

**CITY OF LAURINBURG
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 17, 2023
CITY HALL AND POLICE DEPARTMENT
303 WEST CHURCH ST.
6:00 p.m.**

Minutes

The City Council of the City of Laurinburg held its regular meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, in the Council Chambers of the City Hall and Police Department at 6:00 p.m. with the Honorable James T. Willis, Mayor, presiding. The following Councilmembers were present: Mary Jo Adams, Mary Evans, Rosemary Rainer, Barbara Rogers, and Andrew G. Williamson, Jr.

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

Mayor Willis called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Councilmember Rainer gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Adams moved to approve the agenda with second by Councilmember Rainer and the vote was unanimous.

RECOGNITION OF RETIREE

Mayor Willis recognized retiree Kay Sanderson Locklear, by reading aloud the wording on the retirement plaque presented to Mrs. Locklear on her last day of employment on December 30, 2022, as follows:

PRESENTED IN RECOGNITION AND SINCERE APPRECIATION TO

**KAY SANDERSON LOCKLEAR
ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT ASSISTANT**

DECEMBER 1989 – DECEMBER 2022

In special tribute for 33 years of dedicated public service as an employee of the City of Laurinburg. Hired first on December 11, 1989, as a Customer Service Representative in the Consumer Billing Department; then promoted to Office Assistant in the Public Works Department on December 18, 1991; and, then promoted to Administrative Support Assistant in the Public Works Department on April 1, 2007, where she remained until her retirement on December 31, 2022. During her long tenure with the Public Works Department, Kay was instrumental in the implementation of an upgraded work order and inventory management system, providing administrative support to all the departments at the Public Works operations

facility, and assisting with response and recovery efforts in several natural disasters, such as ice storms and hurricanes, all to better serve the residents of Laurinburg, just to name a few of her many accomplishments. Kay truly has a service-oriented and compassionate heart, as she strived to the best of her ability to help residents with their service requests and her co-workers that she worked with daily.

The Mayor and the Laurinburg City Council express their sincere appreciation for her unselfish professional service to the citizens of Laurinburg and this community. Her tenacity, strong work ethic, intense dedication, and attention to detail ensured that the citizens of Laurinburg received the best possible Public Works services offered by the City. Kay dedicated her time and talents to the citizens of Laurinburg and is the epitome of a true public servant. She worked tirelessly and effectively to serve the citizens of this community and to make our City a better place to live for all the citizens of Laurinburg.

We wish her many more years of continued success in this next chapter of her life.

Presented this the 30th day of December, 2022, by the Mayor and City Council.

Mayor James “Jim” Willis

Mayor Pro Tem Mary Evans

Councilmember Mary Jo Adams

Councilmember Rosemary Rainer

Councilmember Barbara Rogers

Councilmember Drew Williamson

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There was no one present to speak.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Willis read aloud the Consent Agenda:

- a) Consider minutes of December 13, 2022, regular meeting
- b) Consider Termination of Easement for Scotland Crossing
- c) Consider setting public hearing for Special Use Permit at 1703 Stonewall Rd.
- d) Bike Nights-2023 road closures

Councilmember Evans moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Rainer moved to second the motion, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Williamson, Rainer, Evans, Adams, Rogers

Nays: None

PUBLIC HEARING

REQUEST FOR SPECIAL USE PERMIT TO ALLOW MICROBLADING AT 126 SOUTH MAIN STREET

Mayor Willis opened the public hearing to consider a request for a special use permit to allow microblading at 126 South Main Street.

Mr. Mac McInnis, City Planner/Code Enforcement Officer, being duly sworn, explained that Ms. Stephanie Bell, owner of Bell House of Beauty located at 126 South Main Street, has requested a special use permit to add microblading as a service. Microblading is a semi-permanent form of cosmetic tattooing for eyebrows. Any form of tattooing requires a special use permit per City Code. The City of Laurinburg Planning Board heard the request on December 6, 2022, and unanimously recommended approval of the request.

Ms. Stephanie Bell, being duly sworn, explained that she would like the opportunity to provide a service known as microblading/micro-shading in her existing salon. Her salon is currently set up with private rooms so each of the services provided are separate from each other. If approved, the Scotland County Health Department will come in and go through all the inspections and approval of not only the area of the salon the service is performed in, but the tools and technique in which the service is offered.

Ms. Bell explained that the permit is required because the ink is being deposited into the skin and that procedure falls under tattooing. This is strictly a cosmetic service applied on the face and it is not the same as any type of body artwork that is prohibited in the downtown area.

Councilmember Rainer asked if her business insurance would be required to include additional coverage to provide the service. Ms. Bell stated that she will be required to carry additional coverage and the insurance that she currently has does cover all her services, including the microblading/micro-shading.

Councilmember Williamson asked the City Manager if the special use permit would conflict with the current policy regarding traditional tattooing in the downtown district. The City Manager stated it would not conflict with the current policy that is in place.

Councilmember Adams asked that if this special use permit is granted, will it open the door for requests from businesses that do body tattoos. The City Manager explained that any business will still have to go through the same approval process and come back to council for a special use permit for that type of service. Mr. McInnis stated that the body work tattoo service is still not allowed in the downtown area.

Councilmember Evans asked if this service was painful. Ms. Bell explained that she does have the ability to numb the skin before and during the service at the client's request. She stated that she tries to be as gentle as possible with her client.

Councilmember Evans then inquired about the pricing. Ms. Bell explained that the service is

considered a luxury/beauty service and it is currently offered at a rate of \$400.00 for the initial session and \$200.00 for the touchup session. Ms. Bell also explained pricing is based on location.

There being no one to speak in opposition to the request, Mayor Willis closed the public hearing.

Councilmember Rainer moved to approve the request for a Special Use Permit to allow micro-blading at 126 S. Main St because:

- The development is within the planning jurisdiction of the City AND
- The application is complete AND
- The development is in substantial compliance with the regulatory provisions of the UDO (for example, setbacks, decommissioning plan, location, clustering, etc.)

AND BECAUSE THE APPLICANT PROVIDED EVIDENCE THAT:

- (1) The establishment, maintenance, or operation of the special use will not be detrimental to or endanger the public health, safety, or general welfare; AND
- (2) The special use will not be injurious to the use and enjoyment of other property in the immediate vicinity for the purposes already permitted, nor diminish or impair property values within the neighborhood; AND
- (3) The establishment of the special use will not impede the normal and orderly development and improvement of the surrounding property for uses permitted in the district; AND
- (4) The exterior architectural appeal and functional plan of any proposed structure will not be so at variance with either the exterior architectural appeal and functional plan of the structures already constructed or in the course of construction in the immediate neighborhood or the character of the applicable district, as to cause a substantial depreciation in the property values within the neighborhood; AND
- (5) Adequate utilities, access roads, drainage, parking, or necessary facilities have been or are being provided; AND
- (6) Adequate measures have been or will be taken to provide ingress and egress so designed as to minimize traffic congestion in the public streets; AND
- (7) The special use shall, in all other respects, conform to all the applicable regulations of the district in which it is located; AND
- (8) Public access shall be provided in accordance with the recommendations of the city's land use plan and access plan, or the present amount of public access and public parking as exists within the city now. If any recommendations are found to conflict, the system requiring the greatest quantity and quality of public access, including parking, shall govern. The proposed use shall be consistent with recommendation and policy statements as described in the adopted land use plan; AND
- (9) The proposed use shall be consistent with recommendation and policy statements as described in the adopted land use plan.

Councilmember Williamson moved to second the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

CONSIDER PROPOSALS TO PROVIDE SERVICES FOR BROWNFIELDS SITE ASSESSMENTS AND AWARD CONTRACT TO BEST QUALIFIED FIRM

The City Manager explained that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency selected the City of Laurinburg to receive funding in the amount of \$500,000 to inventory, characterize, assess, and conduct cleanup planning and community involvement related activities. The City conducted a Request for Qualifications process to select a Qualified Environmental Professional to begin the work on this project. The City received eleven (11) proposals from firms outlining their qualifications.

The selection committee, consisting of the Community Development Director, Downtown Development Coordinator, and Administrative Services Director, evaluated the qualification packages submitted. After evaluating the proposals submitted, it was determined that the best qualified firm for the Brownfields Site Assessments is Terracon Consultants, Inc.

Motion was made by Councilmember Adams, seconded by Councilmember Evans to award the services contract for the Brownfields Site Assessments Project to Terracon Consultants, Inc., and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract in accordance with U.S. EPA guidelines and requirements. The motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. O-2023-01 TO ESTABLISH DOWNTOWN SOCIAL DISTRICT

The City Manager presented Ordinance O-2023-01, the drafted ordinance for the Downtown Laurinburg Social District, to Council for consideration. After consultation with the Chief of Police, the proposed map (attached) of the Social District has been revised to promote a safe and responsible pedestrian environment. Upon acceptance of this ordinance, the Social District will be established when entry/exit point signage and identifying business containers/signage are in place.

Motion was made by Councilmember Williamson and second by Councilmember Rogers to approve Ordinance No. O-2023-01 to establish the Downtown Social District. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Williamson, Rainer, Evans, Adams, Rogers

Nays: None

(copy of Ordinance No. O-2023-01 on file in clerk's office)

CONSIDER DATES FOR COUNCIL BUDGET RETREAT AND CITIZEN INPUT SESSION

The City Manager explained that as part of the budget process, the City Council typically receives input from the public on budget priorities either through conducting an in-person Citizen Input Session or providing several avenues for the public to submit their input

electronically, through email, social media, and/or telephone. City Council also holds a budget retreat to consider that input and formulate budget priorities for the City Manager and staff to include as they continue preparing the City's annual operating budget. The Council agreed by consensus to hold the Citizen Input Session at 5:00 p.m. on February 21, 2023. No date was set for a budget retreat at this time.

COMMENTS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

The City Manager announced that the City of Laurinburg has been selected to host a barbecue festival in the downtown area. The Tourism Development Authority (TDA) is still finalizing the upcoming festival, but it has been petitioned and sanctioned by the NC Court Council in their Whole Hog BBQ Series. The City of Laurinburg is locked in for April 14th and 15th 2023. Cooking starts on Friday, April 14th and there are plans to also have a concert on the evening of April 14th at the McDuffie Square area in conjunction with the festival. The plan is currently to utilize McDuffie Square and close Railroad Street from Gill Street to Main Street.

COMMENTS FROM MAYOR AND/OR COUNCILMEMBERS

Councilmember Rainer commended Tis the Season for the job well done for the Christmas Season 2022. Tis the Season truly brought the Christmas spirit to the City of Laurinburg, and Mrs. Rainer really appreciates their staff, their committee, and everyone that was involved in helping Laurinburg have such a Christmas Wonderland.

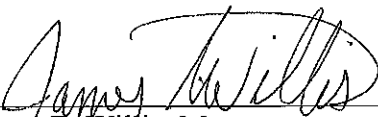
Councilmember Rogers requested to add the IEJ Restoration topic to the agenda on February 21, 2023, for discussion. Scotland County Commissioner Darrell Gibson, Jr. sent an email before the end of the year in December asking for a response from the City Council regarding if they would like anything for the city to be housed in this facility. Currently, the facility is in Phase 1 of the restoration, which is in the gym building on the facility campus. Councilmember Adams asked for any information regarding a potential housing development on the back of that property.

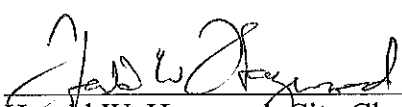
Councilmember Rainer requested an update on the North Fire Station at the next meeting on February 21, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Councilmember Rogers, seconded by Councilmember Evans, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.


James T. Willis, Mayor


Harold W. Haywood, City Clerk