CITY OF LAURINBURG
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 23, 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, January 19, 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 Williamson gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The City Manager requested that an item be added to the agenda, "Designate the Voting Delegate to the North Carolina League of Municipalities Annual CityVision Conference".

Councilmember Adams requested that a closed session for personnel be added to the agenda.

Councilmember Evans requested that Item a, Consider minutes of the January 19, 2021 regular meeting be removed from the Consent Agenda.

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The City Clerk read the following two emails:

> *"From: Kendrick Boyd of 1304 Morrimac Ln*
>
> *There is a tree leaning off of W. Church St & S. King St. The tree has been leaning for over 10 years and has leaned further since 2019. One more day of high winds, or a*

hurricane can knock this tree down in the middle of a busy street. I highly recommend this tree be cut down before someone is hurt."

The City Clerk explained that Mr. Boyd had been informed that the tree in question is on the property of the Laurinburg Presbyterian Church.

"From Kendrick Boyd of 1304 Morrimac Ln,
To be read by City Council:

In the Feb 2021 City Council meeting, the council addressed the growing crime rate in Laurinburg. Part of the reason why crime is increasing is that people have nothing else to do. Many citizens of Laurinburg are depressed. There are not many activities in the city to boost morale. When morale is low, the crime rate increases. Why should residents have to drive to Fayetteville, NC when they want to have fun? Unfortunately, not everyone can drive to Fayetteville. Crime and illegal activities have become entertainment for many people, and that puts everyone at risk. We can't depend on our police department to keep a lid on the crime in the area, as the city should meet them halfway.

Nevertheless, recidivism is high, and Scotland County has amazing defense attorneys, so how can we REDUCE the crime in the area? I have two solutions: If someone has a criminal record, there's a slim chance they're going to look for a job because no one will hire them. From what I hear, Laurinburg has a sanitation problem. Provide job opportunities for those with felonies to clean their cities, or put out your city's fires and pay them well. There are plenty of things they can do if you provide those opportunities. We can point fingers and say it's their fault, and how they shouldn't have made stupid mistakes, but I and many others would feel MUCH better knowing that someone who was given a second chance will at least as likely as not, commit a violent crime that could hurt someone I care about, or we can just roll the dice and hope that it's never one of our pictures in the news.

My last solution is called SkyZone, which is a trampoline park franchise. It's not illegal for the city to buy franchises. This place would highly increase the city's morale and generate more revenue. You're looking at Laurinburg becoming a desired place to visit because of SkyZone. The recreational center proposed a few years ago was a liability, but consider a SkyZone franchise an asset that will generate income for YEARS. Here is a brochure of opening a SkyZone franchise: SkyZone Franchise Flipbook For more information: Visit Sky Zone Trampoline Park+ | Franchise Opportunities."

CONSIDER MINUTES OF JANUARY 19, 2021 REGULAR MEETING

Councilmember Evans stated that the wording on the bottom of page 4 and top of page 5 of the January 19, 2021 minutes was a repeat. She suggested that one of the paragraphs needed to be removed.

After the City Manager read the paragraph on the bottom of page 4, Councilmember Evans stated that she had mentioned the wrong pages. Her concern was the wording on the bottom of page 5 and the top of page 6. She explained that the same statement was in two (2) paragraphs.

The City Manager explained that if the statement was said twice, then it would appear in the minutes twice.

The City Clerk explained that the paragraph on page 6 includes additional wording from the paragraph on page 5.

Councilmember Adams moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Rainer, and the vote was as follows:

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Willis reviewed the Consent Agenda:

b) Consider Resolution No. R-2021-02 Declaring Real Property Surplus and Authorizing Sale by the County Manager
c) Consider setting public hearing to be held on April 20, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. to consider request to rezone from General Business to Residential-6 property located on Plaza Road and identified as PIN #010016 0100404
d) Consider setting public hearing to be held on April 20, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. to consider request to rezone from Industrial to General Business property located at 404 Fairley Street
e) Consider Ordinance No. O-2021-08 amending the Electric Substation Capital Project Ordinance (O-2018-09) to receive and allocate $548,900 of insurance funds for the electric transformer
f) Consider Ordinance No. O-2021-09 amending the FY 20-21 Budget Appropriations Ordinance (O-2020-04) to receive and allocate $5,000 ElectriCities Grant
g) Consider Ordinance No. O-2021-10 amending FY 20-21 Budget Appropriations Ordinance (Ordinance No. O-2020-04) budget to transfer FEMA funds of $101,923.47 from General Fund-Accounts Receivable to the North Fire Station Capital Project

Councilmember Garby moved to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Adams, and the vote was as follows:

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS

CONSIDER AMENDING THE PROJECT AREA AND BOUNDARY FOR THE CDBG-I GRANT FOR THE PRODUCE MARKET ROAD SEWER

IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

The City Manager explained that due to the sewer rehabilitation project on Produce Market Road came under budget, the project could be expanded following a public hearing.

Mr. David Honeycutt of McGill Associates explained that this public hearing on March 23, 2021 will provide an explanation and description of the proposed Project Boundary Amendment to the Laurinburg CDBG-I grant #17-I-2966 funded through the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Community Development Block – Infrastructure Grant (CDBG-I) program.

We are present to discuss the purpose of the public hearing for the City's CDBG-I grant #17-I-2966. The purpose of the public hearing is to obtain citizen's views and to respond to funding proposals and answer any questions posed by citizens. This public hearing must cover the City's community development needs, development of the proposed activities, and a review of program compliance before the submission of the City's CDBG-I Project Amendment to the State of the North Carolina.

This public hearing will cover the City's community development needs, and development of the proposed amendment to the Laurinburg Produce Market Road Area Wastewater Collection System Improvement Project Boundaries as follows:

Current Project Description and Boundaries - The replacement and trenchless rehabilitation of approximately 10,000 linear feet of existing 8-inch diameter vitrified clay sewer pipes, approximately 40 brick manholes, and related appurtenances along Warren Ave., Lee's Mill Rd., Wagram St., Produce Market Rd., R. Graham St., W. Allen St., Isabelle St., Geneva St., McGirts Bridge Rd., Lila St., Port St., Shaw St., and Purcell St.

Proposed Amendment - Due to the project coming in under budget, the City is proposing to extend the Project Boundaries to include the following: Extend sewerline improvements along Purcell St., Shaw St., McGirts Bridge Rd., Port St., Memory Ln., and Lila St. The additional work is anticipated to include approximately 5,500 LF of additional CIPP sewer rehabilitation.

The Project Description will remain the same as the original description with only an extension of the Project Boundaries to include additional portions of Purcell St., Shaw St., McGirts Bridge Rd., Port St., Memory Ln., and Lila St.

The following is a list of the project activities and an estimated budget. Sewer Infrastructure Extension and Grant Administration Budget currently totaling $2,000,000.

The purpose of the CDBG-I grant program is to improve the quality of life for low-to moderate-income people by providing a safe, clean environment and clean drinking water through water and sewer infrastructure improvements and extensions of service.

- To benefit a residential area where at least 51% of the beneficiaries are low to moderate income as defined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- To perform eligible activities.

- To minimize displacement, and
- Provide displacement assistance as necessary.

The infrastructure program, or CDBG-I program can fund a range of water and sewer infrastructure activities, including, but not limited to the, following:

<u>Water:</u>
- Projects that resolve water loss in distribution systems.
- Projects that extend public water to areas with contaminated wells.
- Projects that extend water lines to areas with dry wells.
- Projects that assist with low water pressure in public water systems.
- Projects that regionalize two or more water systems.
- Project that rehabilitate or replace a water treatment plant.

<u>Wastewater:</u>
- Projects that resolve inflow and infiltration to collection systems and surcharges from pumps stations and manholes.
- Projects that extent public sewer to areas with failed septic tanks.
- Projects that rehabilitate a wastewater treatment plant to allow for greater efficiency/compliance.

The range of activities covered by the Laurinburg CDBG-I funds for the Laurinburg Sewer System Improvements Phase 2 project includes:

- Construction.
- Environmental Review.
- Engineering Design.
- Construction Administration and observation.
- Legal activities.
- Grant Administration.

Mayor Willis opened the public hearing.

There being no questions and no one present to speak in favor of or against the proposed amendment to the project area and boundary for the CDBG-I Grant, Mayor Willis closed the public hearing.

Councilmember Evans moved to approve amending the Project Area and Boundary for the CDBG-I Grant for the Produce Market Road Sewer Improvement Project. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Garby, and the vote was as follows:

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

CONSIDER LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES FOR FORMER

FIRESTONE BUILDING

The City Manager explained that this public hearing was to consider a local economic development incentive agreement for the former Firestone Building. The City Attorney prepared the local economic development incentive agreement, and Raven and Kelsey Lucas have agreed to the terms of the incentive agreement. The City acquired the former Firestone Building after Hurricane Florence. When the former Market Furniture Building fell during Hurricane Florence, it destroyed half of the former Firestone Building. City crews gutted the building, shored up the walls and put on a new roof. The Incentives Agreement is a four (4) year agreement $12,000.00 per year payment, for a total purchase price of $48,000.00. The Mason Company appraised the property, and the appraised value was lower than the purchase price.

Mayor Willis opened the public hearing.

Upon question by Councilmember Garby, the City Manager explained that Mr. and Mrs. Lucas have not stated what the business will be.

The City Attorney explained that one of the requirements of the Incentives Agreement is that Mr. and Mrs. Lucas must invest at least $80,000.00 in improvements during the period of the agreement.

The City Manager added that the mural that Council had approved would be put on the side of the building.

Upon question by Councilmember Evans, the City Attorney explained that under the North Carolina General Statutes, the sale of this property does not have to be advertised for upset bids because it is a local economic development incentive. There must be a finding when Council approves the incentive agreement that the City will receive fair market value for the property.

Upon question by Dr. Fred Mabry, the City Manager explained that the incentives agreement is a four (4) year lease to purchase. The City will receive $12,000.00 per year from Mr. and Mrs. Lucas.

The City Attorney added that the incentives agreement also required certain physical improvements.

Mayor Willis closed the public hearing.

Following a brief discussion, Councilmember Williamson moved to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute Local Economic Development Incentives Agreement with Mr. and Mrs. Raven Lucas for the former Firestone building. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Garby, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Williamson, Garby, Rainer, Evans, Adams

Nays: None

CONSIDER INCENTIVES AGREEMENT WITH AMERICAN WOOD FIBERS, INC.

The City Manager explained that this public hearing was to consider an incentives agreement with American Wood Fibers, Inc.

Mayor Willis opened the public hearing.

Mr. Mark Ward, Scotland County Economic Development Director, explained that American Wood Fibers, Inc. purchased the former Nature's Earth/former Eaton Golf Pride facility. American Wood Fibers made its first investment in North Carolina in November, 2020 when it purchased this property. One of the reasons they chose this location was that it was an existing pellet mill that used wood fibers, but the other part was their strong relationship with Edwards Wood Products. The company is required to make an $18 million capital investment over five (5) years, and hire 51 full-time employees and retain them the life of the incentives agreement. The company's average wages will exceed the County average of $35,000.00 per year. They made the deal, purchased the building, and part of the state incentive that they received, and then the City and County incentives, the company is required to make an $18 million capital investment over 5 years, and they are also to hire at least 51 full-time employees and retain them. The company is receiving state, county and city economic development incentives. The average wages will exceed the County average of $35,000 per year. The City will reimburse American Wood Fibers, Inc. 80% of the property taxes paid in the first year, 75% of property taxes paid in the second year, 70% of property taxes paid in the third year, 65% of property taxes paid in the fourth year, and 60% of property taxes paid in the fifth year.

Upon question by Councilmember Garby, Mr. Ward explained that American Fibers, Inc. is required to invest $5.5 million for capital in the first year, $6.5 million in the second year, and another $6.5 million in the third year. The Company has five (5) years from the date the agreement is signed to complete everything.

The City Manager explained that the company must pay its property taxes first, and then it submits a request to the City for the reimbursement.

Upon question by Mayor Willis, Mr. Ward explained that the company is already buying water and sewer from the City, but its electric provider is Duke Energy Progress.

Upon question by Councilmember Rainer, the City Manager explained that the benefit to the City would be increase to the property tax valuation and payment of taxes.

Upon question by Councilmember Garby, Mr. Ward explained that the previous company provided 19 jobs. He added that American Wood Fibers must submit a form each year to document the number of employees per the incentive agreement.

Discussion ensued concerning the Scotland County incentives agreement. Mr. Ward stated that the terms have not been made public yet. The public hearing will be held at the Scotland County Commissioners meeting the first Monday in April.

Upon question by Dr. Fred Mabry, Mr. Ward explained that American Wood Fibers, Inc. would eventually pay taxes on its $18 million investment, and the City would reimburse a portion of the property taxes paid once the company reaches its milestones required in the agreement.

Mr. Ward explained that the company also qualifies for $100,000.00 One North Carolina Grant that provides grant funding for companies that bring jobs to a Tier 1 county. They also qualified for $51,000.00 worth of Community College Training that Richmond Community College will provide, and Lumber River Work Force Development will provide incumbent workforce training for any current employees wanted to have a different position that they are now offering at a higher wage, Lumber River will step in and help with the job training to help those individuals provide a better living for their families.

Mayor Willis closed the public hearing.

Following further discussion, motion was made by Councilmember Evans to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute Incentives Agreement with American Wood Fibers, Inc. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Garby, and the vote was as follows:

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

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

CONSIDER REQUESTS FROM LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS TO SUPPORT CHANGE TO ABC LAW

Mr. Chris English, Executive Director of the Laurinburg/Scotland County Area Chamber of Commerce, explained that Council had been provided letters of support to change the current ABC law in Laurinburg. The letters were from the Laurinburg/Scotland County Area Chamber of Commerce, the Scotland County Economic Development Corporation, the Scotland County Tourism and Development Authority, and the Downtown Advisory Committee. He explained that currently, a business that wants to sell malt beverages on premises must purchase a mixed beverage (or hard liquor license) and must receive at least 30% of its sales from food consumption. He discussed the restrictions this legislation places on businesses and on the community. This restriction impacts the City's ability to attract businesses that are often driving retail and main street growth in other municipalities. Residents and visitors would like somewhere in the area to go socialize and have a beer or a glass of wine. Breweries, tap rooms and pubs are about more than beer; they are community hubs and gathering places. Currently, many young people travel to Southern Pines to go to the growler store and the breweries in Moore County.

Mayor Willis stated that there was also a letter from the Chair of the County Commissioners, and he read the letter as follows:

> *"Dear Mayor Willis and Laurinburg City Council,*
>
> *On behalf of the Scotland County Commissioners I would like to offer our support for the change in the law sought by the Laurinburg/Scotland County Area Chamber of Commerce to allow business to obtain only a beer and wine license without obtaining a liquor license. This change would benefit businesses in the city and would provide much needed revenue as businesses navigate the uncertain waters of the current economic situation. The commissioners urge you to consider this much needed change. Thank you for your time.*
>
> *Sincerely,*
>
> *Carol McCall*
> *Chair, Scotland County Commissioners"*

Mayor Willis explained that he understood that Laurinburg has that provision in the ABC laws because the County was dry until sometime in the 1970's, and there was concern that if not properly controlled, there would be pool halls and beer joints everywhere.

Upon questions from Councilmember Rainer, Mr. English explained that the primary goals of the request is for the bowling alley to be able to serve beer in order to host tournaments, and for there to be event venues able to sell beer and wine. He added that there would be a sports bar downtown, the Railroad Street Bar and Grill.

Further discussion ensued concerning activities and types of businesses that would benefit from having the ABC laws changed.

At the request of Mayor Willis, Mr. Cory Hughes, Director of the Scotland County Tourism Development Board, spoke and reiterated what Mr. English had said concerning the change needed in the ABC law and the reasons for the change.

Following further discussion, Councilmember Williamson moved to authorize the Mayor to prepare a letter of support for the Chamber of Commerce's and other organizations' request to change the ABC law. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Garby, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Williamson, Garby, Rainer, Adams
Nays: Evans

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM TIS THE SEASON/AMERICAN LEGION TO PLACE VETERAN BANNERS

Mrs. Terry Parker explained that Mr. Paul Tate from the American Legion could not be present tonight, so he requested that she speak for the American Legion. The Hometown Heroes/Veterans Banners are displayed in many communities. Anyone wishing to purchase a banner would go online and order from the company, Hometown Heroes at a cost of $125.00. The banners should last three (3) to five (5) years. There are 33 poles downtown, and if the banners are hung double-sided, 66 heroes could be recognized to start. Phase I would be military veterans. She added that it was hoped that the banners could be hung by Memorial Day through Veterans Day at the latest. The City would take these banners down and probably put up the Christmas wreaths on the poles. The American Legion would store the banners. The banners slide onto the poles where the City currently has the tartan banners.

Upon question by Councilmember Williamson, the City Manager explained that the hanging baskets have been purchased. He added that there were no plans to take down the tartan banners when the hanging baskets were hung. He added that staff preferred to be the ones to hang items to the City's poles, and for the banners to only be on the decorative poles downtown.

Upon question by Councilmember Evans, Mrs. Parker explained that every community that she has spoken with about the Hometown Heroes program has indicated that there was more desire than there is space for the banners. Many communities have expanded the banners to include police, fire and EMS workers depending upon the support in the community.

Upon question by Councilmember Adams, Mrs. Parker explained that the Main Street Downtown Advisory Committee was aware of the Hometown Heroes banners.

Discussion ensued concerning the need for staff to research and develop rules, guidelines, and procedures for the program to include the length of time banners could be up and whether it would be open to organizations other than the American Legion.

Following further discussion, it was consensus of Council for staff to research and develop rules, guidelines and procedures for the Hometown Heroes banners and present to Council at the April 2021 Council meeting.

CONSIDER SETTING PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD ON APRIL 20, 2021 TO CONSIDER REQUEST FOR CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR YARD WASTE INCINERATOR TO BE LOCATED AND OPERATED ON CITY PROPERTY LOCATED BETWEEN READ STREET AND STEWARTSVILLE ROAD

The City Manager explained that staff was requesting that Council set the public hearing to consider the Conditional Use Permit for a yard waste incinerator to be located and operated on the City's property between Read Street and Stewartsville Road.

The City Attorney cautioned about discussing this matter since the hearing would a quasi-judicial hearing.

Councilmember Adams moved to set the public hearing to be held on April 20, 2021 to consider a request for a Conditional Use Permit for a yard waste incinerator to be located and operated on the City's property between Read Street and Stewartsville Road. Councilmember Williamson seconded the motion and the vote was as follows:

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

CONSIDER RESOLUTION ADOPTING TEN-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER

The City Manager explained that although the City has an overall Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan, in order to increase the odds of being awarded grant funding for water and wastewater projects, the City's Engineering Consultant, Willis Engineers, Inc. recommended that the City adopt a Ten-Year Capital Improvement Plan for Water and Wastewater. The amount of capital improvements needed over the next 10 years is approximately $37.5 million.

Councilmember Adams moved to approve Resolution No. R-2021-03 adopting Ten-Year Capital Improvement Plan for Water and Wastewater. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Garby, and the vote was as follow:

Ayes: Adams, Garby, Evans, Rainer, Williamson
Nays: None
(copy of Resolution No. R-2021-03 on file in city clerk's office)

CONSIDER RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL CLEAN WATER GRANT TO CONSTRUCT A WATER DISTIRBUTION SYSTEM PROJECT

The City Manager explained that Willis Engineering, Inc. had recommended that the City apply for a $4.55 million Federal Clean Water Grant to complete Phase 2 of the Water Distribution System Improvements. Because the City's water and sewer rates are so low, the City does not qualify for a grant, but the City is eligible for extremely low-interest loans for this project.

Councilmember Evans moved to approve Resolution No. R-2021-04 authorizing application for Federal Clean Water Grant to construct a water distribution system project described as Water Distribution System Improvements Phase 2. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Garby, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Evans, Garby, Williamson, Rainer, Adams
Nays: None
(copy of Resolution No. R-2021-04 on file in city clerk's office)

CONSIDER RESOLULTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL CLEAN WATER ACT GRANT TO CONSTRUCT A WASTEWATER COLLECTION SYSTEM PROJECT

The City Manager explained that Willis Engineering, Inc. had recommended that the City apply for an $8.9 million Federal Clean Water Grant to complete to construct a wastewater collection system project.

Councilmember Williamson moved to approve Resolution No. R-2021-05 authorizing application for Federal Clean Water Act Grant to construct a wastewater collection system project described as the Bridge Creek and College Park Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Garby, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Williamson, Garby, Adams, Evans, Rainer
Nays: None
(copy of Resolution No. R-2021-05 on file in city clerk's office)

UPDATE ON 2020 CENSUS DATA AND 2021 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

The City Manager explained that the General Statutes requires that after each Decennial Census, municipalities with true voting districts must review the Census data to determine if voting districts must be amended. The Census 2020 data is expected to be released at the end of September 2021, which would not give enough time for a review of the data prior to the elections. Currently, the Chairman of the State Elections Board has recommended that elections be postponed until 2022.

CONSIDER RESCHEDULING THE JUNE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING FROM JUNE 22, 2021 TO JUNE 15, 2021

The City Manager explained that he would be attending a conference in June as a member of the Board of Directors of ElectriCities during the week of the June regular meeting. He requested that the June regular meeting be moved from June 22, 2021 to June 15, 2021.

Councilmember Rainer moved to reschedule the June Council meeting from June 22, 2021 to June 15, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Williamson, and the vote was as follows:

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

DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION ON JULY 4TH ANNUAL FIREWORKS DISPLAY

The City Manager explained that staff would like to temporarily schedule the Annual July 4th Fireworks Display to be held on Sunday, July 4, 2021 at Pate Stadium at Scotland High School. He added that staff was unsure how the event would look because of any COVID-19 restrictions in effect at that time.

Councilmember Garby moved to tentatively schedule the July 4th Annual Fireworks Display. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Adams, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Garby, Adams, Evans, Rainer, Williamson
Nays: Williamson

UPDATE ON EMERGENCY PERSONAL SICK LEAVE AND AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA)

The City Manager explained that American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) went into effect on March 11, 2021, but it did not include the provision for emergency personal sick leave. Council had extended the City's emergency personal sick leave until March 31, 2021, and staff recommended that the City's emergency personal sick leave expire as scheduled.

APPOINTMENT

VOTING DELEGATE FOR NORTH CAROLINA LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES CITYVISION CONFERENCE

The City Manager explained that the North Carolina League of Municipalities CityVision Annual Conference will be virtual this year and that a voting delegate needs to be appointed.

Following a brief discussion, motion was made by Councilmember Williamson to appoint City Manager Charles Nichols as the voting delegate to the North Carolina League of Municipalities CityVision Annual Conference. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Garby, and the vote was as follows:

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

BUDGET RETREAT

The City Manager reminded Council that the Budget Retreat would be held on Tuesday, March 30, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. He added that staff had worked on getting input from citizens via the website, media advertisement and the City's Facebook page. He requested that Council contact him or the city clerk if there were any topics Council wanted staff to discuss. Staff wanted to concentrate on the General Fund and capital items that were not included in the current budget.

COMMENTS FROM MAYOR AND/OR COUNCILMEMBERS

Councilmember Evans suggested that Council get together to pick up litter as it had done in the past.

Discussion ensued concerning the litter situation and the various agencies that were planning litter pick up days, including the Laurinburg/Scotland County Area Chamber of Commerce Green Team's Spring Cleanup.

Councilmember Garby discussed a non-profit formed by Eurekis Pate which sponsored the Guns Down Water Guns Up last year. On April 5, 2021 an Easter Egg Hunt and cookout will be held at Dragon Park beginning at 2:00 p.m., and the Guns Down Water Guns Up event will be on July 24, 2021 from noon to 3:00 p.m. He invited Council to attend.

Councilmember Adams explained that she was invited by Mr. Bishop McDuffie to attend a Laurinburg Institute Hall of Fame Virtual Community Issues Forum that was held on March 19, 2021. She could not attend so she provided answers to several questions posed by Mr. McDuffie. She offered a copy of her comments to Council.

CLOSED SESSION

At 8:39 p.m., Councilmember Evans moved to go into closed session for economic development discussion and for personnel. The motion as seconded by Councilmember Garby, and the vote was as follows:

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

At 9:12 p.m., Councilmember Evans moved to adjourn the closed session and resume the regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Rainer, and the vote was as follows:

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

James T. Willis, Mayor

Jennifer A. Tippett, City Clerk