

**CITY OF LAURINBURG
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 22, 2022
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, March 22, 2022 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., Rosemary Rainer, and Andrew G. Williamson, Jr.

Also present were Charles D. Nichols III, City Manager; Jennifer A. Tippet City Clerk; and William P. Floyd, Jr., City Attorney.

Mayor Willis called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Councilmember Rainer gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The City Manager explained that Mr. Harry Kruppenbach called the City Clerk and requested to be moved to the April 19, 2022 agenda; therefore his request, Item 5, needed to be removed from the agenda. He added that Item 10, total grant project ordinance for the American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding.

Motion was made by Councilmember Williamson to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Garby, and the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There was no one present to speak.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Willis reviewed the Consent Agenda:

- a) Consider minutes of February 22, 2022 special meeting
- b) Consider Ordinance No. O-2022-06 amending the FY 2021-2022 Budget Ordinance (Ordinance No. O-2021-18) by receiving \$5,000 grant from ElectriCities and allocating to Community Development Other Improvements
- c) Consider Ordinance No. O-2022-07 amending FY 2021-2022 Budget Ordinance (Ordinance No. O-2021-18) to receive insurance proceeds of \$6,751.19 and allocate to

Community Development Other Improvements

- d) Consider setting public hearing to be held on April 19, 2022 to consider request for a Special Use Permit for solar farm at 18203 Plant Road
- e) Consider setting public hearing to be held on April 19, 2022 to consider request for Special Use Permit for 84-unit apartment complex on Plaza Road
- f) Consider Semi-Annual CDBG-I Compliance Report for Produce Market Road Area Sewer Improvements Grant

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

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

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

CONSIDER RESOLUTION AMENDING WATER AND WASTEWATER FUND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The City Manager explained that this item and the next two (2) items were related to the Water/Sewer Fund. The City has a 5-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and there is a separate 10-year CIP for Water/Wastewater, which helps the City rank higher when applying for grants. Currently with the American Rescue Plan and the Infrastructure Bill there is a lot of money available. Staff and Willis Engineering is working hard to obtain funding for approximately \$48.5 million in projects for the next 10 years. In the last two (2) years, \$20 million of Water/Sewer Infrastructure improvements have been completed.

Upon question by Councilmember Williamson, the City Manager explained that the City has completed Phase 1 of replacing the 20-inch main water line from the Water Treatment Plant to the Caledonia Road tank. Phase 1 was replacing the pipe just past Scottish Pines on Johns Road, and Phase 2 of the project finishes at the water tank on Caledonia Road. The City has also completed replacement of the Influent Pump Station.

Councilmember Adams moved to approve Resolution No. R-2022-07 amending Water and Wastewater Capital Improvement Plan. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Garby, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Adams, Garby, Evans, Rainer, Williamson
Nays: None
(copy of Resolution No. R-2022-07 on file in city clerk's office)

CONSIDER RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATIONS FOR CLEAN WATER ACT FUNDING

The City Manager explained that a resolution was needed in order for the City to apply for Clean Water Act funding. He added that the City was awarded low interest loans, but staff

and Willis Engineering wanted to go back and request grants due to all of the available funding.

Councilmember Williamson moved to approve Resolution No. R-2022-08 authorizing application for Clean Water Act Funding. 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-2022-08 on file in city clerk's office)

CONSIDER RESOLUTION TENTATIVE AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR INFLUENT PUMP STATION

The City Manager explained that staff was requesting that Council tentatively award a contract for influent pump station rehabilitation and repairs to the low bidder, Dellinger, Inc., at \$9.7 million. The City received eight (8) solid bids on this project, and due to the increasing costs of materials, Willis Engineering does not think the cost will be lower. Staff will continue working with the State to request additional funds and to obtain a grant instead of the low interest loan already approved for \$7.6 million for the project.

Councilmember Adams moved to approve Resolution No. R-2022-09 tentative award of contract for influent pump station. Councilmember Rainer seconded the motion, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Adams, Rainer, Williamson, Evans, Garby

Nays: None

(copy of Resolution No. R-2022-09 on file in city clerk's office)

CONSIDER RESOLUTION APPROVING REQUIRED POLICIES FOR AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS PER FEDERAL UNIFORM ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

The City Manager explained that in accordance with requirements stipulated for the use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, the City must adopt and implement certain policies to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Uniform Guidance (2 CFR Part 200 of the Federal Code) when expending these ARPA funds. These policies include an Eligible Use Policy, Allowable Costs & Cost Principles Policy, Nondiscrimination Policy, Records Retention Policy, Program Income Policy, and Property Management Policy.

Councilmember Evans moved to approve Resolution No. O-2022-10 approving required policies for American Rescue Plan Act Funds per federal Uniform Guidance. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Garby, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Evans, Garby, Adams, Rainer, Williamson

Nays: None

(copy of Resolution No. R-2022-10 on file in city clerk's office)

**CONSIDER GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF LAURINBURG
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021: CORONAVIRUS STATE AND LOCAL
FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS**

The City Manager explained that this ordinance allocates the entire \$4,781,100 of the total expected allocation of the U.S. Treasury related to the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CSLFRF) approved by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) in 2021. The City has already received \$2,390,550. It breaks out the first round of funding which will be \$225,000 for City of Laurinburg bonuses of \$1,500 for full-time employees during a certain defined time-period, the potential gap in the North Fire Station funding of \$200,000, and \$1,965,550 for water and sewer capital project fund. The unassigned amount of the ARPA funding is \$2,390,550.

Councilmember Williamson moved to approve Ordinance No. O-2022-08 Grant Project Ordinance for the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Councilmember Garby seconded the motion, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Williamson, Garby, Rainer, Evans, Adams

Nays: None

(copy of Ordinance No. O-2022-08 on file in city clerk's office)

**CONSIDER ORDINANCE AMENDING THE SPECIAL REVENUE FUND FOR THE
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT**

The City Manager explained that the proposed ordinance amends the Special Revenue Fund for the American Rescue Act Plan (ARPA) by increasing revenues by \$2,390,550 and increasing expenditures by \$200,000 for that the City has received funding of \$2,390,550 from the U.S. Treasury related to the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CSLFRF) approved by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA). This represents the first tranche of funds the City will receive with the second equal amount to be received in the Spring/Summer of 2022, for a total expected allocation of \$4,781,100. The City expects to allocate/expend the first tranche in accordance with the attached grant ordinance, with the second upcoming tranche as "unassigned" until further direction from City Council.

Councilmember Adams moved to approve Ordinance No. O-2022-09 amending the Special Revenue Fund for American Recovery Plan Act funds by increasing revenues by \$2,390,550 and increasing expenditures by \$200,000 for Fire Salaries, \$225,000 for Premium Pay, and increasing expenditures by \$1,965,550 for capital outlay. Councilmember Rainer seconded the motion, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Adams, Rainer, Williamson, Evans, Garby

Nays: None

(copy of Ordinance No. O-2022-09 on file in city clerk's office)

CONSIDER ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 BUDGET ORDINANCE

The City Manager explained Ordinance No. O-2022-10 puts the ARPA funds in the current fiscal year budget. This budget amendment transfers \$200,000 in revenue for Fire Salaries and \$225,000 in revenue for premium pay. The expenditures are increased by transferring \$200,000 for the North Fire Station Capital Project and \$225,000 for Governmental Services. This does not address the \$1,965,550 for the Water/Sewer Capital Project fund.

Councilmember Evans moved to approve Ordinance No. O-2022-10 amending the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget Ordinance (Ordinance No. O-2021-18) by increasing revenues by \$425,000 and increasing expenditures by \$425,000. Councilmember Garby seconded the motion, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Evans, Garby, Adams, Rainer, Williamson

Nays: None

(copy of Ordinance No. O-2022-10 on file in city clerk's office)

CONSIDER ORDINANCE AMENDING THE NORTH FIRE STATION CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE

The City Manager explained that the City has secured funding for the North Fire Station construction project from the Golden Leaf Foundation, NC SCIF Grant, and the FEMA Public Assistance program. This capital project ordinance is required to allocate this funding, along with additional City funding, for the construction of the North Fire Station.

Councilmember Garby moved to approve Ordinance No. O-2022-11 amending the North Fire Station Capital Project Ordinance by increasing revenues by \$1,495,000 and increasing expenditures by \$1,495,000. Councilmember Williamson seconded the motion, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Garby, Williamson, Rainer, Evans, Adams

Nays: None

(copy of Ordinance No. O-2022-11 on file in city clerk's office)

DESIGNATE VOTING AND ALTERNATE VOTING DELEGATE FOR NORTH CAROLINA LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITY CITYVISION

The City Manager explained that historically the City Manager has been designated the voting delegate and one of the governing body members attending the CityVision Conference is the alternate delegate. Currently attending, in addition to the City Manager are: Mayor Willis, Councilmember Adams, Councilmember Evans, Councilmember Rainer and Councilmember Williamson.

Councilmember Williamson moved to designate the City Manager as the voting delegate and Mayor Willis as the Alternate Delegate. Councilmember Rainer seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

CHAMBER LITTER SWEEP

The City Manager explained that the Laurinburg/Scotland County Area Chamber of Commerce's Annual Litter Sweep was being held April 4-9, 2022. The City, Scotland County, and the Chamber are promoting bumper stickers promoting Litter Sweep.

FACILITY TOUR

The City Manager explained that he and staff recommended having a facility tour for the elected officials on either March 28, 2022 or March 29, 2022. He added that staff could obtain a van for transportation.

Following discussion, it was consensus of Council to schedule the facility tour on March 29, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

The City Manager explained that the Budget Committee would be meeting on March 23, 2022 to go over the budget. He suggested that since there was a regular Council meeting on April 19, 2022, that a budget workshop be held prior to that meeting for a preliminary high-level overview with the workshop beginning at 5:00 or 5:30 p.m. and ending at 6:30 p.m.

Following discussion, it was consensus to schedule a budget workshop on Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

NORTH FIRE STATION GROUND BREAKING

The City Manager explained that in the future there will be a ground breaking ceremony for the North Fire Station.

DOG PARK

The City Manager explained that the Dog Park is nearing completion. The sign has been installed and the landscaping needs to be completed. Starbucks would like to join in with the City over Memorial Day weekend to promote the Dog Park Grand Opening by giving away "pup cups". Staff is hoping to have the Grand Opening April 13, 2022, but lead times for parts such as for the water fountains have been pushed out.

COMMENTS FROM MAYOR AND/OR COUNCILMEMBERS

Mayor Willis stated that there have been three (3) ribbon cuttings since the February 22, 2022

meeting. Small businesses continue to open in the City. He also congratulated the members of the Fire Department who received a lifesaving award from the State Fire Marshall.

Councilmember Adams discussed the Question and Answer Session being held by the Lumber River Council of Governments (COG) concerning the ARPA funds on March 30, 2022. She also reviewed the services that the COG provides the City and Scotland County.

Councilmember Evans explained that the Bible store downtown will be closing.

Mayor Willis explained that since the opening of the Railroad Bar & Grill, there has been renewed interest in property downtown.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

James T. Willis, Mayor

Jennifer A. Tippet, City Clerk