

**CITY OF LAURINBURG
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 20, 2024
CITY HALL AND POLICE DEPARTMENT
303 WEST CHURCH ST.
6:00 PM**

Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

The City Council of the City of Laurinburg held its regular meeting on Tuesday, August 20, 2024, 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; William P. Floyd, Jr., City Attorney; Harold W. Haywood, Administrative Services Director / City Clerk; Amanda Futrell, Administrative Support Assistant / Deputy City Clerk

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

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The City Manager stated that one addition was needed to the agenda. He stated that a closed session needed to be added to the agenda to discuss personnel.

Councilmember Adams moved to approve the amended agenda with the added closed session, with a second by Councilmember Rainer, and the vote was unanimous.

3. RECOGNITION

Mayor James T. Willis recognized a member of the staff of the City of Laurinburg Police Department.

- a. Retiree in the Police Department - Lt. Vernon L. Jackson

Mayor Willis recognized retiree Lt. Vernon L. Jackson, by reading aloud the wording on the retirement plaque presented to Lt. Vernon L. Jackson as follows:

PRESENTED IN RECOGNITION AND SINCERE APPRECIATION TO

**Vernon L. Jackson
LIEUTENANT
July 6, 2007 – August 1, 2024**

Vernon L. Jackson was hired on July 6, 2007, as Police Officer with City of Laurinburg. He was promoted on August 30, 2013, to Police Sergeant. He received his Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate on August 13, 2004, and his Criminal Justice Instructor Certification on June 10, 2019. On September 1, 2023, he was promoted to Police Lieutenant. He will retire August 1, 2024, with a total of 30 thirty years and 1 one month!!

The Mayor and the Laurinburg City Council express their sincere appreciation for his unselfish professional service to the citizens of Laurinburg and this community. He worked to make our city a better place to live for all the citizens of Laurinburg.

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

Presented this day the 20th of August 2024 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

4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mrs. Brendetta Terry, the CEO of Her Life Matters, LLC, in Laurinburg NC, wanted to speak before the Council tonight. Mrs. Terry stated that she recently started a non-profit for single moms, and it has been going well. Mrs. Terry stated that she wanted to make the City aware of the homelessness issue that is being faced in Laurinburg. She stated that the issue is impacting many organizations, including her own. She stated that she has encountered many homeless women and children since she began her non-profit. Mrs. Terry addressed the fact that children were about to start school, and they needed a place to sleep and an address to

register for school. She stated that she wants to work together to devise a plan to try to help resolve this issue. Mrs. Terry stated that she had tried to look for locations. She stated that she needed additional resources. Mrs. Terry stated that she wanted to open a shelter for homeless women and children. She stated that she understands that there is one in the works, but there is a sense of urgency right now. She stated that she has provided clothing and school items for some of the homeless families. She stated that she wanted to come before the Council to try to work on a plan to shelter homeless women and children.

Mayor Willis discussed efforts that are being made for temporary housing by the Family Promise organization. He stated that he put Mrs. Terry in contact with Mr. Rod Frohman, who is trying to establish the temporary housing. He thanked Mrs. Terry for her passion and concern for the homeless women and children in Laurinburg.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Willis Read aloud the Consent Agenda:

- a. Consider the approval of the draft minutes for the July 16, 2024, Regular Meeting.
- b. Set a public hearing on Tuesday, September 17, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. to consider a Request to Rezone 1216 N. Main Street from General Business to Residential-6.
- c. Consider Resolution No. R-2024-16, Findings of Facts, for rezoning request for Parcel 01024601018 located on Eastover Lane approved at the July 16, 2024 regular meeting.
- d. Consider Resolution No. R-2024-17, Findings of Facts, for rezoning request for Parcel 01000401013 located on the corner of W. Church Street and S. Wilkinson Drive approved at the July 16, 2024, regular meeting.
- e. Consider the approval of the use of the Downtown Laurinburg Art Garden for the Southeastern Family Violence Center's Domestic Violence Candlelight Vigil on October 15, 2024, from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
- f. Consider the approval of the use of McDuffie Square for the Scotland County Youth Development Cornhole Tournament fundraiser on September 7, 2024,

from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Councilmember Evans moved to approve the Consent Agenda.

Councilmember Rainer moved to second the motion, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes - Evans, Rainer, Adams, Rogers, Williamson

Nays - None

(Copy of Resolution No. R-2024-16 and R-2024-17 are on file in the clerk's office)

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- a. Consider a request to rezone Parcel ID # 01021001008 on Elm Avenue from Residential-15 to Residential-20.

Mayor Willis opened the public hearing to consider a request to rezone property located on Elm Avenue identified as Parcel ID # 01021001008 from Residential-15 to Residential-20. He asked Mr. Mac McInnis to explain the request for rezoning.

Mr. Mac McInnis stated that this request is for a rezoning of an 8.2 acre tract of land on Elm Avenue from R-15, which is single family residential zoning, to R-20. Mr. McInnis stated that the difference between R-15 and R-20 is the minimum lot size and R-20 would allow for Bona Fide Farm use if certification is approved. Mr. McInnis stated that the owner would like to have a wedding venue on the property if it is rezoned. Mr. McInnis advised the Council that even if the rezoning is approved, the wedding venue could not take place unless the owner is approved for the Bona Fide Farm certification. He advised the Council that R-15 does not allow for Bona Fide Farm use, so the parcel would have to be rezoned for the owner to even submit for the Bona Fide Farm certification. Mr. McInnis stated that the rezoning request went before the Planning Board on July 9, 2024, with a vote of 5 to 1 to recommend approval of the request for rezoning. A conversation ensued about the location of the parcel and questions that were asked during the Planning Board meeting about possible noise and other ordinance violations. The City Attorney advised that the UDO, as far as setbacks and things the Council could regulate, would no longer apply. He stated that general things like noise are still subject to the City code and would still be enforceable. A conversation ensued about the surrounding properties and their distance from the venue.

Public Comments in Favor of the Rezoning

Mr. Victor Prokhnevskiy, of Fayetteville, NC, spoke before the Council. He stated that he had retired from the military and wanted to build a place to live for his family. He stated that he also wanted to start a small business to give his family something to do and be productive members of society. He stated that this brought him to this location. Mr. Prokhnevskiy stated that during the Planning Board meeting, there were neighbors that expressed concerns about his plans for his property. He stated that the neighbors expressed concerns about possible noise and traffic at the location. He stated that he doesn't take the concerns of his future neighbors lightly. Mr. Prokhnevskiy stated that he had adjusted his plans to try to mitigate the issues of concern for his neighbors. He stated that he plans to reduce the event size for the venue from 200 guests to 150 guests and is considering sound-proof material on the walls to keep noise inside. He stated that he has situated the event venue further back on the property to create space from the neighboring homes. He stated that the plan is to be proactive in addressing anything that would create an unsafe environment. Mr. Victor Prokhnevskiy addressed the roads leading to his property and stated that the unpaved road would only be used in case of an emergency. He also stated that they plan to work around the active hours at the church located in the vicinity of his property.

Mayor Willis asked if anyone else had any questions for Mr. Victor Prokhnevskiy. There weren't any additional questions. Mayor Willis asked if there was anyone else in attendance that wanted to speak in favor or in opposition to the rezoning request.

Public Comments in Opposition to the Rezoning

Mr. Joe Barnhill, Sr. of Oakwood Drive in Laurinburg, NC, wanted to speak before the Council. He stated that there was a larger group of people that were opposed to the rezoning that did not come to the Council meeting tonight. He stated that he is opposed to the rezoning due to noise and traffic that may be created by the venue. Mr. Barnhill stated that he is also concerned about security and the consumption of beer and wine at the venue. He stated that the entrance at Scotia Village would have congested traffic with the addition of the venue.

Mr. Allen Johnson, the Executive Director of Scotia Village, of Elm Avenue in Laurinburg, NC, wanted to speak before the Council. Mr. Johnson stated that he isn't really sure if he is for or against the rezoning request. He stated that they have the same concerns as Mr. Barnhill with traffic and noise. Mr. Johnson stated that they are also concerned about people attending events at the venue wandering around on Scotia Village property. He also stated that they are concerned about what other uses R-20 would allow if the owner did

not put the wedding venue on the parcel. Mr. McInnis advised Mr. Johnson that a Special Use Permit would be required for most things that are not normally permitted in a residential zone if the venue is not built on the parcel. It was discussed that the difference between R-15 and R-20 is the residential lot size. A conversation ensued about the zoning of the surrounding property. Mr. McInnis advised that there are multiple properties already zoned R-20 in the area of the parcel.

Mayor Willis asked if there were any additional questions or comments from the Council. There weren't any additional questions or comments. Mayor Willis closed the public hearing.

Councilmember Evans motioned to approve Ordinance No. O-2024-27 rezoning from Residential-15 to Residential-20 the property located on Elm Avenue and identified as Scotland County Parcel Number 01021001008 because it advances the public health, safety and welfare, and based upon the following:

The rezoning of Scotland County Land Parcel number 01021001008 from Residential-15 to Residential-20 is consistent with an adopted comprehensive plan and any other officially adopted plan that is applicable because:

- 1) The R-20 zoning district is established to accommodate low density residential uses, agriculture lands, and woodlands within the city's planning jurisdiction. This district allows uses that would not be appropriate in more intensely developed residential zones.
- 2) The area along Elm Avenue is being used largely for Residential/Agricultural development.
- 3) This parcel is an area containing some single family residential development, some Office Institutional zoning, and an abundance of agricultural uses.

And it is reasonable because of the following:

- 1) The rezoning to R-20 will allow uses consistent with other existing area uses.
- 2) Rezoning to R-20 will help to maintain the present character of the City while promoting diversity and future growth;
- 3) The rezoning to R-20 will have no detrimental impact to the property values of surrounding land owners and;
- 4) The rezoning to R-20 will require no infrastructure improvements by the City of Laurinburg

Councilmember Rogers moved to second the motion and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Evans, Rogers, Adams, Rainer, Williamson

Nays: None

(Copy of Ordinance No. O-2024-27 on file in the clerk's office)

A conversation ensued among the Council about the permitted uses if the parcel is approved for Bona Fide Farm certification. Mr. McInnis advised the Council that the owner would not have to come back before the Council for any alternate use if the use was allowed with the Bona Fide Farm certification. Mr. McInnis advised the Council that there is already a parcel in the area that has Bona Fide Farm certification.

- b. Consider a request to rezone Parcel ID #'s 01006101026 and 01006101027 on Kinlaw Drive from Residential-6 to Office/Institutional, and Parcel ID's 01006101028, 01006101029, 01006101030, and 01006201009 on Kinlaw Drive from Residential-15 to Office/Institutional.

Mayor Willis opened the public hearing to consider a request to rezone property located on Kinlaw Drive identified as Parcel ID #'s 01006101026 and 01006101027 from Residential-6 to Office/Institutional and Parcel ID #'s 01006101028, 01006101029, 01006101030 and 01006201009 from R-15 to Office/Institutional. He asked Mr. Mac McInnis to explain the request for rezoning.

Mr. Mac McInnis stated that Another Chance Missionary Baptist Church owns 6 parcels on Kinlaw Drive. He stated that 2 of those parcels are zoned R-6 and 4 of those parcels are zoned R-15. He stated that the church would like to rezone all 6 lots to Office/Institutional to allow them to build a church. He stated that if the rezoning is granted, the plan is to combine all the parcels into 1 parcel. Mr. McInnis stated that the rezoning request went to the Planning Board on July 9, 2024, with a unanimous vote to recommend approving the request. A conversation ensued about the location of the parcels. Mr. McInnis referenced a map given to the Councilmembers that showed the location of the lots.

Mayor Willis asked if there was anyone in attendance that wanted to speak in favor of the request.

Public Comments in Favor of the Rezoning

Pastor James McKinnon with Another Chance Missionary Baptist Church in

Laurinburg, NC, and Mrs. Jacqueline Carrion wanted to speak before the Council. Mrs. Carrion stated that the goal of Another Chance Missionary Baptist Church is to establish a Baptist denomination church that will serve the spiritual needs of the community. She stated that establishing a church is not possible on the parcels with the current R-6 and R-15 zoning. She stated that rezoning to O/I is appropriate because of the benefits that their organization will give to the community. Mrs. Carrion stated that they are committed to ensuring that their presence enhances the community and respects the character of the neighborhood.

Pastor George Ellis, of the Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Laurinburg, NC, wanted to speak before the Council. Mr. Ellis stated that he is proud to stand with Pastor McKinnon because he sees his heart and feels his passion for what he is doing in the community. He feels that Pastor McKinnon would be a positive asset to that particular part of Scotland County. He thinks that the church could transform what could be negative in the area to a positive. He stated that he believes in Pastor McKinnon's vision and ministry. He stated that he knows that they will have a positive impact on the community.

Mayor Willis asked if there was anyone in attendance that wanted to speak against the rezoning. There wasn't anyone in attendance that wanted to speak in opposition to the rezoning request.

Councilmember Rainer motioned to approve Ordinance No. O-2024-28 rezoning two parcels from Residential-6 and four parcels from Residential-15 to Office Institutional, the property located on Kinlaw Drive and identified as Scotland County Parcel Number 01006101026, 01006101027, 01006101028, 01006101029, 01006101030 and 01006201009 because it advances the public health, safety, and welfare, and based upon the following: The rezoning of Scotland County Land Parcel Number 01006101026 and 01006101027 (R6) from Residential-6 and Parcels 01006101028, 01006101029, 01006101030, & 01006201009 (R-15) Residential-15 to Office Institutional is consistent with an adopted comprehensive plan and any other officially adopted plan that is applicable because:

- 1) The Office and Institutional district is established to encourage land uses which serve as an adequate buffer between intensive non-residential uses and residential uses; provide aesthetic controls and dimensional requirements to ensure compatible office and service development with surrounding residential uses; and encourage a mixture of medium density residential uses with offices and services.
- 2) The Comprehensive Use Plan 2035 Future Land Use Map indicates the development of Institutional uses in the area, where this parcel is located.

- 3) There is already an Office and Institutional presence along with the Residential uses in the area. The rezoning of this parcel will allow residential as well as office and service uses on the property as a permitted use.

And it is reasonable because of the following:

- 1) The rezoning to OI will allow uses consistent with other existing uses.
- 2) Rezoning to OI will help to maintain the present character of the City of Laurinburg while promoting diversity and future growth.
- 3) The rezoning to OI will have no detrimental impact to the property values of surrounding land owners and;
- 4) The rezoning to OI will require no infrastructure improvements by the City of Laurinburg

Councilmember Evans moved to second the motion, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes - Rainer, Evans, Adams, Rogers, Williamson

Nays - None

(Copy of Ordinance No. O-2024-28 on file in the clerk's office)

- c. Consider a request for a Special Use Permit on Parcel ID # 04019808007 on Barnes Bridge Road for a church.

Mayor Willis opened the public hearing to consider a request for a Special Use Permit on Parcel ID # 01019808007 on Barnes Bridge Road for a church. The City Attorney advised the Council that this matter was a quasi-judicial hearing, and he provided information concerning the quasi-judicial hearing process. He advised that the Special Use Permit request is because the parcel is in a zoning district that is not zoned Office/Institutional, which would allow for the church to be established without a Special Use Permit. He stated that there is not a rezoning request to rezone the parcel, and the party has submitted a Special Use Permit request instead. Mayor Willis asked Mr. Mac McInnis to explain the request for the Special Use Permit.

Mr. Mac McInnis was sworn in by the City Clerk. Mr. McInnis stated that Refuge of Deliverance Worldwide Ministry owns a 6.6 acre parcel on Barnes Bridge Road. He stated that Pastor Daniel White made the request for a Special Use Permit because his church would like to develop a new church. He stated that the parcel is zoned R-20, which allows a church with a Special Use Permit. Mr. McInnis stated that if the City Council grants the Special Use Permit, Mr. White will have to submit an engineering site plan to the City to be

reviewed to ensure that it is in compliance with the UDO. He stated that the Special Use Permit went before the Planning Board on July 9, 2024, with a vote of 4 to 2 to recommend the approval of the request. He stated that the 2 opposing votes were given because the members of the Planning Board had questions and Mr. White was not in attendance to answer the questions. A conversation ensued about the location of the parcel.

Mayor Willis asked if there was anyone in attendance that wanted to speak in favor of the Special Use Permit request.

Public Comments in Favor of the Special Use Permit

Mr. Jeremy Baker, of the Refuge of Deliverance, was sworn in by the City Clerk. Mr. Baker stated that he was there to speak in Apostle White's absence because he was sick. He stated that Refuge of Deliverance Ministry served for 15 years in Laurinburg prior to moving to South Carolina. Mr. Baker stated that they have been in South Carolina for about 7 years and are now trying to transition back to Laurinburg. He stated they bought this parcel a little over 8 years ago, to build their church but had to go before the Planning Board before they could build. Mr. Baker addressed some of the questions that were asked during the Planning Board hearing to include noise and traffic. He stated that they would be far off of the road and would have walls that would contain the sound. He stated that the church is just trying to get back to Scotland County where it was born. He stated that the church owns about 30 acres where the parcel is located. Mr. Baker stated that they want a ministry where all denominations and races can come and fellowship with the church. He stated that they plan to have the church 5-6 acres from the road. The City Manager explained that the church owns the 18 acres behind the parcel. Mr. Baker stated that there is one house that sits next to it, but the homeowner didn't seem to have an issue with it.

Mayor Willis asked if there was anyone else in attendance that wanted to speak in favor or in opposition of the Special Use Permit request. There wasn't anyone else in attendance that wanted to speak in favor or in opposition of the request. Mayor Willis closed the public hearing.

Councilmember Evans motioned to approve the request for a Special Use Permit on Parcel ID # 04019808007 on Barnes Bridge Road for a church because of the following:

- 1) The development is within the planning jurisdiction of the City AND
- 2) The application is complete AND
- 3) 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 Rainer moved to second, and the vote was unanimous.

7. CITY MANAGER REPORTS

- a. Consider amendments to the Water & Sewer Capital Projects Ordinance for the McColl Road Water Line Replacement project, the Raw Water System Expansion project, and the Leith Creek WWTP Renovations project.

The City Manager stated that this item is a budget amendment for \$20 million in funding received from the State Appropriations Act. He stated that the State had implemented a 3% administration fee that they were going to hold. He stated that the State has reduced the administration fee from 3% down to 1.5%, resulting in additional funding being available to the City for these projects. He explained that the additional funding for the projects would include \$37,500.00 to the McColl Road Water Line Replacement Project, \$112,500.00 to the Raw Water System Expansion Project and \$150,000.00 to the Leith Creek WWTP Renovations Project.

Councilmember Adams motioned to approve Ordinance O-2024-29 to increase the funding to be received for the McColl Road Water Line Replacement Project by \$37,500.00, Ordinance No. O-2024-30 to increase the funding to be received for the Raw Water System Expansion Project by \$112,500.00 and Ordinance No. O-2024-31 to increase the funding to be received for the Leith Creek WWTP Renovations Project by \$150,000.00. Councilmember Williamson moved to second the motion, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes - Adams, Williamson, Evans, Rainer, Rogers

Nays - None

(Copy of Ordinance No. O-2024-29, O-2024-30 and O-2024-31 are on file in the clerk's office)

b. Update on Pump Station Renovations Project - Willis Engineers.

The City Manager stated that Mr. Chuck Willis is in attendance to give an update on the Pump Station Renovations Project.

Mr. Chuck Willis stated that the Pump Station Renovation Project was paired up with the Water Tank Renovation Project. He stated that bids have been taken for the Water Tank Renovations Project and the contracts have been awarded already. He stated that the project was under budget and there would be a surplus of funds. Mr. Willis stated that there have been advertisements and attempts to take bids on the Pump Station Renovations Project. He stated that 11 Pump Station Renovations were advertised, and they could not get any contractors interested in that project. He stated that the larger contractors told him that they were too busy, and the smaller contractors said that the project was too big. Mr. Willis stated that they split the contract into pieces. He stated that the next item on the agenda is requesting the Council to award the 3 contracts to 3 smaller contractors. Mr. Willis stated that the contracts are separated by the types of pump stations. A conversation ensued about the water tanks included in the tank renovation projects.

c. Consider bids and award contracts for the Pump Station Renovations Project.

The City Manager stated that this item combined all 3 of the bids for the 3 contracts that were a result of the Water & Sewer Capital Projects being broken down into 3 parts. He stated that with 2 of the 3 projects, the required 3 bids were obtained. He stated that 1 of the projects did not receive the required 3 bids, so they had to re-bid on the project. The City Manager stated that the 3 bids received for the 3 projects were solid and consistent, so the Council is being asked to award all 3 of the bids to the contractors. He stated that these are state ARP Grant funded projects.

Councilmember Evans motioned to approve Resolution R-2024-18 to award the bids for the Pump Station Renovations Project, Project Number SRP-WARP-0169, to A.C. Schultes of Carolina, Inc. in the total bid amount of \$1,743,806.00, S & L Contracting, LLC in the total bid amount of \$1,084,339.71, and Step Construction, Inc. in the total bid amount of \$1,625,000.00. Councilmember Rainer moved to second the motion, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes - Evans, Rainer, Adams, Rogers, Williamson

Nays - None

(Copy of Resolution No. R-2024-18 on file in the clerk's office)

The City Manager recognized the legislators at the state level, Senator Britt and Representative Pierce, for helping the City of Laurinburg obtain the much needed funding to relieve the rate payers from having to absorb all the cost of the needed projects.

d. Consider the revised City Council Regular Meeting schedule.

The City Manager stated that the purpose of this item is to ask the City Council to consider revising the City Council Regular Meeting schedule for the month of October. He stated that the City Clerk and Deputy Clerk would be attending their final week of the Clerk Certification Institute in October during the week of the scheduled City Council Regular Meeting. He stated that the request is to amend the October regular meeting date from October 22, 2024, to October 15, 2024, to ensure the clerks can be in attendance.

Councilmember Williamson motioned to approve the revised City Council Regular Meeting schedule. Councilmember Adams moved to second, and the vote was unanimous.

The City Manager advised the Council that Terracon will be in town at McDuffie Square on Wednesday, August 21, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. to answer questions and assist with information regarding Brownfields Grant Funding. The City Manager also discussed the new Hobby Lobby opening in Laurinburg.

8. COMMENTS FROM MAYOR AND/OR COUNCILMEMBERS

Councilmember Adams stated that the Laurinburg-Maxton Airport is partnering with Parks & Rec on November 16, 2024, to have an event with food trucks, kids' activities, and an outdoor screening of the movie Top Gun: Maverick for both the public and the aviation community. She also advised the Council that the Lumber River Council of Governments would have a "Lunch & Learn" educational event on September 12, 2024. Councilmember Adams also stated that the LRCOG will have a Southeast Economic Update presentation given by Dr. Laura Ullrich September 26, 2024. Councilmember Adams discussed other events that the LRCOG is working on, which include a job fair and a benefits survey for municipalities.

A conversation ensued about the need to vote on the rezoning requests based on the actual rezoning request itself and not the proposed use of the parcel or parcels. Councilmember Adams explained that her vote on the rezoning request for Elm Ave was based on the fact that properties surrounding the parcel were already zoned R-20 and not because of the potential use of the parcel. The Council discussed the challenges that are faced trying to make decisions based on the actual rezoning request versus the potential use of the parcels.

A conversation ensued about the Southeast Regional Crescent and a grant that the Laurinburg-Maxton Airport received from the program.

9. CLOSED SESSION

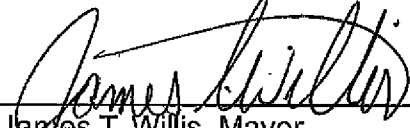
Councilmember Adams moved to go into closed session at 7:34 p.m. pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6) to discuss personnel. Councilmember Rogers moved to second the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Councilmember Adams moved to adjourn the closed session at 7:42 p.m. and return to the open meeting. Councilmember Evans moved to second the motion and the vote was unanimous.

10. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.


James T. Willis, Mayor


Harold W. Haywood, City Clerk

