

**CITY OF LAURINBURG
AGENDA WORKSHOP
JUNE 14, 2011
W. CHARLES BARRETT ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
305 WEST CHURCH ST.
LAURINBURG, NC
7:00 P.M.**

Minutes

The City Council of the City of Laurinburg held an agenda meeting June 14, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room of the W. Charles Barrett Administration Building with the Honorable Matthew Block, Mayor, presiding. The following Councilmembers were present: Curtis B. Leak, Herbert M. Rainer, Jr., Thomas W. Parker III, Kenton Spencer, and Joy Ellison.

Also present were Edward F. Burchins, City Manager; Dolores A. Hammond, City Clerk; and Charles L. Hicks, Jr., Assistant City Attorney.

Mayor Block called the meeting to order. Councilmember Rainer gave the invocation.

Mayor Block and City Manager, Ed Burchins, reviewed the proposed upcoming agenda for the June 21, 2011 regular meeting.

- 1) Approval of Agenda
- 2) Consent Agenda
 - a. Minutes from the regular meeting of March 22, 2011; agenda workshop minutes April 12, 2011, regular meeting of April 19, 2011; recessed meeting of April 28, 2011; and special meeting May 9, 2011
- 3) Swearing in of Mr. Chip Shytle to the Laurinburg Housing Authority
- 4) Public Hearing on 2011-2012 Proposed Budget
Councilmember Leak suggested that a copy of the 2011-2012 Proposed Budget be put in the Scotland County Library
- 5) Foot Bridge over 74 By-pass and West Boulevard
The City Manager explained that a NC State Board of Transportation member has advised that \$250,000.00 in funds may be available to construct a pedestrian foot bridge over Hwy. 74 overpass on West Boulevard. The cost to construct the foot bridge is approximately \$500,000.00. The City and Scotland County would need to contribute \$125,000.00 each to match the \$250,000.00 contribution by North Carolina Department of Transportation (DOT). A resolution needs to be adopted to send to DOT.
A discussion ensued and the City Manager was directed to find out how many apartments are in the area. He was also directed to ask Scotland County if they are willing to participate in the foot bridge project. He was further directed by Council to inquire of the Scotland County School System and the Laurinburg Housing Authority how many children live in the area. This information should be provided at the June 21, 2011 Council meeting.
- 6) Utility re-payment agreement
The City Manager explained that this agreement is between the City of Laurinburg and DOT to for the relocation of utility poles on Turnpike Road near the Morgan Recreation Complex in order for DOT to be able to construct a turning lane into the complex. DOT will reimbursement the City of Laurinburg up to \$35,000.00.

7) Budget Amendments

Mrs. Carpenter stated that the anticipated budget amendments that will be needed are as follows: \$1,000.00 to move to Animal Control - new person in position and has had overtime in dealing with animals after normal working hours; \$195,000.00 (990-50900) - transfer from contingency to the fueling facility (564-7074) for the replacement of tanks that needed to be moved (grants will cover the cost, but the monies have not been received as of yet); \$180,000.00 - transfer from Contingency (991-509900) to Utilities (811-5013) (this is for electric purchases); and \$1,000.00 - transfer from Consumer Billing (724-500200) to Building Maintenance (592-500200) to cover the maintenance person who has had to work overtime on floors in each department; \$1,000.00 from Consumer Billing (725-500200) to Building Maintenance (PW) (593-500200) - maintenance person who has had to work overtime on floors; and \$40,000 from Sewer Collection (820-50020) to Water Distribution (814-500200) Water/Sewer fund - allocate the appropriate funds where employees actually worked on the water distribution lines instead of sewer collection (of that \$40,000.00 work, part of it was for Scotland County's water system, and the City will be reimbursed \$17,000.00).

There was consensus among Councilmembers that a list of the budget amendments that have been adopted this current budget year be presented to Council at the next meeting to be held June 21, 2011.

8) Research on Unlicensed Motor Vehicles/Excess Vehicles

The City Manager stated that this item has been discussed previously and that staff would like to get direction from Council on how to proceed.

A discussion ensued concerning the possibility of limiting the number of vehicles per residence to the number of persons living in the residence plus one or requiring all vehicles to be properly registered and have insurance. The consensus of Council is to tighten up the current ordinance and to have staff draft an ordinance based on the latter consideration.

The Assistant City Attorney was asked about the legality of such an ordinance, and he responded that any ordinance should be the least restrictive means to address the current concerns. This will avoid more complaints and be less likely to violate the Constitution.

Further information should be provided within 30 days or a proposed ordinance should be presented by no later than the August meeting.

9) Discussion on continuation of agenda workshops

The City Manager explained that the following list would be the scheduled agenda workshops if Council so chooses to continue them.

July 12, 2011

August 9, 2011

September 13, 2011

October 11, 2011

November 15, 2011

December 13, 2011

The Mayor stated that he finds the meetings useful but has no problem suspending the meetings until September. This item will be discussed further at the June 21, 2011 meeting.

10) Appointment to Laurinburg Planning Board (James Thomas)

Mr. Thomas is willing to be reappointed

11) Appointment to the Laurinburg Housing Authority (Maria Dudley)

This is a mayoral appointment and Ms. Dudley is willing to serve.

Councilmember Ellison stated that she recently attended the Young Elected Officials Network Conference. She informed Council that the conference consisted of four days of sessions. She then informed Council that during that conference, the group was invited to the White House at a later time. She stated that she had received an official notice this week that the invitation for the group has been cleared. She plans to attend. Councilmember Ellison then stated that she would like to present Laurinburg in the best way possible at the White House meeting. She indicated that she understood that

there would be some time for open dialogue with the President at the meeting. She asked Council to let her know if there are items that they would like her to bring up at the meeting.

Councilmember Ellison then gave an overview of her conference participation.

Councilmember Leak stated that he would like to revive a Crime and Drug Committee. He presented an overview of his proposal for the Committee. Councilmember Leak also stated that he would like Council to consider supporting this Committee.

Upon further discussion, there will be further discussion at Council's June 21, 2011 meeting.

Mayor Block stated that the last item to discuss is the recent employee survey. He then stated that there needs to be better communication between staff and Councilmembers before information is provided to the media. This will allow Council to be better prepared for questions. There was consensus among Councilmembers that it is appropriate that staff inform Council when information of a nature such as the employee survey is to be shared with the media.

A discussion ensued on public records and the amount of time within which they should be provided to the public upon request.

The Assistant City Attorney reported that the Laurinburg/Maxton Airport has received a grant from the Golden Leaf Foundation of \$200,000.00 for the airport runway renovation. He stated that the amount of money the City has allocated for to be used for this project will be appropriately reduced.

Councilmember Ellison informed Council that she will not be attending the budget workshop, Thursday, June 16, 2011 because of her travel to Washington, D.C. for the White House meeting. She stated that she would email Councilmembers her thoughts and concerns about the budget so that they can be shared at the meeting.

PROPOSED 2011-2012 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET

Councilmember Parker charged the City Manager with presenting a budget that has no growth and is essentially revenue neutral.

A discussion ensued regarding the tax rate and the proposed 2011-2012 budget.

RECESS

Motion was made by Councilmember Parker, seconded by Councilmember Spencer, and unanimously carried to recess the meeting until Thursday, June 16, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. in the upstairs Council room of the Municipal Building to discuss the proposed 2011-2012 Fiscal Year Budget.

The meeting recessed at 8:45 p.m.