presented an overview of the six separate items that the Council will be asked to approve with the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget. He explained that the previously held two budget workshops helped prepare the budget for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and that the total budget is \$39,983,823. He added that, as previously discussed in the budget workshops, most of all capital requests from departments are funded in this budget.

The City Manager stated that two of the items that will need to be approved deal with the ARPA funding, per the guidance from the School of Government to implement the grant funds with the

approval of the budgets. The manager explained that last year the City of Laurinburg implemented a little over \$2.9 million dollars of the City's allocated ARPA funding. This year the remaining balance of \$1.85 million dollars of ARPA funding will be allocated to the FY 24 budget to fully allocate the total amount of \$4,781,000 in ARPA funding the City received.

The City Manager informed the Council that most of all capital requests were able to be funded in the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget. He further explained that the proposed budget includes a seven percent (7%) COLA for the valued employees of the City of Laurinburg. The manager explained that the proposed budget also increases the longevity pay increments for employees by \$300.00 per five-year increment of the number of years of employment. He added that the COLA and longevity increase is intended to help retain current valued employees and as a recruitment tool to attract new hires.

The City Manager explained that, as previously discussed in the previous budget workshops, the City has one of the lowest property tax rates in the area, but the property tax is proposed to remain flat again with this budget. He added that they felt it was more beneficial to the residents to keep the services where they are.

The City Manager explained that the proposed budget includes two utility rate increases that have been previously discussed to be effective July 1, 2023. The City contracted with a rate study firm, Raftelis, to assess the water and wastewater rates, and it is recommended to implement water/sewer rate increases in a five (5) stage increase over the next five years. He added that the average increase on the monthly bill will be approximately \$12.31 for water and sewer. The manager explained that this is just a step in the right direction to get the City of Laurinburg to where it needs to be to not only cover operations and capital, but also be considered more favorably in future grant applications. He added that this was the first water/sewer rate increase in eight (8) years. The manager explained that the other proposed utility increase is the solid waste monthly rates and those will go up \$5.35 per residential customer and a corresponding increase for commercial customers. He stated that the increase on solid waste stems partly from the county increasing the tipping fees by 6 ½%, which takes the current tipping fee rate of \$45.50 to \$48.50 per ton for MSW at the county transfer station.

Councilmembers ensued in a discussion about the effective date of the rate increases and when the customers would see the increases on their monthly bills. The City Manager explained that all increases would go into effect on July 1, 2023, and the customers would see increases on the August 2023 billing statement.

Mayor Willis opened the public hearing to consider the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget.

There being no one to speak in favor or in opposition to the request, Mayor Willis closed the public hearing.

Fee Schedule - Effective July 1, 2023

The City Manager explained that the following categories had an increase in addition to the increase with water/wastewater and solid waste rates that was previously discussed and will be effective on July 1, 2023:

Zoning Fees:		
	Use of land or existing structure	\$20.00 New Fee \$40.00
	Temporary Permit	\$20.00 New Fee \$25.00
	Swimming Pool Permit	\$75.00 New Fee \$100.00 for residential; \$200.00 for commercial
	*Construction costs for construction of a building or alteration to an existing building:	
	\$0.00 - \$200,000	\$1.00 per thousand-dollar cost of construction New Fee \$1.50 per thousand-dollar cost of construction
	\$200,000 - \$1,000,000	\$.50 per thousand-dollar cost of construction New Fee \$1.00 per thousand-dollar cost of construction
	Over \$1,000,000	\$.10 per thousand-dollar cost of construction New Fee \$.50 per thousand-dollar cost of construction
	*Minimum Fee	\$20.00 New Fee \$50.00
FIRE DEPARTMENT		
Re-Inspection Fee Schedule*		
	Category A 0 sq. ft. – 2,500 sq. ft	\$100.00 New Fee \$150.00
	Category B 2,501 sq. ft. – 5,000 sq. ft.	\$125.00 New Fee \$175.00
	Category C 5,001 sq. ft. – 10,000 sq. ft.	\$150.00 New Fee \$200.00
	Category D 10,001 sq. ft. – 25,000 sq. ft.	\$175.00 New Fee \$225.00
	Category E 25,001 sq. ft. – 75,000 sq. ft.	\$200.00 New Fee \$250.00
	Category F 75,001 sq. ft. – 150,000 sq. ft.	\$225.00 New Fee \$275.00
	Category G 150,001 sq. ft. – 250,000 sq. ft.	\$250.00 New Fee \$300.00
	Category H 250,001 sq. ft. – 500,000 sq. ft.	\$275.00 New Fee \$325.00
	Category I 500,001 sq. ft. – and up	\$300.00 New Fee \$350.00
OPERATIONAL PERMITS AS REQUIRED BY THE NORTH CAROLINA FIRE PREVENTION CODE		
	ABC Permit Fee	New Fee \$200.00
FALSE ALARM FEES		
	Alarms 3-5	\$250.00 New Fee \$300.00
	Alarms 6-10	\$350.00 New Fee \$400.00
	Alarms 11-15	\$450.00 New Fee \$500.00
FIRE EXTINGUISHER CLASSES		
	30 students maximum for one (1) hour duration. Does not include materials and supplies	\$100.00 per hour after first class New Fee \$175.00 per hour after first class

The City Manager explained that the zoning increases were due to market rates and the fire department increases were in line with the industry standard.

Councilmember Rogers inquired if we would continue to use the county landfill with the rate increase in solid waste. The City Manager explained that the city would still use the county transfer station/landfill with an increase of 6.5%, which is \$3.00 per ton.

Councilmember Williamson moved to approve the 2023-2024 Fee Schedule. Councilmember Evans moved to second the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

(Copy of the New Fee Schedule is on file in the clerk's office and will be posted on the City of Laurinburg website)

Capital Improvement Plan

The City Manager explained that the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is a comprehensive five-year plan outlining the future capital needs for the city. He explained that capital projects are defined as investments in assets with more than one year of useful life and exceeding \$5,000 in cost. This includes the replacement of current capital equipment, upgrades to city infrastructure, and other potential projects identified by city departments or specifically directed by City Council. He explained that the first year of the plan includes the capital projects that have been included in the Fiscal Year 2024 budget proposal, along with projections for the four years that follow as well. The manager explained that adopting the CIP will also give the city additional consideration by agencies providing grant funding, as well as provide an important planning document going forward.

Councilmember Adams inquired if the Administrative Services Director/City Clerk, Harold Haywood, could provide a summary for the record of the changes that are in the new proposed CIP.

Mr. Haywood explained that the grand total amount of capital requests is approximately thirty-six million dollars over the next 5 years, down about three million from the previous year's plan. He explained that the General Fund plan includes approximately \$1.4 million dollars over the next five years. The bulk need of the General Fund is included in the requests for the Police Department, Fire Department and Streets and Highway Department.

Mr. Haywood explained that in the Electric Fund, the city just finished a large capital project with the completion of the electric sub-station that was energized during the last budget year. He explained that the next five years includes significant needs remaining, such as transformers being replaced and significant fiber construction that needs to be completed in Fiscal Year 2025. He added that some of the ARPA funding is allocated in the Electric Fund in this coming fiscal year, so it would help bring down the total dollar amount needed.

Mr. Haywood explained that the Water & Sewer Fund includes significant capital requests. The city will continue to pursue grant funding for any eligible grants, but the city still must plan and budget for the capital items needed in case there is none awarded. The planned rate increases that will be phased in will help provide some of the funding for projects that will be needed.

Mr. Haywood explained that the Solid Waste Fund includes several capital requests for mainly collection vehicles that need to be replaced. The forecast of the replacement schedule for these collection vehicles is difficult due to the availability and purchase lead times. He explained that the vehicles are getting more difficult to acquire in a timely manner.

Mr. Haywood explained that the overall spike in fiscal years 26 and 27 in the amount of capital requests funds is due to the numerous planned water/sewer infrastructure projects.

The City Manager explained that the overall amount of capital funds the city needs to furnish is less in fiscal years 24 and 25 because the city has millions of dollars of water/sewer infrastructure projects currently underway, all funded with loans and grant funds from the state.

Councilmember Rainer inquired about the Storm Drainage Total jumping from \$50,000 in FY 24 and FY 25 to \$200,000 in FY 26, FY 27 & FY 28. Mr. Haywood explained that the requests are placed in there for future storm drainage projects at the direction of council.

Councilmember Adams moved to approve the 5-year (2024-2028) Capital Improvement Plan. Councilmember Rogers moved to second the motion, and the vote was unanimous.
(Copy of 5-year 2024-2028 Capital Improvement Plan is on file in the clerk's office)

Consider Ordinance No. O-2023-06 to Amend ARPA Grant Project Ordinance

The City Manager explained that in the current ARPA grant project ordinance, the city has allocated \$2,928,525. He explained that the ordinance needs to be amended to allocate the remaining \$1.85 million dollars of ARPA funds. This will fully allocate all the city's funding received from the ARPA totaling \$4,781,100.

Councilmember Adams moved to approve Ordinance No. O-2023-06 ARPA Grant Project Ordinance. Councilmember Rainer moved to second the motion, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Adams, Evans, Rainer, Rogers, Williamson

Nays: None

(Copy of Ordinance No. O-2023-06 is on file in the clerk's office)

Consider Ordinance No. O-2023-07 to Amend ARPA Grant Project Ordinance and Transfer to FY 24 Budget

The City Manager explained that the city intends to expend \$1,852,575 of the ARPA funds in the upcoming Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget. He stated that the ordinance needs to be amended to transfer from the ARPA Special Revenue fund to the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget Ordinance.

Councilmember Williamson moved to approve Ordinance No. O-2023-07 amending the ARP A Grant Project Ordinance and Transferring ARPA funds to the FY 2023-2024 Budget. Councilmember Evans moved to second the motion, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Adams, Evans, Rainer, Rogers, Williamson

Nays: None

(Copy of Ordinance No. O-2023-07 is on file in the clerk's office)

Consider Ordinance No. O-2023-08 to Approve FY 24 Budget Appropriations Ordinance

The City Manager explained Ordinance O-2023-08 is a line-item breakdown per department of what the budget for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 will be.

Councilmember Adams inquired about the total dollar amount. The City Manager stated that the total dollar amount is \$39,983,823 for all four funds: General Fund, Electric Fund, Water/Sewer Fund and Solid Waste. The manager further explained that the ordinance includes details about the tax rates (forty cent per one-hundred-dollar valuation with the separate downtown rate of twenty-one cent per one-hundred dollar of valuation).

Councilmember Adams moved to approve Ordinance No. O-2023-08 FY 2023-2024 Budget Appropriations Ordinance. Councilmember Williamson moved to second the motion, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Adams, Evans, Rainer, Rogers, Williamson

Nays: None

(Copy of Ordinance No. O-2023-08 is on file in the clerk's office)

Consider Ordinance No. O-2023-09 to Approve FY 24 Budget Appropriations Ordinance for Downtown

The City Manager explained that the city adopts an annual budget for the Downtown Advisory Committee so they would not have to come to council for approval when they needed to do any type of marketing. The manager explained that the process with DAC will not change, and they will have to present any expenditures to their entire board before they are expended. He explained that the revenue generated for downtown comes from the additional twenty-one cent per one-hundred-dollar valuation tax rate that is paid by the downtown property owners. He added that historically the city matches what is assessed to the downtown, which has historically totaled approximately \$42,000 per year (\$21,000 from the downtown property owners and \$21,000 from the city budget). As of June 30, 2022, the cash reserves for the downtown fund were approximately \$136,000 and this money can only be used for downtown improvements and programming.

Councilmember Rainer moved to approve Ordinance No. O-2023-09 FY 2023-2024 Budget Appropriations Ordinance for Downtown. Councilmember Evans moved to second the motion, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Adams, Evans, Rainer, Rogers, Williamson

Nays: None

(Copy of Ordinance No. O-2023-09 is on file in the clerk's office)

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

Amend the City Council 2023-2024 Regular Meeting Schedule

The City Manager informed the council that the Mayor would be out of town for the week when the July regular meeting is scheduled on July 18, 2023. Discussion ensued to move the regular monthly meeting in July to July 25, 2023. There was no one in opposition.

Councilmember Williamson moved to approve the amended 2023-2024 Regular Meeting Schedule by moving the city council meeting in July from July 18, 2023, to July 25, 2023. Councilmember Adams moved to second the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Consider Update to Personnel Certification List

The City Manager explained the process of how employees can complete certifications pertaining to their current position title. The last update to this certification list was approved on September 20, 2022, and there have been new certifications available that need to be added. The financial impact including the source will be a step increase and/or one-time bonus (\$250) for employees that complete any certifications on the list that is budgeted for in their department.

Councilmember Adams moved to approve the updated Certification List. Councilmember Evans moved to second the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Update to Amending the UDO to include Transitional Housing Regulations

The City Manager provided an update on potentially amending the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) to include regulations on transitional housing. He explained that Mac McInnis has been working on this with our consultant and provided council with the language update that would need to be presented to the planning board to start the process at the discretion of council.

Councilmember Adams inquired if schools could be added to the section pertaining to the one-mile radius of the transitional housing location.

The City Attorney stated that it could be added if the council would like it to be.

Council ensued discussion regarding different scenarios with adding schools to the language.

The city attorney explained that the current language was to prevent clustering of transitional housing in one area.

Councilmember Rogers inquired if this proposed amendment would come before the council again.

The City Manager explained that this topic can be added to the July 25, 2023, meeting for council to brainstorm and be prepared to make any changes they see fit to the information that has been provided to them.

The council agreed to move the topic to the July 25, 2023, meeting for more consideration.

Consider Ordinance No. O-2023-10 to amend FY 2022-2023 Budget Appropriations Ordinance to transfer funds from the Fiber Department to the Electric Operations Department in the Electric Fund

The City Manager explained that this budget amendment will allow the transfer of funds from the Fiber Department to the Electric Department in the Electric Fund to be used for capital projects. He explained that this would decrease expenditures in the Fiber Department and increase expenditures in the Electric Department, with no impact to the total appropriation in the Electric Fund. He explained that the problem has arisen from ordering equipment and placing it in the budget and then it not being received in the Fiscal Year that it was budgeted for.

Councilmember Evans moved to approve Ordinance No. O-2023-10 to amend the FY 2022-2023 Annual Budget Appropriation Ordinance (No. O-2022-21) by transferring from the Fiber Department, decreasing line item 833-707500 by \$300,000, to the Electric Operations Department, increasing line item 832-509200 by \$300,000. Councilmember Rogers moved to second the motion, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Adams, Evans, Rainer, Rogers, Williamson

Nays: None

(Copy of Ordinance No. O-2023-10 is on file at the clerk's office)

Consider Ordinance No. O-2023-11 to establish Annual Vehicle and Equipment Capital Project Fund and transfer from the Fire Department and Electric Operations Department.

The City Manager explained that annual departmental operating budgets that are unable to fulfill a capital purchase for vehicles & equipment within the operating budget year will have the contracted funds transferred to an Annual Capital Project Fund to maintain the contractual agreement. He explained that the funds would not be spent until the city receives the equipment or vehicles, but it would allow a purchase order to be created.

The City Manager explained that this amendment transfers \$581,386 from the Electric Operations Department and \$313,012 from the Fire Department to the Annual Capital Projects Fund for Vehicles and Equipment for those items that have been ordered but will not be received and paid for until the next fiscal year. He explained that going forward this capital project fund will be used more instead of budgeting them in the department budget due to the delay in receiving the goods.

Councilmember Rainer inquired if the funds that are moved into this account be used to purchase something else instead of what it was initially intended for.

The City Manager explained that once the funds are moved into this account, they can only be used for capital purchases. He explained that if something fell through with the initial ordered piece of equipment, then it would not restrict the city from using the funds to enter into a different contract to purchase the same type of equipment from a different vendor.

Councilmember Williamson moved to approve Ordinance No. O-2023-11 to establish the Annual Capital Projects Fund for Vehicles & Equipment by transferring from the Fire Department and Electric Operations Department to appropriate revenues in the Operating Transfer line item (80-439711) in the amount of \$894,398, and appropriating expenditures in Equipment Replacement line item (800-703400) in the amount of \$894,398. Councilmember Rainer moved to second the motion, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Adams, Evans, Rainer, Rogers, Williamson

Nays: None

(Copy of Ordinance No. O-2023-11 is on file at the clerk's office)

Consider Ordinance No. O-2023-12 to Reallocate General Fund Non-Departmental Budget to other Departmental Budgets within the General Fund per Annual Audit Requirements

The City Manager explained that this ordinance is for the reallocation of Non-Departmental Budget line items to other Departmental Budgets within the General Fund per annual audit requirements.

Councilmember Evans moved to approve Ordinance No. O-2023-12 to reallocate the General Fund non-departmental budget to other department budgets within the General Fund per annual audit requirements. Councilmember Williamson moved to second the motion, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Adams, Evans, Rainer, Rogers, Williamson

Nays: None

(Copy of Ordinance No. O-2023-12 on file at the clerk's office)

Consider Resolution No R-2023-09 to Establish Materiality Threshold for Recognition of Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements (SBITAs) Under GASB Statement No. 96

The City Manager explained that the General Accounting Standards (GASB) Statement No. 96 provides guidance on the accounting and financial reporting for subscription-based information technology arrangements (SBITAs). He explained that the resolution is to adopt a materiality

threshold of \$25,000 for SBITASs in compliance with GASB Statement No. 96. After reviewing the IT subscription contracts currently in place, the city staff believes that a materiality threshold of five times our capitalization threshold of five thousand dollars is a reasonable request to stay in compliance with GASB No. 96.

Mayor Willis inquired if this would include the tsunami camera systems.

The City Manager explained that the tsunami camera system is considered a tangible asset. He explained that the city would never physically own the tsunami camera systems due to the city leasing this item. The financial software is the item that is included in this GASB No. 96.

Councilmember Williamson inquired about the total amount of \$25,000 being considerably higher than the \$5,000 for tangible capital assets.

The City Manager explained that \$25,000 is the recommendation set by the accounting team to ensure that the auditor would be comfortable with making sure all current and future software would be covered.

Councilmember Rogers moved to approve Resolution No. R-2023-09 to establish a materiality threshold for the recognition of Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements (SBIT As) under GASB Statement No. 96. Councilmember Adams moved to second the motion, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Adams, Evans, Rainer, Rogers, Williamson

Nays: None

(Copy of Resolution No. R-2023-09 is on file at the clerk's office)

Discussion of Auditing Services for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023

The City Manager provided an update regarding the Auditing Services for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023. He explained that the city conducted a Request for Proposals solicitation process for receiving proposals from qualified firms to perform the financial auditing services for the City for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2023. The city invited all firms, including directly inviting firms that have performed these services in the past, to submit a proposal to provide this service. The RFP was released and posted on April 17, 2023, with a submittal deadline of May 12, 2023. The city did not receive any proposals by this deadline, so the RFP was re-advertised on May 15, 2023, with an extended deadline of May 31, 2023. The city still has not received any proposals from any firms to provide this service.

The city has reached out to the Local Government Commission for advice on how to move forward and will continue to solicit qualified firms directly until a proposal is received.

Update on Annual 4th of July Fireworks Display

The City Manager provided an update that the city will be holding its Annual Fourth of July Fireworks Display on Tuesday, July 4th. The fireworks will be lit from the same lot as usual, north of the baseball field along Railroad Street. He informed everyone that Pate Stadium will not be open for any public access but that parking lots at Scotland High School will be open for parking. The Display will begin at approximately 9:15 p.m., depending upon light conditions, and will last approximately 30 minutes.

APPOINTMENT

Mayor Willis will appoint Michael Fedak to serve a five-year term as a Commissioner on the Laurinburg Housing Authority Board.

COMMENTS FROM THE MANAGER, MAYOR, AND COUCILMEMBERS

Mayor Willis commended Councilmember Rogers for the successful Juneteenth Celebration. Councilmember Rogers expressed her gratitude for everyone that attended and helped make the event successful.

Councilmember Rainer informed the council that the Department of Social Services held the World Elderly Abuse Awareness Kickoff, and it was successful and a very nice event to attend.

Councilmember Williamson inquired about an update on placing a marker at McDuffie Square. The City Manager stated that he would follow up on it and it would be available at the July 25, 2023 meeting.

Mayor Willis inquired about possibly installing outlets in McDuffie Square for vendors for future events. The City Manager explained that the Electric Department has been looking at installing some outlets and there is discussion about placing it in the budget.

Councilmember Evans inquired about the new Telsa Charging Stations that have been installed at the Roses Shopping Center. The City Manager explained that the city owns the one fast charge station located in Starbucks Parking lot. He explained that the Telsa Charging Stations are privately owned but they do purchase the electricity from the city to operate those stations.

CLOSED SESSION -- Personnel

Councilmember Rogers moved to go into closed session at 7:25 p.m. pursuant to pursuant to NCGS 143-3 18.11(a)(6) for personnel. Councilmember Adams moved to second the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Councilmember Evans moved to adjourn the closed session at 7:44 p.m. and return to the open meeting. Councilmember Williamson moved to second the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

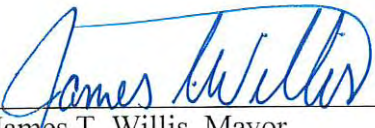
SET CITY MANAGER'S SALARY

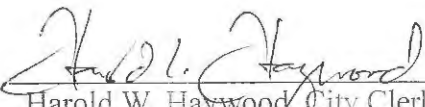
Councilmember Rainer moved to increase the City Manager's salary by seven percent (7%) effective July 1, 2023, and to extend his contract by two (2) years. Councilmember Adams moved to second the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.


James T. Willis, Mayor


Harold W. Haywood, City Clerk