CITY OF LAURINBURG
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 15, 2021
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, June 15, 2021 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, James J. Garby, Jr., Donald Rainer, 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 Evans gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Evans requested that Item B from the Consent Agenda be removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

Motion was made by Councilmember Adams to approve the agenda with change as requested. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Garby, and the vote was as follows:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The City Clerk read the following email:

From: Jerry Dial, 11580 Azalea Drive

"Due to inadequate drainage, the property located at the corner of Azalea Drive and Gardenia Drive floods upon heavy rainfall. The storm water drains located on Azalea Drive near the Gardenia intersection, back up and flood from the drains back to the intersection. I have spoken numerous times with the City Manager and with Mr. McQuage concerning this issue. A few months ago, the City performed some maintenance on the drain line from the street back to the drainage ditch, and since then no water backups have occurred (it has also been relatively dry in the last few months). I am not sure if the city has any intention of constructing a new storm water drain system in our neighborhood, but it would be productive to see the City continue to monitor and perform maintenance as necessary to provide as much flooding relief as possible."

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Willis reviewed the Consent Agenda:

a) Consider minutes of March 30, 2021 special meeting/retreat
b) *removed*
c) Consider setting public hearing to be held on July 20, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. to consider request to rezone Lot 81 on Commonwealth Avenue from Office/Institutional to General Business
(d) Consider setting public hearing to be held on July 20, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. to consider adding a Solar Rider to the City of Laurinburg Electric Fee Schedule
(e) Consider request from James McLean to close College Drive from South Caledonia Road to Kinlaw Drive on Saturday, June 26, 2021 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Councilmember Adams moved to approve the amended Consent Agenda by removing Item b). The motion was seconded by Councilmember Williamson, and the vote was as follows:

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

REQUEST FROM LIVING WATER CHRISTIAN RESOURCES, LLC TO CLOSE CRONLY STREET FROM SOUTH MAIN TO BIGGS ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2021 FROM 9:00 A.M. TO 9:00 P.M.

Councilmember Evans expressed concern about the surrounding businesses being aware of the street closure.

Following discussion, motion was made by Councilmember Garby to close Cronly Street from South Main to Biggs Street on Saturday, September 18, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Adams, and the vote was as follows:

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

Staff will contact Ms. Janie Adams of Living Water Christian Resources, LLC to ensure she talks with the neighboring businesses about the event.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

CONSIDER REQUEST TO REZONE LOT ON CHARLOTTE STREET FROM RESIDENTIAL-6 TO OFFICE/INSTITUTIONAL

Mayor Willis opened the public hearing.

Mr. Mac McInnis explained that this request was submitted by Mr. Michael Mandeville, Community Development Director, to rezone an unused parcel of land on Charlotte Street owned by the City from Residential-6 to Office/Institutional. In the past some of the parcel was used as a playground; however, Scotland County Parks and Recreation Department removed the equipment years ago. The City would like to develop a dog park for residents and to attract travelers off US 74 into the area. Planning Board heard this request at its May 11, 2021 meeting, and unanimously recommended approval of the request.

Mr. Michael Mandeville explained that staff had been working on the dog park idea for some time. The dog park was included in the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 budget.

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

Councilmember Adams moved to approve Ordinance No. O-2021-17 rezoning from Residential-6 to Office/Institutional property located on Charlotte Street and identified as PIN # 010013 07001 because it advances the public health, safety and welfare, and based upon the following:

The rezoning of Lot PIN # 010013 07001 from Residential 6 (R-6) to Office Institutional (OI) is consistent with an adopted comprehensive plan and any other officially adopted plan because:

1) The Office Institutional district is established to serve as an adequate buffer between intensive non-residential uses and residential uses; provide aesthetic controls and dimensional requirements to insure compatible office and service development with surrounding residential uses; and encourage a mixture of residential uses with office and services.
2) The Land Use Plan 2035 Future Land Use Map indicates the development of some mixed uses along the Highway 15/401 corridor, which is where this parcel is located. The Office Institutional zoning will allow a more diverse group of land uses and will buffer residential uses from the roadway.
3) There are already Office Institutional zoned properties along with Residential and General Business in the area. The rezoning will allow residential uses as well as office and service uses on the property as a permitted use.

AND

The rezoning of Lot PIN # 010013 07001 from Residential 6 (R-6) to Office Institutional (OI) is reasonable because:

1) The rezoning to OI will allow uses consistent with other existing uses;
2) The rezoning will help maintain the present character of the City of Laurinburg while promoting diversity and future growth.
3) The rezoning to OI will have no detrimental impact to the property values of surrounding land owners.

4) The rezoning to OI will require no infrastructure improvements by the City of Laurinburg.

Councilmember Williamson seconded by the motion, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Adams, Williamson, Evans, Rainer, Garby
Nays: None
(Ordinance No. O-2021-17 on file in city clerk's office)

CONSIDER REQUEST FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO LOCATE AND OPERATE A YARD WASTE INCINERATOR ON CITY OF LAURINBURG PROPERTY

Mayor Willis opened the public hearing to consider a conditional use permit to locate and operate a yard waste incinerator/air curtain burner on City property.

Mr. Mac McInnis, Planner/Zoning Officer, being duly sworn, explained that this request for a conditional use permit to operate a yard waste incinerator/air curtain burner so that the City could process the volume of residential yard debris that the City collects. The incinerator/air curtain burner would be located on City property identified as PIN # 010245 01003 which is located behind the City Public Works Facility, 600 Hall Street. The request was submitted by Mr. Harold Haywood, General Services Director for the City. The request was heard by Planning Board on May 11, 2021, and Planning Board unanimously recommended approval.

The City Attorney requested that the Planning Board comments be included in the record of the public hearing. They are as follows:

"Yard Waste Incinerator at 600 Hall Street

> Mr. Jernigan explained that the Board is meeting for a request for a Conditional Use Permit to operate a Yard Waste Incinerator at 600 Hall Street. He asked if there was anyone to speak on behalf of this request. He explained that further
>
> Mr. Harold Haywood stated he is the General Service Director for the City of Laurinburg and that this request came before the Board back in October and, after many discussions with the State, Staff has decided to reconsider a new site for the incinerator.
>
> Mr. Jernigan stated he knows the property owners on Stewartsville Road are pleased with this decision.
>
> Mr. Jackson asked how far the new site is from the old site.

Mr. Haywood stated approximately 400 to 500 yards. He displayed the two sites on the projector for the Board to see. Mr. Haywood stated that there is a staging area for the limbs and a place for the extra leaves that cannot be burned.

Mr. Jernigan asked if there were any residences close to the new site.

Mr. Haywood stated not really but there are a few. He explained that the new site is north of the creek a little closer to East Laurinburg Church of God but mainly closest to the creek.

Mr. Jordan asked if the incinerator will produce smoke.

Mr. Haywood showed a slideshow of how the incinerator works. It will have a flame and smoke at the start up before the air curtain comes on.

Mr. Jernigan asked how long the flames last.

Mr. Haywood stated per state regulations if the incinerator does not start within 40 minutes you are required to turn it off and start the process over. He stated that the air curtain usually comes on within the 40 minutes.

Mr. Jordan made a motion to approve the request for a Conditional Use Permit to operate a Yard Waste Incinerator at 600 Hall Street. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jernigan and was unanimously approved."

Mr. Harold Haywood, General Services Director, being duly sworn, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the request for a conditional use permit to operate a yard waste incinerator/air curtain burner, with highlights as follows:

- Prior to 2016, the City took yard waste to the Scotland County Dump and paid tipping fees. In 2016, the City began taking yard waste two (2) sites on City property off Hall Street. The City began mulching and grinding the yard waste. This reduced some costs; however, due to changes in state regulations, if the City continues handling the yard waste in the same way, costs could be increased.
- Assuming the conditional use permit is approved, the next step would be to submit an application to the State for a permit to use an air curtain burner to burn yard waste.
- One of the requirements before submitting the application for the permit is to ensure all local requirements are met; therefore the request for a conditional use permit to be in compliance with zoning regulations.
- The City operates two (2) small non-permitted yard waste sites (Two (2) acre size limit and 6,000 cubic yards limit of material on site at any one time-previous rule allowed 6,000 per quarter or 24,000 per year).
- Sanitation trucks bring all yard waste collected from residents to the City sites.
- Once a site is full, the City grinds material and takes yard waste to other site while

trying to give away and haul mulch to anyone that will take it.

- Operated leaf disposal site until January 2021, when NC Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) required the City to begin closing site due to reaching maximum life.
- Staff investigated different ways to handle yard waste and keep costs down, and suggested that the City purchase and operate a yard waste air curtain burner.
- A map showing the proposed location of the air curtain burner and staging area for limbs was discussed. The map is attached to these minutes as Exhibit A.
- Leaves will be managed by putting them in windrows in order to compost them. The compost will be given away or possibly used by the City.
- Have to obtain two (2) permits for the site. One is for having the leaves on that site, and the other is for operating the air curtain burner.
- The average yard waste is approximately 2,800 tons per year, or 11 tons per day.
- According to DEQ, the maximum volume that can be burned per day is 35 tons. So the air curtain burner would probably only have to be operate one (1) to two (2) days per week.
- DEQ regulations for the air curtain burner operation are:
    - Given maximum 45 minutes for initial start up to get opacity level to 10%.
    - Must shut down and start over if above 10% or reschedule another day.
    - Burn no more than 35 tons per day.
    - No burning when more than 20 mph winds.
    - No burning if NC Forestry recommends burn ban due to weather.
    - Only natural wood waste and yard waste can be burned.
    - Only trained certified operator can run the burner.
    - Site requirements are also regulated by NC DEQ during permitting process and through periodic inspections.
- Proposed Air Curtain Burner Operation
    - If the City obtains all approval, City will operate/burn yard waste material approximately one and a half days per week during normal operations (approximately 8 hours) pending weather conditions.
    - Incinerator will smoke during startup and shutdown phases until the air curtain is fully active.
    - Incinerator could smoke approximately 15-30 seconds per load while material is being loaded to burn.

Mr. Haywood explained that two (2) staff members, Mrs. Angie Foster and Mr. Tony Strickland, visited the City of Shelby to observe its air curtain burner operation.

Upon question by Mayor Willis, Mr. Haywood explained that some of the ash can be stored in the leaf windrows. Staff has already reached out to local farmers to see if they would like the ash when the City begins operating the air curtain burner.

Upon questions by Councilmember Williamson, Mr. Haywood explained that the City owns two (2) large parcels of land that are well off Stewartsville Road. The chosen location is between Stewartsville road and East Laurinburg. There is a gate on Hall Street that locks automatically, so the property will be well-secured.

Upon question by Councilmember Evans, Mr. Haywood explained that because the air curtain burner puts off very little smoke, so there is no reason for the operator to wear a mask.

Upon question by Councilmember Evans, Mr. Haywood explained that there were no concerns about the fire in the air curtain burner escaping. The City will be putting in a water line to the site location so that it will be closer to a fire hydrant, and there will be a long fire hose on site.

Upon question by Councilmember Williamson, Mr. Haywood explained that the air curtain burner was included in the proposed FY 2021-2022 budget. If the conditional use permit is not approved, then a budget amendment for additional costs for disposing of yard waste would be necessary.

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

Councilmember Williamson moved to approve a Conditional Use Permit to locate and operate a yard waste incinerator/air curtain burner on City of Laurinburg property identified as PIN # 010245 01003 based upon the following:

- The development is within the planning jurisdiction of the City of Laurinburg;
- The application is complete;
- The development is in substantial compliance with the regulatory provisions of the Unified Development Ordinance;
- The request will not materially endanger the public health or safety;
- The request will not substantially injure the value of the adjoining or abutting property;
- The request will be in harmony with the area in which it is to be located; and
- The request will be in general conformity with the Land Use Plan, Thoroughfare Plan or other plan officially adopted by Council.

The motion was seconded by Councilmember Garby, and the vote was as follows:

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

CONSIDER FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 BUDGET

Mayor Willis opened the public hearing to consider the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget.

The City Manager explained that there were three (3) items for Council to consider and vote on with regard to the FY 2021-2022 budget. The items are: Capital Improvement Plan, Fee Schedule and the actual budget.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The City Manager explained that the first item is for Council to approve the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) which is a 5-year plan of capital needs in all four (4) funds. In order to be considered a capital item, the cost must be over $5,000 and have a useful life over one (1) year. The CIP was developed by a St. Andrews MBA class approximately five (5) to six (6) years ago, and Mr. Haywood has updated it every year since its inception. The CIP includes just under $58 million in capital needs in the next five (5) years. It is just a prediction of the costs. This is separate from the Water/Wastewater CIP that Council adopted several months ago. The CIP aids in financial planning and also for grant applications.

CONSIDER FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 FEE SCHEDULE

The City Manager explained that fees were flat from the previous year with the exception of the seven and one-half percent (7.5%) increase in Solid Waste fees for commercial and residential and few changes for water and wastewater lab testing fees.

FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 BUDGET

The City Manager presented highlights of the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 budget as follows:

- The total budget for all four (4) funds is $36,250,684
- Three (3) funds required the use of Fund Balance in order to balance the budget.
    - $937,000 of General Fund-Fund Balance was used to balance the budget. $416,697 of Appropriated Balance was used, and $521,000 was the planned annual payment of the debt for the City Hall and Police Department.
    - $564,000 of Fund Balance was needed to balance the Water/Sewer Fund. Staff continues to transfer funds into the Capital Project Fund for the six (6) Water/Sewer projects.
    - $199,000 of Fund Balance was needed from the Solid Waste Fund to balance the budget because there were some capital needs in that fund.
- Overall, the budget is flat with a $0.40 tax rate, $0.21 municipal service district tax for the Central Business district.
- Budget includes a three percent (3%) Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for employees.
- Health insurance plan is the same program, with a two (2) percent decrease in cost. Due to COID-19, claims were down because some people were not going to the doctor. So the insurance premium may be more next year.
- Since last year, no capital items were included in the budget, this year's budget began addressing capital needs in all four (4) budgets.
- Three (3) positions were added for an in-house tree trimming crew. The crew will report to the electric services director and will work for the electric department and beautification.
- Continued funding for the six (6) major capital projects in the Water/Sewer Fund.

Councilmember Evans expressed concern that there was not sufficient evidence about the success of the dog park. She suggested that the $40,000 budgeted for the dog park should be placed in Contingency, and when more research is conducted, Council could decide on moving forward or not with the dog park.

Upon question by Councilmember Garby, the City Manager explained that the plans for the dog park had been presented to Council.

Councilmember Rainer expressed concern about the proposed location of the dog park, and that visitors might have difficulty finding the dog park.

There being no one present to speak in favor of or in opposition to the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget, Mayor Willis closed the public hearing. He added that Council needed to vote separately on the three (3) items previously discussed, to wit: the CIP, the Fee Schedule and the Budget.

Councilmember Adams moved to approve the 2022-2026 Capital Improvement Plan. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Williamson, and the vote was as follows:

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

Councilmember Evans moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Fee Schedule. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Garby, and the vote was as follows:

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

Councilmember Adams moved to approve Ordinance No. O-2021-18 Budget Appropriations Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2021-2022. Councilmember Williamson seconded the motion, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Adams, Williamson, Garby, Rainer
Nays: Evans
(Ordinance No. O-2021-18 on file in city clerk's office)

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

CONSIDER AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE

The City Manager explained that this budget amendment reallocates non-department budget to other departments, and is done annually. It is necessary in order to close the fiscal year budget.

Councilmember Williamson moved to approve Ordinance No. O-2021-19 amending the FY 2020-21 Budget Appropriations Ordinance (Ordinance No. O-2020-04) to reallocate non-departmental budgets to other departmental budgets within the General Fund per annual audit requirements. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Garby, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Williamson, Garby, Rainer, Evans, Adams
Nays: None
(Ordinance No. O-2021-19 on file in city clerk's office)

CONSIDER AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE

The City Manager explained that The Downtown Advisory Committee (DAC) had requested that Council provide $50,000 for the DAC so that it would not have to request funds from Council each time it wanted to spend money.

Councilmember Evans moved to approve Ordinance No. O-2021-20 amending the FY 2021-2022 Budget Appropriations Ordinance (Ordinance No. O-2021-18) transferring $50,000 to the Downtown line item. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Garby, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Evans, Garby, Adams, Rainer, Williamson
Nays: None
(Ordinance No. 2021-20 on file in city clerk's office)

CONSIDER AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF CONTRACT TO AUDIT ACCOUNTS AND LETTER OF ENGAGEMENT WITH ROCHE, HEAD & ASSOCIATES, PLLC

The City Manager explained that in order to conduct the FY 2020-21 annual audit, a new contract with Roche, Head & Associates needed to be executed.

Councilmember Rainer moved to authorize the Mayor to execute contract to audit accounts with Roche, Head & Associates, PLLC and authorize the Mayor and City Manager to execute the Engagement Letter with Roche, Head and Associates, PLLC for audit of the City's fiscal records ending June 30, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Williamson, and the vote was as follows:

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

CONSIDER AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE ENGAGEMENT LETTER WITH ROCHE, HEAD & ASSOCIATES, PLLC

The City Manager explained that the Local Government Commission (LGC) randomly selected local government entities to have the census date and payroll records which are submitted to the Local Government Retirement System. The City was one of the municipalities chosen.

Councilmember Garby moved to authorize the Mayor and City Manager to execute engagement letter with Roche, Head & Associates, PLLC to examine the census data and payroll records provided to the Local Government Retirement System. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Adams, and the vote was as follows:

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

CONSIDER RESOLUTION TO RECEIVE FUNDS UNDER THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

The City Manager explained that a resolution to receive American Rescue Plan Act Funds was a requirement in order to receive funds.

Councilmember Garby moved to approve Resolution No. R-2021-08 to receive funds under the American Rescue Plan Act. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Evans, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Garby, Evans, Adams, Rainer, Williamson
Nays: None
(copy of Resolution No. R-2021-08 on file in city clerk's office)

CONSIDER AMENDMENTS TO SCOTLAND COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BY-LAWS

City Manager explained that Mr. Mark Ward, Scotland County Economic Development Director would be discussing amendments to the Scotland County Economic Development Corporation (SCEDC) By-laws.

Mr. Mark Ward explained that the SCEDC Board has amended its by-laws after meeting with other economic development personnel and with the assistance of Mr. William P. Floyd, Jr. who is the SCEDC's attorney as well as the City Attorney. The Scotland County Attorney has reviewed the amended by-laws and the by-laws will also be considered for approval by the Scotland County Board of Commissioners. Some changes included that the SCEDC would abide by all open meetings laws since there are elected officials from the City and the County, the SCEDC must abide by the same rules as the City Council and the County Board of Commissioners. If the SCEDC borrows funds, it cannot encumber City or County tax base. The treasurer of the SCEDC must comply with local government budget and fiscal control acts. There are currently two (2) elected officials from the City and three (3) elected officials from the County. The City Manager is the secretary, the County Manager is the vice president of the SCEDC, the Economic Director is the president, and the County Finance Officer is the finance officer. The biggest change was to add private citizens to the Board to gain some members who are in the business world. The members of the Board will appoint two (2) citizen members to serve on 2-year rotations. So the first two will go onboard sometime this year, one of them will be a one-year position and the other will be a 2 year position. They will rotate off. More than likely ask the person who has the 1-year term to serve a 3-year term so they are not on for just one year. So every 2 years, someone could be appointed to that board. Term limits are not stated in the by-laws, as the private citizens serve at the discretion of the current SCEDC board.

Upon question by Councilmember Garby, Mr. Ward explained that the elected officials on the SCEDC Board would appoint the private citizens, making it a seven (7) member board.

Councilmember Williamson explained that the idea behind the inclusion of private citizens was to add people who could help the community grow the economy. Thus far no names have been discussed by the SSCEDC Board. He added that he would want somebody that has relationships with developers or companies that might want to locate in Laurinburg. The Board will come up with names of individuals rather than it being an application process.

Mayor Willis explained that the SCEDC had a very informative meeting with four (4) economic developers from regional economic development corporation. The SCEDC was advised to operate the SCEDC more like a business and less as a government. It might seem that it is odd coming as an invitation to join, but that is how Scotland Memorial Health Care obtains its board members. He agreed with Councilmember Williamson that no names had been discussed.

Councilmember Garby expressed concern that the decision on whom to add to the board was being put into the hands of five (5) people. He explained that if the two (2) seats were opened up, there might be qualified volunteers in the community that the board members do not know.

Mr. Ward explained that the board had not discussed names of individuals, but had discussed attributes and skills that would help the SCEDC. He explained that there may be someone working with Duke Energy Progress in Raleigh that would provide valuable insight for the SCEDC as a member. He added that if someone wanted to volunteer to be considered, they could contact him.

Further discussion ensued concerning the future two (2) members. The City Attorney explained that the additional two (2) people could not be elected officials.

Mr. Ward explained that he could go to the local media and advise that the SCEDC is looking for two (2) volunteers to serve on the SCEDC.

Upon question by Councilmember Garby, Mr. Ward explained that the SCEDC board talked with Moore County, Bladen County and Southeast Regional Economic Development, and their additional members are private citizens.

Upon question by Councilmember Adams, Mr. Ward explained that when active projects are discussed by the SCEDC, representatives of the Laurinburg/Scotland County Chamber of Commerce, Richmond Community College, Southeastern Regional Airport Authority and NC Works are requested to attend.

Upon question by Councilmember Adams, Mr. Ward explained that the Scotland County Board of Commissioners would consider the by-laws the following Monday night.

Further discussion ensued concerning defining the attributes and skills for which the SCRDC needs to search. Mr. Ward explained that the new members would not come onto the board until December at the SCEDC Annual Meeting.

Following further discussion, Councilmember Adams moved to approve the amendments to the Scotland County Economic Development Corporation By-Laws. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Garby, and the vote was as follows:

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

UPDATE ON MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS AND SET FILING FEES FRO MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

The City Manager explained that even though the municipal election date has not been set, staff believed it best to set the filling fee. The Census data will not be coming out until the fall, and there is not enough time for the City to consider potential redistricting. Senate Bill 722 has been approved by the North Carolina Senate and the North Carolina House that would push the municipal elections to March 8, 2022. The Governor has not yet signed the bill; however, it is believed that the Governor will sign the bill. Council needs to set the filing fees for the November election at this time since the Governor has not yet signed Senate Bill 722

Councilmember Evans moved to keep the filing fees at $25.00. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Garby, and the vote was as follows:

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

DISCUSSION CONCERNING REQUEST FOR FUNDS FROM PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

The City Manager explained that the Mayor received a letter in May from Partners in Ministry requesting funds from the City. Council requested that this item be on the agenda to be discussed.

Councilmember Rainer explained that Partners in Ministry was requesting money from the City, and last month Council learned that Partners in Ministry was not located in the City limits.

The City Manager stated that Partners in Ministry requested $450,000 financial contribution from the City and it is not located in the Laurinburg City limits, but is located just inside the town limits of East Laurinburg at the former East Laurinburg School.

Councilmember Evans asked if not being in the City limits was the only reason that Council was not going to acknowledge this request?

The City Manager explained that having this discussion was acknowledging the request. The Mayor received a letter on May 10, 2021.

Upon question by Councilmember Garby, the City Manager explained that he was not aware of the City providing funds as requested by Partners in Ministry.

Councilmember Garby stated that he wanted to see like to see Partners in Ministry’s financial records as that is a lot of taxpayer money.

The City Manager explained that the money would have to come from the General Fund. He added that with the City’s $0.40 tax rate, $0.01 of property tax generates close to $80,000 in revenue, so if Council decided to meet the request, that would add $0.055 to the tax rate.

Mayor Willis explained that he was invited to tour Partners in Ministry. He was aware that the group does a lot of good work. Partners in Ministry has a very specific plan to build its building, and want to remain on its land. A suggestion was made to them to consider moving to the I. Ellis Johnson School, but it appeared that they were not interested in moving. Partners in Ministry is working with the Duke Endowment and the State Employees’ Credit Union with grant money, which requires demonstration of local support with some matching funds.

Councilmember Williamson explained that if Council granted the funding, it would set a precedent of the City giving to non-profits. He added that the location is in East Laurinburg, and not in the City. He added that he has heard great things about the organization.

Councilmember Rainer explained that the City owes the youth in the City to ensure that the Partners in Ministry building happens. He added that he would like to show some support, and that any amount that Council could donate would show the City’s support.

Councilmember Adams explained that she was very familiar with Partners in Ministry, and the good work it does. She further explained that she did not see how Council could justify spending tax dollars on something that was not located in the City limits. She added that she was aware that a similar letter was sent to the County Commissioners requesting the same amount of funding.

Councilmember Garby explained that Councilmember Evans had requested that $50,000 be set aside in the budget for youth development; however, he thought that giving that amount to Partners in Ministry was too much, and that the City should develop its own programs.

Councilmember Evans asked if Council need to request Dr. Melba McCallum, Executive

Director of Partners in Ministry, come to discuss this request with Council.

Councilmember Rainer explained that even though the building is not in the City limits, kids from the City participate in the programs of Partners in Ministry.

Upon question by Councilmember Williamson, Councilmember Rainer explained that the first committee meeting on I. Ellis Johnson School would be held on June 28, 2021.

Councilmember Adams added that she had a conversation with Dr. McCallum and asked if Partners in Ministry would consider moving to I. Ellis Johnson School, and the response was that the group would not consider moving to the school.

Councilmember Garby stated that he knew of two (2) non-profits that are interested in the I. Ellis Johnson School.

Following further discussion, it was consensus of Council to table this item until the July 20, 2021 meeting.

DISCUSSION ON COUNCILMEMBER EVANS' BUDGET REQUEST FOR $50,000 FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The City Manager explained that Councilmember Evans had requested this item be on the agenda to discuss the budget request for $50,000 for youth development initiatives.

Councilmember Rainer explained that he believed Council should approve this request because with I. Ellis Johnson School discussions being held, once the County gets it established, Council would have some room to do something with youth development.

Upon question by Councilmember Garby, the City Manager explained that staff's recommendation was if Council wanted to fund this item, staff would come back with a budget amendment in July. The $50,000 would increase the Fund Balance Appropriated by $50,000.

Councilmember Adams asked what was the plan for the funding, how the money would be used. She expressed concern that the City is not equipped to run program for youth. Although she supports all efforts to help children, she does not believe it was the City's role.

Councilmember Evans explained that Council is responsible for every citizen in the City of Laurinburg. She envisions a program to show that the City cares about children. She suggested creation of an academy to teach children about leadership, citizenship and how the government works. She explained that the City needs to start training its future.

Councilmember Adams expressed concern about what member of staff would manage the program. She added that she did not believe it was fiscally responsible to fund $50,000 for a program that was not yet defined.

Councilmember Evans suggested that board of the youth would work on developing and formulating the program.

Councilmember Williamson explained that if the County takes ownership of I. Ellis Johnson School that may present Council on ways to allocate $50,000 to help the program get off the ground. He suggested waiting on the IEJ Committee before making a decision on this matter.

Councilmember Adams explained that when the idea was discussed on March 30, 2021, it was discussed that currently the City does not have a Citizens' Academy, but talked about a Junior Citizens Academy using the Laurinburg/Scotland County Area Chamber of Commerce's program of Jr. Leadership Scotland as a model. She added that this could be done with very little money and Human Resources would manage this program. She suggested providing information at Scotland High School and let students apply for the program. The program could be held for half a day once a month and allow different department heads discuss their departments' responsibilities.

Councilmember Garby explained that if the program is funded now or later, a budget amendment would be necessary.

Upon question by Councilmember Garby, the City Manager explained that the $50,000 would increase appropriated fund balance. He added that this would put the City at a zero cash position, so some increases would be necessary. He added that he would need the Finance Director to review this request carefully.

Further discussion ensued the $50,000 request.

Councilmember Rainer stated that the City needed to do something for the kids. He added that the City just spent $40,000 for a dog park.

Upon questions by Councilmember Garby, the City Manager explained that staff has been attending webinars concerning the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). He added that if it could be shown that youth missed something during the pandemic, perhaps ARPA funds could be used. However, the information presented about the ARPA funding guidelines are so broad at this time and primarily about infrastructure, and whatever the final guidelines are, staff will abide by them. He added that staff was hearing that the City would get $2.2 million this year, and $2.2 million next year.

Mayor Willis stated that in the discussion tonight, he believed it was consensus of Council to support the youth in the City. The challenge is to determine what specifically the City does. He agreed with Councilmember Williamson that it would be best to determine how the I. Ellis Johnson situation plays out. He added that to throw money out without having a specific plan or a proven organization to provide a program was not a good idea. He added that someone would have to manage the program and he assumed Council would want some type of oversight. He added that he believed Council was moving in the right direction to support youth.

Further discussion ensued concerning the I. Ellis Johnson committee Councilmember Williamson explained that without a plan, he found it difficult to set aside $50,000. He added that possibly the IEJ project is where the City could assist with funding, possibly even more than $50,000.

Mayor Willis suggested that the City might be able to contribute in-kind services to the IEJ project. He explained that he believed that Council wanted to do something for the City's youth, but it needed to be more defined.

No decision was made on this item.

UPDATE ON STORMWATER PLAN AND DITCH MAINTENANCE

Mr. Stacey McQuage, Public Utilities Director, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the City's Current stormwater and ditch maintenance policies. Highlights are as follows:

- It is the policy of the City of Laurinburg that storm water drainage facilities should be properly maintained to provide adequate drainage for City maintained streets and other City properties.
- It is acknowledged that portions of the City are in low-lying areas or may not otherwise have access to adequate drainageways and may be subject to periodic flooding.
- The City of Laurinburg shall generally maintain storm water drainage facilities which are:
- Located in the City maintained street rights-of-way
- Driveway culverts in City maintained rights-of-way
- Located in permanent storm water drainage easements conveyed to and accepted for maintenance by the City.
- Located on City property.
- All other storm water drainage facilities shall be the responsibility of the property owner(s).
- If a homeowner requests the City to tile a ditch, the owner can pay for the tile and the City will perform the work in the right-of-way.
- The City of Laurinburg shall generally maintain storm water drainage facilities which are:
    - Located in the City maintained street rights-of-way
    - Driveway culverts in City maintained rights-of-way
    - Located in permanent storm water drainage easements conveyed to and accepted for maintenance by the City.
    - Located on City property.
    - All other storm water drainage facilities shall be the responsibility of the property owner(s).
- When the City receives a request for assistance from a private property owner, the City will general take the following actions:
    - Investigate the problem to determine if it is eligible for City assistance.
    - Advise the owner if the project is eligible.

  - o Evaluate to determine the projects ranking for work.
  - o Investigate and determine the improvements necessary.
  - o Add the project to the Storm Water CIP as appropriate.
- The City will undertake the improvements as funding is available in accordance with the policy.
- Projects that do not affect City-maintained streets generally do not qualify for City funding.
- Current efforts include:
  - o The City hires six (6) employees from late October through April to clean ditches.
  - o Currently the City has received funding to improve drainage on Cypress Drive and Wesleyan Drive
  - o The US Army Corps of Engineers is going to restore Leith Creek at no cost to the City.
- Current flooding issues are as follows:
  - o College Drive. Crews routinely inspect and keep the drainage clean.
  - o Debra Drive. The area is below the City's drainage system.
- Citizens can help the City by not putting leaves and trash in the streets. When it rains, the leaves and trash clog up the drainage system.

Upon question by Councilmember Garby, Mr. McQuage explained that if a property owner agrees to pay for materials to tile a ditch, the City installs the tile. This type of project can be financed as a simple interest loan whereby the property owner makes monthly payments. Garby-hear about the property owner pays for material and city does work.

Discussion ensued concerning property owners not knowing that tiling can be financed.

Councilmember Rainer explained that in District 1, a lot of citizens cannot afford to pay for tiling. He added that he knows that the City does not clean ditches on private property, but on the north side of town, there are no drains, only ditches. If the ditches are not cleaned out, it floods on the north side.

The City Manager explained that the City is excited about the UNC School of Government will be assisting the City with a two-year plan that will take on overall look on the City's stormwater system. The City applied for a grant of $50,000 for the study with the first year of the grant being $15,000, and the second year being $35,000. The study will let the City know the best avenue to tackle the stormwater issues.

Upon question by Councilmember Evans, Mr. McQuage explained that if the City does not have an easement or if the problem is in the right-of-way, the City cannot go on private property.

Mr. McQuage explained that it was hoped that the Wesleyan Drive project will help with the flooding on Debra Drive.

The City Manager explained that Willis Engineering has helped the City with the projects approved by the US Department of Agriculture. The bids were much more than the estimated project costs.

Mr. McQuage explained that staff was hoping to provide some in-kind services for the Wesleyan Drive project, and perhaps have a tree company come in to remove some of the trees blocking the drainage.

Discussion ensued concerning the trash and leaves that block the drainage systems on and around Caledonia Road.

UPDATE ON BICYCLE PLANNING GRANT

Mr. Michael Mandeville explained that the first committee meeting for the Bicycle Planning Grant was held on May 26, 2021, and that two (2) focus group meetings would be held this week. A website has been developed for the Bicycle Planning Grant. He requested that citizens participate in an online survey so that the consultant can get as much data to determine what citizens want. He added that the next committee meeting which is a Zoom meeting, will be on June 30, 2021.

Upon question by Councilmember Garby, Mr. Mandeville stated that the information has been posted on the City's social media accounts.

CONSIDER AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AMENDMENT TO DESIGN-BUILD CONTRACT WITH CHARLES R. UNDERWOOD, INC.

The City Manager explained that the City currently has a contract with Charles R. Underwood, Inc., and staff would like for Council allow the amendment to the contract for the design build of Phase 2 of the Distribution System Project can move forward. No additional funds are needed because it is already included in the Capital Project.

Councilmember Rainer moved to authorize the City Manager to execute amendment to the Design-Build Contract with Charles R. Underwood, Inc. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Garby, and the vote was as follows:

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

UPDATE ON THE ANNUAL 4TH OF JULY FIREWORKS

The City Manager explained that the Annual 4th of July Fireworks Display would be held on Sunday, July 4, 2021 near the visitors' parking lot. The Display will begin around dusk. Pate Stadium will not be open for citizens.

DISCUSSION AND GUIDANCE ON CITY HALL AND POLICE DEPARTMENT BUILDING AND MEETINGS IN THE FUTURE

The City Manager explained that he needed Council's input on the City Hall and Police

Department Building and meetings in the future. He added that staff was ready to open the building on June 1, 2021, and continue livestreaming Council meetings.

Following discussion, it was consensus of Council to open up the building and the meetings to the public

Discussion ensued concerning whether to open the building on June 1, 2021 to the public following recommended social distancing and request that everyone wear masks in the building.

COMMENTS FROM MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBERS

Mayor Willis thanked Mayor Pro Tem Evans for representing the City at an event that he could not attend.

Councilmember Williamson lauded Harold Haywood and Dave Wells on the recycling video recently completed.

Councilmember Adams explained that normally in June the Executive Director of the Southeastern Regional Airport Authority normally presents the upcoming budget to Council. She added that due to illness, that budget would be presented in July.

CLOSED SESSION

At 9:22 p.m. Councilmember Garby moved to go into closed session pursuant to NC General Statute 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with the attorney and 143-318.11(a)(6) for personnel. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Rainer, and the vote was as follows:

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

At 10:12 p.m. Councilmember Evans moved to adjourn the closed session and return to the open meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Williamson, and the vote was as follows:

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

SETTING CITY MANAGER'S SALARY

Councilmember Rainer moved to increase the City Manager's salary to $134,486.00 effective July 1, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Williamson, and the vote was as follows:

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

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Williamson moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Adams, and the vote was as follows:

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:14 p.m.

James T. Willis, Mayor	Jennifer A. Tippett, City Clerk