CITY OF LAURINBURG
COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 22, 2011
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
303 WEST CHURCH ST.
LAURINBURG, NC
7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

The City Council of the City of Laurinburg held its regular monthly meeting March 22, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the council room of the Municipal Building with the Honorable Matthew Block, Mayor, presiding. The following Councilmembers were present: Curtis B. Leak, Thomas W. Parker, III, Herbert M. Rainer, Jr., Kenton T. 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 at 7:03 p.m. Councilmember Parker gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Leak moved to adopt the agenda. Councilmember Spencer seconded the motion, and it unanimously carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

The City Manager presented the Consent Agenda indicating all items were considered to be routine and could be enacted simultaneously with one motion and a roll call vote.

The City Manager reviewed the items on the Consent Agenda:

a. Approve minutes from the Citizen Input Session held February 3, 2011; agenda workshop held February 15, 2011; City/County Joint Meeting held February 16, 2011

Councilmember Leak moved for the approval of the Consent Agenda as submitted. Councilmember Rainer seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Leak. Ellison, Rainer, Spencer, Parker
Nays: None

CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT BY MICHAEL'S AMUSEMENTS, INC. FOR A CARNIVAL AT 900 US 15-401 BY-PASS, MARCH 31, 2011-APRIL 10, 2011

Mayor Block explained that this public hearing is for a conditional use permit by Michael's Amusements, Inc. for a carnival at the location of 900 US 15-401 By-Pass to be held March 31, 2011 through April 10, 2011.

Mayor Block declared the public hearing open.

Mrs. Brandi Deese, Zoning Officer, first duly affirmed, stated that Michael's Amusements has requested a conditional use permit be granted to operate a carnival at 900 US-15/401 Bypass from March 31st, 2011 to April 10th, 2011.

The application for the conditional use permit was reviewed by staff where it was determined that:

- The subject property is located within the planning jurisdiction of the City of Laurinburg.
- The application is complete
- The proposed development is in substantial compliance with the regulatory provisions of the Unified Development Ordinance.

Planning Board concurred with these findings at its February 15th, 2011 meeting and by 5-0 vote recommended that a conditional use permit be granted in this matter.

Upon question by Councilmember Leak, Mrs. Deese stated that the State does the inspection for the amusement company's rides.

There was no one to speak for or against this request.

Mayor Block closed the public hearing.

The City Manager stated that staff has been asked to look at permit fees that are charged for conditional use permits and other requests from citizens. He explained that during the budget process staff will review the fees and make a recommendation to Council. The fees have not been increased over the past ten years.

Councilmember Leak motioned to approve the conditional use permit to operate a carnival at 900 US 15/401 By-Pass based on the following findings of fact:

- 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;
- The request will be in general conformity with the Land Use Plan, Thoroughfare Plan or other plan officially adopted by Council; and
- That it be conditioned upon the area being cleaned up when carnival has finished

Councilmember Spencer seconded the motion and it unanimously carried.

ORDINANCE NO. O-2011-06 WHICH EXTENDS THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF LAURINBURG AS REQUESTED BY PETITION TO ANNEX PROPERTY ON HASTY ROAD

Mayor Block explained that this public hearing is to consider Ordinance No. O-2011-06 which extends the corporate limits of the City of Laurinburg as requested by petition to annex property on Hasty Road.

The City Manager explained that on December 29, 2010, the City Clerk received a petition for voluntary annexation by New Hope Baptist Church of Laurinburg. The City Clerk investigated the sufficiency of the petition and Council called for a public hearing to be held tonight (March 22, 2011) on the question of annexation.

The notice of the public hearing was advertised in *The Exchange* as required by General Statute 160A-31. The proposed ordinance will extend the City limits and provide that the property as described in the legal description be annexed inside the city limits.

He concluded by explaining that the church requested to be annexed in order to hook-up to the City's water and sewer system and would pay inside city limits rates.

There was no one to speak for or against this request.

Mayor Block closed the public hearing.

Councilmember Parker moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. O-2011-06 which extends the corporate limits of the City of Laurinburg to include the described property located on Hasty Road.

Councilmember Leak seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Parker, Leak, Ellison, Rainer, Spencer
Nays: None
(Ordinance No. O-2011-06 is on file in the City Clerk's office.)

LAURINBURG/SCOTLAND COUNTY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE-QUARTERLY REPORT- THERESA LAMSON, PRESIDENT

Ms. Theresa Lamson reported on events for the last quarter for the Chamber of Commerce. She stated that in addition to the information provided Council that the Benefit Bank program has done well helping individuals file their state and income taxes. She stated that so far a total of 20 individuals have been helped by the Benefit Bank program.

She then reported that there have been 4-6 individuals interested in starting a new business who have met with the Chamber and most of them were considering businesses inside the city limits of Laurinburg.

She stated that in conjunction with the Scotland County Economic Development Director they have met with three companies considering Laurinburg as a place to do business.

She explained that 17 new residents have moved into Scotland County with ten of the new residents locating inside the city limits.

She then explained other opportunities of the Chamber which are available through applications for grant funding. One of the initiatives was the Entrepreneur Network which is a partnership among Laurinburg/Scotland County Chamber, Richmond County Chamber, Moore County Chamber, and Hoke County Chamber. The Laurinburg/Scotland County Chamber has taken the lead in this project.

Upon question by Councilmember Rainer, Ms. Lamson explained that the Third GEAR program is an opportunity for third graders to explore different career opportunities. She then explained that employers that use large vehicles and equipment, i.e. fire trucks, recycling trucks, ambulance, cranes, and forklifts were on site for the event.

Also, upon question by Councilmember Rainer, Ms. Lamson explained the Leader in Me program. This program is an initiative to bring leadership development and skills into several local elementary schools throughout the county. She stated that the schools currently participating are Wagram, Shaw, South Scotland and Washington Park elementary schools. She then explained that the schools are chosen by the School system.

Mayor Block commented on the letter of support for the lighting of US Highway 74 corridor by the Chamber's Transportation Committee.

Ms. Lamson explained the Transportation Committee's role which is to advocate for the transportation needs of Laurinburg and Scotland County.

Upon discussion, Councilmember Parker suggested that because of the cost of lighting three interchanges that it may serve the community better by advocating for the lighting of two interchanges.

Councilmember Rainer suggested more directional signage be discussed at some point.

Following further discussion, there was no action taken.

LAURINBURG DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION CORPORATION (LDRC) – REVOLVING LOAN FUND, THERESA LAMSON, VICE CHAIR

Ms. Theresa Lamson, taking off her Chamber hat and putting on her LDRC hat, explained the purpose of funding a downtown revolving loan for property owners in the area.

She then explained that last year during the 21st Century vision, one of the priorities was that the LDRC development a strategic plan for short and long term goals. She stated that during the

LDRC retreat that these goals were established.

She shared with Council that the participation of the City in the revolving loan fund would be a partnership with the LDRC and the Scotland County Economic Development Commission (EDC). LDRC and the EDC have committed to allocate $15,000.00 over a three-year period. The explained that this fund would be used to allow downtown business owners to borrow money to repair and renovate their properties. She stated that the loans would range from $5,000.00 to $25,000.00.

She stated that this fund would not be used for business start up, maintenance, sidewalks, or landscaping projects. She outlined that there will be eligibility and design requirements, along with project priorities and financial terms and conditions.

She emphasized that some of the priorities of the funds requested will be given to corner lots, projects with a high ratio of private to public dollars, and visual impact along Main Street.

Following further discussion, Councilmember Leak expressed interest in Scotland County being asked to participate in the revolving loan program.

Upon question by Councilmember Ellison, Ms. Lamson stated that Greg Icard, the Scotland County Economic Development Director, has offered to manage the revolving loan fund. She stated that he is already managing a similar fund offered by Scotland County and that his expertise would be valuable.

Upon further discussion regarding the revolving loan fund, Councilmember Spencer stated that he preferred that no one from the participating entities serve on the loan committee. He expressed his reasoning that the process should not be or become political.

Ms. Lamson stated that she would present the revolving loan fund request to the Scotland County Board of Commissions.

Councilmember Spencer moved that the City participate in the revolving loan fund program at $5,000.00 per year for three years with a maximum of $15,000.00 with no interest payments involved. Councilmember Rainer seconded the motion and it unanimously carried.

COLLEGE CAREER EXPO 2011 - MR. JAMES UNDERWOOD

Mr. James Underwood was not in attendance. Councilmember Rainer presented the College Career Expo 2011.

Councilmember Rainer informed Council that Mr. Underwood is a minister at Galilee United Methodist Church and a member of the Scotland County School Board. He stated that Mr. Underwood's interest in education is for everyone and that he is a children's mentor at Galilee United Methodist Church. He then proceeded to read the following letter from Mr. Underwood:

It gives me great honor to send this correspondence with regard to promoting youth development and empowerment. As a career educator, I am of the belief that one's life experiences and exposure shape his or her personal aspirations. I further contend that the high expectations of adults have a tremendous impact on youth self-image and self-esteem. The nurturing that I received from adult mentors and professors and staff at North Carolina Central University was an immeasurable influence of my personal development. These experiences instilled within me a since of self worth, thus fostering my professional accomplishments and most recently a campaign for and election to the Scotland County Board of Education.

The crux of the matter; however, is that so many young people lack expectations and encouragement from adults and lack exposure. The United Methodist Youth Fellowship (UMYF) of Galilee United Methodist Church has committed to address this issue. The UMYF invites the community to:

"Equipping Youth for the Journey"
A College and Career Day of Exploration
Saturday, April 30, 2011
10:00am-2:00pm

The intent is to introduce youth to the idea of higher education and career and life success. Various colleges and universities have been invited to participate by sending recruiters. Other community groups will be in attendance; thus providing a variety of relevant resources.

Your participation will make this a monumental event. For questions or more information please contact me

Councilmember Rainer stated that it would be good for the Mayor or someone on his behalf to attend the event on April 30, 2011.

DISCUSSION OF CITIZEN INPUT SESSION – INITIAL DISCUSSION OF MAIN ITEMS

Mayor Block stated that he would like to briefly inform the public of the results of the top list of items compiled at the Citizen Input Session. He explained that he would like citizens to know that Council appreciated the input and has taken them into consideration.

He stated that free Wi-Fi for city residents was the top issue at the input session and that Council has asked the City Manager to research the financial impact of this project.

The next item was a City Recreation Center. He informed everyone that Council's decision was to reconvene the City Recreation Committee to take the next step.

He then stated that the next item was installation of more street lights. He explained that staff is looking into increasing the density of street lighting.

The next item was the lighting of exits on US Highway 74/401. He explained that Council's discussion involved the cost of the lighting which is $500,000.00 to light three interchanges, which is a state requirement, and that the price tag is a little steep for the City by itself.

Continuing on with the input session results, the Mayor explained that the development of incentives to encourage more restaurants and entertain growth was a main issue. He further explained that this is a very complicated issue and at this time there was no consensus among Councilmembers on how to address this situation.

Another item listed was to improve the appearance of vacant lots. He explained that this was also an item about which the Beautification Committee expressed concern. He stated that the street department has been aggressive in its upkeep of vacant lots.

Mayor Block stated that there are three last items he would like to address. He explained that one item is to maintain street improvements.

The City Manager explained that the City has purchased a new street sweeper with an attachment that sprays along the curb and gutter area which kills the growing grass. He stated that it is still early in the year for mowing and spraying but that the areas should look better soon. He also stated that, with the additional automated leaf collection equipment, leaves will be picked up more efficiently and quicker.

He explained that there is $250,000.00 included in this year's budget for paving streets. The street paving should take place in mid April. He further explained that there is discussion about paving short streets versus long streets. He stated that it may be more efficient to consider paving the longer streets. He informed Council that staff is looking into an alternate solution and, when completed, he will bring it back to Council for discussion.

The City Manager informed Council that a number of trees have been planted in residential areas and along South Main Street. He stated that work will begin on the north side of town shortly.

Councilmember Spencer expressed concern about the funding ratio for the proposed lighting on US Hwy. 74/401. He stated that he did not think that the City Manager had been given direction to make deals with anyone to acquire money for the lighting. He stated that if the City participates at $50,000.00, then other entities interested in this project should contribute to it.

Councilmember Leak expressed his concern about street improvements and that paving of short roads should seriously be considered. He stated that several years ago a priority listing of streets was compiled and that this list should be followed.

Councilmember Rainer stated that this is not the time to discuss these issues as the presentation was for informational purposes only.

ACTIONS TAKEN AT COUNCIL RETREAT

Mayor Block stated that he would like to highlight actions taken at Council's February retreat that the public may find interesting.

He explained that Councilmember Rainer suggested that the stop lights flash caution during the late night and early morning hours. He stated that the City Manager was directed to investigate this matter.

The City Manager stated that Police Chief Evans had talked with the North Carolina Department of Transportation, which is responsible for the stop lights, and they had requested a letter from the City to conduct an evaluation of the stop lights.

A discussion ensued, and this item will be addressed at another time.

Mayor Block explained that the City Manager has been directed to have a survey conducted of employees to evaluate their views of their working conditions as well as safety and morale.

He has also been instructed to research the feasibility of Wi-Fi for city residents.

Mayor Block then explained that Councilmember Rainer had requested what the revenue would be if a special tax district (district) were implemented outside the current district. He stated that this district would encompass South Main Street down to St. Andrews Presbyterian College and Mi Casita, then along US Hwy. 401 South from the stop light at US Hwy. 401 South By-pass and South Main to Wal-Mart. Mayor Block stated that, using the same tax rate as the current special tax district, $170,000.00 could be generated with the proposed additional tax district.

The consensus of Council was that under the present economic conditions that this proposed tax district not be considered at this time.

Mayor Block stated that it is Council's desire to move forward with the downtown summit which will include property owners and discussions about the long range plan for downtown. He stated that this should occur sometime in the spring.

FARMER'S MARKET - DISCUSSION ON DEVELOPMENT & IMPLEMENTATION - COUNCILMEMBER SPENCER

Councilmember Spencer presented Council with an outline of a concept of an Open Air Farmer's Market (Market). He stated that several years ago, a Farmer's Market was held in the downtown area with a joint agreement between the Laurinburg Downtown Revitalization Corporation, the Scotland County Cooperative Extension Service, and the City of Laurinburg.

He then explained that the proposed Market would be located in the city owned parking lot located at the A.B. Gibson Education Center. He also explained that this project would promote local farmers and the City.

Councilmember Spencer further explained that this Market would be open for approximately eight weeks. He stated that this proposal would be in partnership with Sustainable Sandhills, the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, the Scotland County Cooperative Extension office, the Laurinburg/Scotland County Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Laurinburg Downtown Revitalization Corporation.

He indicated that the previous Farmer's Market agreement would need to be reviewed and updated.

Councilmember Spencer stated that he would work with the City Manager and staff regarding initial setup, design, and a budget to present to Council at a later date.

Councilmember Parker moved to support the Open Air Farmer's Market, seconded by Councilmember Ellison, and the motion unanimously carried

ORDINANCE NO. O-2011-07 WHICH AMENDS THE BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TO TRANSFER FUNDS ($15,000.00) FROM CONTINGENCY (990-509900) TO BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE (500-707300) BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE REPAIR OF THE ROOF AT THE BARRETT BUILDING

The City Manager explained that a budget amendment needs to be considered so that repairs to the Barrett Building roof could begin.

Mr. Bill Peele, Zoning Officer, explained that the Barrett Building roof is in a much deteriorated condition. He stated that the roof, the deteriorated asbestos shingles, and the rubber membrane above the elevator need replacing as well as some fascia board and soffit on the building. He stated that the estimate is $15,000.00.

He stated that Councilmember Rainer had asked him to look into the cost of a metal roof versus a shingled roof. He informed Council that the estimate he received for a metal roof from Britt and Britt Company of Lumberton, North Carolina was $25,000.00-$30,000.00.

He then explained that the warranty for a metal roof is a 50 year limited life time warranty. Mr. Peele stated that limited can mean different things such as fading is guaranteed for twenty years. It normally covers materials but not workmanship. He explained that shingles would normally carry a twenty year warranty.

Upon question by Councilmember Parker, Mr. Peele stated that the City received only one bid for this project.

Councilmember Parker, seconded by Councilmember Ellison, motioned to adopt Ordinance No. O-2011-07 which amends the Budget Appropriation Ordinance to transfer $15,000.00 from Contingency (990-509900) to Building and Maintenance (500-707300) to replace the roof at the Barrett Building.

Councilmember Rainer expressed concern that because the bidding process was by request for proposals in letter form that it restricted the number of bids that could have been received.

Following a discussion regarding the bidding process the motion was denied by the following vote:

Ayes: Ellison
Nays: Leak, Rainer, Spencer, Parker

Councilmember Rainer motioned to direct staff to follow the bidding process which would allow the City to receive bids from other companies inside the City, the surrounding area, or in the state. Councilmember Spencer seconded the motion and it carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Leak, Rainer, Spencer, Parker
Nays: Ellison

AWARD CONTRACT TO LOW BIDDER FOR THE PURCHASE OF A CUSTOM PUMPER FOR THE LAURINBURG FIRE DEPARTMENT

The City Manager explained that upon Council's request, Interim Fire Chief Evans investigated the concern of Council to be sure that a North Carolina bid was received. He pointed out that Chief Evans has noted that some of the companies have sales staff in North Carolina, but the offices and trucks are not manufactured in North Carolina.

Motion was made by Councilmember Leak, seconded by Councilmember Parker, and unanimously carried to award contract to low bidder Slagle's Fire Equipment and Supply, West Columbia, South Carolina in the amount of $376,531.00 for the purchase of a custom pumper for the Laurinburg Fire Department.

SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT TO BE HELD APRIL 19, 2011 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE UPSTAIRS COUNCIL ROOM OF THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING LOCATED AT 303 WEST CHURCH ST.

Mrs. Brandi Deese, Zoning Officer, explained that in accordance with the regulations of the North Carolina Department of Commerce, two public hearings must be held to discuss the City's intent to submit an application for Community Development Block Grant funds and this is the first of the two required hearings. This permits the City to be able to apply for funding in the 2011 program year. If these public hearings are not held the City is unable to apply for the funding from the Department of Commerce.

Mayor Block explained that the City needs to have two public hearings as requirements of the Community Development Block Grant program in order for the City to apply for funds for City projects.

Mrs. Deese explained that the public hearings need to take place before May 1, 2011.

Motion was made by Councilmember Parker, seconded by Councilmember Spencer, and unanimously carried to set the first of two public hearings for community development block grant to be held April 19, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the upstairs council room of the Municipal Building located at 303 West Church St.

SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT TO BE HELD APRIL 19, 2011 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE UPSTAIRS COUNCIL ROOM OF THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING LOCATED AT 303 WEST CHURCH ST.

This item is the second public hearing that is required for the Community Development Block Grant. Motion was made by Councilmember Parker, seconded by Councilmember Leak, and unanimously carried to set second public hearing for community development block grant to be held April 19, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the upstairs council room of the Municipal Building located at 303 West Church St.

SET PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD APRIL 19, 2011 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE UPSTAIRS COUNCIL ROOM OF THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING LOCATED AT 303 WEST CHURCH ST. FOR REQUEST FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO DEVELOP 56 MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL UNITS AT SCOTLAND CROSSING DRIVE

The City Manager explained that Greenway Residential Development, LLC is requesting that a conditional use permit be granted for the development of a 56 multi-family housing complex on a 9.78 acre tract of land on Scotland Crossing Drive.

Mrs. Brandi Deese informed Council that Greenway Residential Development, LLC has requested that a conditional use permit be granted for the development of a 56 unit multi-family housing complex on a 9.78 acre tract of land on Scotland Crossing Drive.

The Laurinburg Planning Board heard this request at its March 15, 2011 meeting and recommends that Council approve this request. The approval was a 5-2 vote.

Motion was made by Councilmember Leak, seconded by Councilmember Parker, and unanimously carried to set public hearing for a conditional use permit request to development 56 multi-family residential units at Scotland Crossing Drive to be held April 19, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the upstairs council room of the Municipal Building located at 303 west Church St.

SET PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD APRIL 19, 2011 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE UPSTAIRS COUNCIL ROOM OF THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING LOCATED AT 303 WEST CHURCH ST. FOR REQUEST FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR THE OPERATION OF A SPORTS BAR/PRIVATE MEMBERSHIP CLUB LOCATED AT 228 NORTH MAIN ST.

Brandi Deese explained that Mr. Henry Lloyd has requested that a conditional use permit be granted to operate a Sports Bar/Private Club at 228 North Main Street. The building which will accommodate this new facility is owned by Mr. Lloyd. The proposed facility is much smaller than previous requests the board has received. According to Deese, this request may be the most palatable of those we have received of late but still demands a watchful eye from the Board.

Planning Board heard this request at its March 15th, 2011 meeting and recommended that Council approve this request. The approval was by a 6-1 vote.

Motion was made by Councilmember Leak, seconded by Councilmember Parker, and unanimously carried to set public hearing for a conditional use permit request for the operation of a sports bar/private membership club located at 228 North Main St. to be held April 19, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the upstairs council room of the Municipal Building located at 303 West Church St.

LAURINBURG/MAXTON AIRPORT RUNWAY ADVANCE

The City Manager stated that at Council's agenda work session, March 15, 2011, Council agreed to advance the Laurinburg/Maxton Airport Commission (LMA) up to $500,000.00 in order to allow it to have the necessary match funds for its grant to resurface the airport runway.

He explained that the idea is that the City will advance the funds and that LMA will pay back the funds over a ten year period with an interest rate of four percent.

He then explained that the City's Attorney and the LMA Attorney are drafting an agreement between the City of Laurinburg and LMA. The proposed agreement will be presented to the Laurinburg City Council and the Laurinburg/Maxton Airport Commission for consideration and approval.

Motion was made by Councilmember Parker, seconded by Councilmember Spencer to agree to advance LMA up to $500,000.00 upon the aforesaid terms.

Upon question by Councilmember Rainer, the City Manager stated that the four percent interest rate was the standardized rate at this time. He informed Council that the City could charge up to eight percent but that that rate would not be feasible for LMA.

Councilmember Parker stated that the payback would come from revenues collected by LMA for a lease agreement with a tenant at the airport and, if need be, the airport could sell timber.

NORTH CAROLINA LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

The City Manager explained that the North Carolina League of Municipalities (NCLM) Regional Legislative Update has been scheduled. Please let the City Clerk know if you plan to attend. This is an opportunity to get an update from NCLM staff about what has gone on so far in the General Assembly.

TOWN HALL DAY – MAY 4, 2011

The City Manager explained that Town Hall Day is scheduled Wednesday, May 4, 2011 at the Quorum

Center in Raleigh, NC. Legislative updates will be given at 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. This is also a day that Councilmembers could meet with local representatives. Please let the City Clerk know if you plan to attend.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL

Councilmember Rainer stated that the City Manager had sent some emails to Council regarding current issues that the General Assembly will be voting on soon.

The City Manager stated that one issue is the City's ability to transfer funds from the Electric Fund to other funds while another is House Bill 129 - Level Playing Field Act which affects municipalities' ability to provide internet, telephone, and cable television services. He explained that after meeting with committees in the General Assembly, the proposal is that the City of Laurinburg would be exempt from services it already provides.

Councilmember Parker stated that in discussing the lighting of the interchanges along US Highway 74 and two other areas, he would like to work with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (DOT) and suggest that they reduce the requirement of lighting three interchanges to two interchanges.

A discussion ensued on the process of working with DOT in reducing the requirement of the lighting of interchanges.

Councilmember Rainer stated that the commercial areas need to be well lit. He then stated that there needs to be commitment from merchants who will benefit from the project to increase signage.

Motion was made by Councilmember Spencer, seconded by Councilmember Parker, and unanimously carried that the City Manager work with DOT to seek reduction of DOT's requirement of lighting three interchanges to two.

Councilmember Ellison stated that she was looking forward to the Employment Security Commission conducting a survey with employees regarding working conditions. She explained that this would be a critical piece of information when discussing the city's organizational structure.

She then stated that she feels that Council should review the questions to be asked in the survey in order to be certain that Council's wishes about the data and information to be gathered is included in the survey.

Councilmember Spencer stated that there have some issues regarding the Roller Dome located at College Plaza Shopping Center. He informed Council that he had received a flyer promoting a "Pajama Party".

He stated that any business operating outside its permit should be closed by the City. He stated that, if the Roller Dome being permitted as a skating rink, it should operate as a skating rink and not a party facility.

Councilmember Rainer stated that he had received a letter from DOT regarding the closing of the railroad crossing at Biggs Street. He reiterated that he felt Council did not want the crossing closed.

The City Manager stated that this is a workshop in order that DOT can get input from citizens as well as explaining why it is being considered for closing.

A discussion ensued on the railroad closing, and Council reiterated that it did not want it closed.
The City Manager will again inform DOT of Council's desire.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no one present who desired to comment.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Councilmember Parker, seconded by Councilmember Spencer, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Matthew Block, Mayor	Dolores A. Hammond, City Clerk