

**CITY OF LAURINBURG
COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 19, 2013
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 on February 19, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the council room of the Municipal Building with the Honorable Thomas W. Parker, III, Mayor, presiding. The following Councilmembers were present: Mary Jo Adams, Curtis B. Leak, Kenton T. Spencer, Andrew G. Williamson, Jr. and J. D. Willis.

Also present were: Harold W. Haywood, Interim City Manager; Jennifer A. Tippet, City Clerk; and William P. Floyd, Jr., Assistant City Attorney.

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

The invocation was given by Councilmember Leak.

Mayor Parker invited everyone to attend the Annual Citizen Input Session at A.B. Gibson Center at 6:00 p.m. on March 14, 2013.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Parker explained that the agenda needed to be amended to add introduction of a new employee after Item 5.

Motion was made by Councilmember Leak, seconded by Councilmember Willis, and unanimously carried to amend the agenda to include introduction of a new employee and to adopt the agenda as amended.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mr. Ronnie Harding, owner of Harding Sign Company requested Council consider a variance for his billboard on US 501 South. He explained that the sign was grandfathered in and a former Zoning Officer told him there would be no problem keeping the billboard.

Mayor Parker explained that Mr. Harding needed to work with the City's Planning and Zoning Officers on this matter.

EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT RECOGNITION

Mayor Parker recognized Robin M. Roeben who served City 35 years dutifully. Mayor Parker

stated that she did a great job. He then presented her with a plaque which read as follows:

*CITY OF LAURINBURG
CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION*

*ROBIN MARTIN ROEBEN
SENIOR CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE
DECEMBER, 1977 – JANUARY, 2013*

In special tribute for her dedicated public service as Senior Customer Service Representative Support for the City of Laurinburg for 35 years.

During her years of service, she gave unselfishly of her time and talents in assisting with the operation of the Customer Service Department. She strived for the public to receive the best help and information, and she wanted it done in a proper manner and time. She devoted herself to the City of Laurinburg unconditionally. She has been a valuable asset to the City and will be missed as she enters her well-deserved retirement.

We wish her many more years of continued success.

Presented this the 19th day of February, 2013.

*Thomas W. Parker, III
Mayor*

*Kenton T. Spencer
Mayor Pro Tempore*

*Mary Jo Adams
Councilmember*

*Curtis B. Leak
Councilmember*

*Andrew G. Williamson, Jr.
Councilmember*

*J. D. Willis
Councilmember*

Mrs. Roeben stated that she enjoyed working for the City and she was looking forward to retirement.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS OF OFFICE-FIREFIGHTERS

Mayor Parker, assisted by Interim Fire Chief Randy Gibson, administered the oaths of office to three (3) new firefighters, Nicholas Arrington, Jerome Bostick and Donald Locklear, Jr.

Fire Chief Randy Gibson stated that he was thankful for these young men being willing to serve as firefighters.

Mayor Parker explained that the City offers safety training for daycare providers and the general

public. He encouraged interested parties to contact Chief Gibson and to check the City's website for training dates.

PROCLAMATION-AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH

Mayor Parker presented the following proclamation to Carol Ann Lentz, Executive Director of the Scotland County/Robeson County American Red Cross:

American Red Cross Month March 2013

For more than a century, the American Red Cross has been at the forefront of helping Americans prevent, prepare for and respond to large and small disasters. Families and communities depend on the Red Cross in times of need; yet the Red Cross depends on the support of the American people to help sustain the foundation.

Each year during the month of March we formally recognize the American Red Cross and its essential humanitarian role in our community. We honor the role of the Scotland County Chapter's contribution to making Scotland, NC a better place. This year we focus on the spirit of the volunteers, donors, partners and employees who support the Red Cross mission of humanitarianism.

For more than 90 years, the Red Cross in Scotland County has relied on the everyday heroes who donate time, blood or money; heroes who help coordinate blood drives, heroes who answer calls 24 hours a day heroes who teach health and safety classes. Scotland County Chapter is one of more than 550 chapters across the country who tirelessly serve their community.

It has been the place where compassionate people freely give their time and talent to help prevent and ease human suffering among friends, neighbors and even strangers.

The citizens of Scotland made contributions to fund the cost of providing immediate relief to 365 victims of house fires. You gave your blood to save the lives of friends, neighbors and strangers. You volunteered your time to help those in need.

In the past year alone, the Scotland County Chapter responded to 115 local emergencies, assisted 237 military families and trained 1,623 people in lifesaving skills such as CPR and first aid. Red Cross volunteers are the core of the Red Cross, donating their time and energy to selflessly serve those in need; demonstrating the compassion and generosity for which Americans are known.

The Scotland County Chapter and its nearly 250 volunteers and donors provide valuable tools and education to individuals, families, workplaces and schools; making us all stronger and more resilient.

This year we dedicate a day to our dedicated volunteers; our hometown heroes. On Hometown Heroes Day, we celebrate and acknowledge the contributions of the many heroes of Scotland County Chapter for their contribution to building a better quality of life in Laurinburg, NC. For

the next 90 years and beyond, the Red Cross will meet the needs of the public by fostering volunteers who are professional, prepared and committed to continuing the tradition of providing supreme service delivery to our community.

Therefore, I, Thomas W. Parker, III, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the City of Laurinburg, do hereby proclaim March 2013 as American Red Cross Month of Laurinburg. I urge all Americans to continue to give your time, blood and money to make a difference in the humanitarian fabric of this community. We help each other when we help the Red Cross.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 19th day of February, 2013.

/S/ Thomas W. Parker, III, Mayor

Mayor Parker stated that Scotland County is a small county and is fortunate to have one of 500 chapters of the American Red Cross in the country. He thanked Mrs. Lentz and others who preceded her at the Scotland County American Red Cross Chapter for keeping the Chapter here.

Mrs. Lentz thanked all of the volunteers who make the Chapter successful.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEE

Mrs. Martin, Human Resources Director, introduced the City's first Management Trainee, Shahid McInnis. She stated that he graduated from Scotland High School and Elizabeth City State with a B.S. in Engineering Technology.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Interim City Manager presented the Consent Agenda as follows:

- a) Approve minutes of October 9, 2012 agenda workshop, and October 16, 2012 regular meeting
- b) Accept Tax Releases, Discoveries and Adjustments
- c) Authorize Tax Collector to Advertise Tax Liens during the week of March 4-8, 2013
- d) Authorize Mayor, Interim City Manager and City Clerk to Sign Adoption of Records Retention and Disposition Schedule

Councilmember Spencer moved to amend the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilmember Adams seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Spencer, Adams, Leak, Willis, Williamson

Nays: None

PUBLIC HEARINGS

CONSIDER REQUEST FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO OPERATE A CARNIVAL AT 900 US 401 BYPASS

Mayor Parker opened the public hearing.

Mrs. Brandi Deese, first duly affirmed, explained that Council has approved the request for a Conditional Use Permit for a carnival at this location for the past seven (7) years to Michael's Amusements. She added that the carnival is always operated properly and is compliant with all City regulations. She further added that Planning Board heard this request at its January 15, 2013 meeting and unanimously recommended approval of the request.

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

Mayor Parker closed the public hearing.

Councilmember Willis moved to approve the Conditional Use Permit to operate a carnival at 900 US 401 Bypass from April 4-14, 2013 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;

Councilmember Leak seconded the motion and it unanimously carried.

**CONSIDER REQUEST TO REZONE FROM RESIDENTIAL-6 TO
OFFICE/INSTITUTIONAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 328 DOUGLAS STREET AND
ADJOINING LOT**

Mayor Parker opened the public hearing.

Mrs. Deese explained that Fairley Chapel Missionary Baptist Church to expand its existing church fellowship hall. Staff recommends approval of this request. Planning Board heard the request at its January 15, 2013 meeting and unanimously recommended approval of the rezoning.

Mr. James Owens stated that he represented Fairley Chapel Missionary Baptist Church and the church wants to expand its fellowship hall.

Upon question by Councilmember Leak, Mrs. Deese stated that staff would approve the proposed building expansion once the property is rezoned.

Ms. Valaria Eccleston queried how the rezoning would affect her property since the subject property is in a residential area.

Mayor explained that the rezoning would not affect the tax value of surrounding property.

Councilmember Leak added that it would be an asset to the area.

Upon question by Ms. Eccleston, Councilmember Leak suggested that she speak with Mrs. Deese regarding condemnations and demolition along Douglas Street.

Mayor Parker closed the public hearing.

Councilmember Spencer moved to approve Ordinance No. 0-2013-04 which rezones from Residential-6 to Office/Institutional property located at 328 Douglas Street and adjoining lot as it is:

- Consistent with other development in the area;
- Advances the public health and safety or welfare; and
- Provides a positive impact to the public at large.

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

Ayes: Spencer, Leak, Williamson, Willis, Adams

Nays: None

(Ordinance No. O-2013-04 on file in the City Clerk's office)

DELEGATIONS

W. K. DICKSON – CONSIDER REPORT ON THE LEITH CREEK OUTFALL AND EVALUATION AND PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING (NC RURAL CENTER GRANT)

Mr. T. Carter Hubard of WK Dickson presented a PowerPoint on the Leith Creek Outfall Evaluation and Preliminary Engineering Report which was funded by a grant through the Rural Center. Highlights of the study include the following:

- Master Plan completed 10 years ago identified areas for inflow and infiltration (I&I) in the Leith Creek Outfall area
- Assessed manholes, conducted smoke testing, flow isolation measurement and used closed circuit television in the pipes
- Smoke testing noted deficiencies, particularly off Caledonia Road
- Overall good condition of sewer line
- Lines on North Main Street and Produce Market Road show fractures, cracks and holes and the lines continue to deteriorate which will cause sinkholes and involve costly repairs
- In summary, needs are:
 - Heavy cleaning and more closed circuit television
 - Point repairs for offset joints
 - Cure in-place pipe lining
 - Manhole rehabilitation
- Total anticipated project cost of \$338,640.00

Mr. Hubbard discussed the following funding options:

- Grants
- Standard low interest loan
- Phase into annual budget
- Clean Water SRF Funds

Upon question by Mayor Parker, Mr. Hubbard stated that some areas of the City sewer system are in pretty good shape with other areas at high risk and needing immediate attention.

Following further discussion, motion was made by Councilmember Williamson, seconded by Councilmember Spencer, and unanimously carried to accept the Leith Creek Outfall Evaluation and Preliminary Engineering Report as presented by Mr. Hubbard of WK Dickson.

JOHN SUGG, TREEFULL COMMUNITIES – REPORT ON URBAN FORESTRY GRANT

Mr. John Sugg of Treefull Communities presented a PowerPoint presentation on the tree inventory he conducted funded through a grant from Urban Forestry. He added that the grant was for \$15,000.00 and he completed as much of the inventory as he could with that amount. He further added that he thought the City would apply for additional funds to complete the inventory in the fall. Highlights of the inventory were as follows:

- Inventoried 3,726 trees
- The City has a safe urban forest and 122 of the inventoried trees need to be removed
- The inventory consisted of counting trees, evaluating the type, size, condition and location by GPS.
- 61% of the trees are in good condition, 32% are in fair condition, 5.8% are in poor condition and .2% are dead.

A discussion ensued concerning the removal of the trees on Crepe Myrtle Avenue.

Councilmember Williamson requested recommendations on what species of trees should be used to replace trees that are removed.

RYAN NANCE, LUMBER RIVER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS – UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES

Mr. Ryan Nance explained that he was the Workforce Development Coordinator with the Lumber River Council of Governments (COG). He provided an update on the following:

- CDBG grant for Scotland County includes 330 Roosevelt Street and 338 Raleigh Street
- Meals on Wheels Program has 17 individuals on the waiting list
- Working on partnership grant for Workforce Development that would include 41 individuals from Laurinburg to provide training and hopefully employment
- Currently applying for a Youth Build Grant from the US Department of Labor

CARL HEAD, GUSTAF C. LUNDIN & CO. – AUDIT FOR FY 2011-2012

Mr. Carl Head of Gustaf C. Lundin & Co. provided Council with a summary of the audit of the City for Fiscal Year 2011-2012. He stated that the City received an unqualified opinion which is the best opinion that can be given. He provided the following:

- The General Fund increased \$871,465 from 2011-2012
- The Electric Fund had a net decrease of assets by \$1.7 million from 2011 to 2012
- The Water/Sewer Fund had a net decrease of assets by \$437,249 from 2011 to 2012
- The Solid Waste Fund had a net decrease of assets by \$41,775 from 2011 to 2012
- Cash flow from operation of the enterprise funds is positive
- General Fund net asset increase is positive primarily because of Electric Fund transfer
- The Electric Fund decrease is due primarily to transfers to the General Fund, depreciation and less electric revenue
- The Water/Sewer Fund decrease is due primarily due to depreciation and operating expenses
- Total cash balance for the City on June 30, 2012 was \$8,114,313 and on June 30, 2011 was \$7,688,986
- Fund Balance available as a percentage of General Fund Expenditures in 2012 was 45%, in 2011 was 29%, both well above the Local Government Commission requirement of 8%
- Total long-term debt in 2012 was \$6,241,193 and in 2011 was \$3,463,090

JERRY GLOVER-REQUEST FOR REFUND OF PETITION FEE

Mr. Jerry Glover appeared before Council to request refund of the petition fee he submitted in November for Street Improvements to Beta Street from Roseville Street to Corona Avenue because no public hearing was held on the matter.

Following a lengthy discussion, motion was made by Councilmember Adams, seconded by Councilmember Williamson, and unanimously carried to deny the request to refund the Petition Fee paid by Mr. Glover.

APPOINTMENT

CRIME AND DRUG COMMITTEE

Mayor Parker explained that efforts are underway to revitalize the Crime and Drug Committee. Of the City's 8 appointees, only 3 have expressed interest in continuing to serve. On September 25, 2012, Ms. Evans filed an application with the City Clerk who explained to Ms. Evans that the Crime and Drug Committee was undergoing reorganization. Following the February 7, 2013 meeting, the City Clerk contacted Ms. Evans to inquire if she still wished to serve on the Committee and Ms. Evans does wish to serve. The City will be advertising for additional applications for the Crime and Drug Committee on the City's website www.laurinburg.org. Applications can be downloaded from the website or obtained from the City Clerk, 305 West Church Street.

Motion was made by Councilmember Adams, seconded by Councilmember Willis, and unanimously carried to appoint Ms. Mary Evans to the Crime and Drug Committee.

COMMENTS FROM MAYOR AND/OR COUNCILMEMBERS

There were no comments from the Mayor or Councilmembers.

CLOSED SESSION

At 8:47 p.m. Councilmember Spencer moved to go into closed session pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(4), to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body, including agreement on a tentative list of economic development incentives that may be offered by the public body in negotiations and pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318(a)(6) for the purpose of considering the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee

The motion was seconded by Councilmember Williamson, and unanimously carried.

At 9:50 p.m., motion was made by Councilmember Spencer, seconded by Councilmember Willis, and unanimously carried to adjourn the closed session and resume the open meeting.

COMMUNITIES OF DISTINCTION

Mayor Parker explained the Communities of Distinction program that would cost the City \$24,800.00.

Upon suggestion by Councilmember Willis, Mayor Parker stated he would contact the Scotland County Tourism Development Authority to determine if that organization was interested in funding the program.

RECESS

Motion was made by Councilmember Willis, seconded by Councilmember Williamson, and unanimously carried to recess the meeting to Wednesday, March 6, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in the council chambers of the Municipal Building, 303 West Church St., Laurinburg, NC to conduct public hearings.

The meeting recessed at 9:55 p.m.

Thomas W. Parker III, Mayor

Jennifer A. Tippet, City Clerk