

**CITY OF LAURINBURG  
COUNCIL MEETING  
APRIL 18, 2006  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
7:00 P.M.**

**Minutes**

The City Council of the City of Laurinburg held its regular monthly meeting April 18, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the council room of the Municipal Building with the Honorable Ann B. Slaughter, Mayor, presiding. The following Councilmembers were present: Rembert DeBerry, Lisa D. Griswold, Curtis B. Leak, Herbert M. Rainer, Jr. and Thomas W. Parker, III.

Also present were: Craig F. Honeycutt, City Manager, Dolores A. Hammond, City Clerk, and Charles L. Hicks, Jr., Assistant City Attorney.

Councilmember DeBerry gave the invocation.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by Councilmember Griswold, seconded by Councilmember Leak, and unanimously carried to approve the proposed minutes of the regular meeting held March 21, 2006.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON A REQUEST FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO CONVERT THE FORMER CENTRAL SCHOOL TO APARTMENTS**

Mayor Slaughter explained that Mr. Scott Redinger on behalf of Opportunities, Inc. is requesting a conditional use permit to allow the conversion of Central School to an elderly apartment complex. The Laurinburg Planning Board heard this request at its regular meeting held March 14, 2006 and recommends approval of the request.

Mr. Bill Peele, City Planner and Zoning Officer, being duly sworn, appeared before Council and explained that Mr. Scott A. Redinger representing Opportunities, Inc. has requested that a conditional use permit be granted for the conversion of the former Central School property, located at 305 McRae Street into a 31 unite apartment complex for senior citizens. The development plan was reviewed by the City's Planning staff with the findings being:

- Central School apartments are located with the planning jurisdiction of the City of Laurinburg.
- The application submitted for the development of this proposal is complete.
- The development described in the application is in substantial compliance with the regulatory provisions of the Unified Development Ordinance.

The City of Laurinburg Planning Board considered this request at its March 14, 2006 meeting and unanimously concur with the findings of the Planning staff. It is Planning Board's recommendation that a conditional use permit be granted in this matter.

Mrs. Nancy Walker, Executive Director of the Laurinburg Housing Authority, being duly affirmed, appeared before Council and explained that the conversion of the former Central School into an apartment complex will be good for the community and will be a sustainable project over the years.

Mr. Leon Butler, being duly sworn, appeared before Council and stated that the use of the school for apartments was the greatest thing to happen to the neighborhood. He also expressed concern about the trash in the neighborhood that the City needed to clean up.

There was no one present to speak in opposition to the request.

Motion was made by Councilmember Griswold, seconded by Councilmember Parker, and unanimously carried to approve a conditional use permit to convert the former Central School to apartments.

## **PUBLIC HEARING ON A REQUEST FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT A 56-UNIT APARTMENT COMPLEX**

Mayor Slaughter explained that Mr. Brad Parker of Greenway Development Company is requesting a conditional use permit to construct a 56-unit apartment complex on Plaza Road. The Laurinburg Planning Board heard this request at its regular meeting held March 14, 2006 and recommends approval of the request.

Mr. Bill Peele, City Planner and Zoning Officer, being duly sworn, appeared before Council and explained that Mr. Brad Parker of Greenway Development Company has requested that a conditional use permit be granted for the development of "Cambridge Crossing", a 56-unit apartment complex to be located on a 5.4-acre site on Plaza Road. The development plan was reviewed by the City's Planning staff with the findings being:

- The location of "Cambridge Crossing" is within the planning jurisdiction of the City of Laurinburg
- The application submitted by Greenway Development Company is complete.
- The proposed development described in the application is in substantial compliance with the regulatory provisions of the Unified Development Ordinance.

The City of Laurinburg Planning Board considered this request at its March 14, 2006 meeting and unanimously concurred with the findings of the Planning staff. It is the Planning Board's recommendation that a conditional use permit be granted in this matter.

Mr. Michael McGirt of Wampler Engineering, Inc., being duly sworn, appeared before Council and stated that Wampler Engineering had prepared the preliminary site plan for the proposed project. He stated that the plan meets all of the City's requirements.

There was no one present to speak in opposition to the request.

Councilmember Parker stated that he has a financial interest in the request for a conditional use permit to construct apartments on McColl Road (the next item on the agenda) in that he is the owner of the property in question and that the request for a conditional use permit regarding the Plaza Road request could have a bearing on the McColl Road request because of competitiveness in the financing of the projects and requested to be excused from voting on both issues.

Motion was made by Councilmember Griswold, seconded by Councilmember Leak, and unanimously carried to allow Councilmember Parker to be excused from voting on the Plaza Road request and the McColl Road request.

Motion was made by Councilmember Griswold, seconded by Councilmember Leak, and unanimously carried to grant a conditional use permit to construct a 56-unit apartment complex on Plaza Road. Councilmember Parker did not vote on the motion inasmuch as he had been excused.

## **PUBLIC HEARING ON A REQUEST FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT A 40-UNIT APARTMENT COMPLEX**

Mayor Slaughter explained that Ms. Holly Smith of Caiseal Development is requesting a conditional use permit to construct a 40-unit apartment complex located on McColl Road. The Laurinburg Planning Board heard this request at its regular meeting held March 14, 2006 and recommends approval of this request.

Mr. Bill Peele, City Planner and Zoning Officer, being duly sworn, appeared before Council and explained that Ms. Holly L. Smith, a managing member of Caiseal Development, has requested that a conditional use permit be granted for the development of Parke Place, a 40 unit multi-family apartment complex. The 4.6-acre tract is located on the rear

portion of the “old Flamingo Drive-in” site off McColl Road. The development plan was reviewed by the City’s Planning staff with the findings being:

- The location of the proposed development is within the planning jurisdiction of the City of Laurinburg.
- The application submitted by Caisel Development is complete.
- The proposed development described in the application is in substantial compliance with the regulatory provisions of the Unified Development Ordinance.

The City of Laurinburg Planning Board considered this request at its March 14, 2006 meeting and unanimously concurred with the findings of the Planning staff. It is the Planning Board’s recommendation that a conditional use permit be granted in this matter.

Ms. Holly Smith of Caisel Development, being duly sworn, appeared before Council and explained that the proposed complex consisted of one, two, and three-bedroom apartments with site amenities for the residents.

Mr. Michael McGirt of Wampler Engineering, Inc., being duly sworn, appeared before Council and stated that Wampler Engineering had prepared the preliminary site plan for the proposed project. He stated that the plan meets all of the City’s requirements.

Motion was made by Councilmember Griswold, seconded by Councilmember Rainer, and unanimously carried to grant a conditional use permit to construct a 40-unit apartment complex on McColl Road. Councilmember Parker did not vote on the motion inasmuch as he had been excused.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING ON A REQUEST FOR AN AMENDMENT TO A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO OPERATE A CHILDREN’S DAYCARE FACILITY**

Mayor Slaughter explained that Mr. Darwin Williams is requesting an amendment to a conditional use permit to operate a children’s daycare facility at 707 West Allen Lane. Mr. Williams was granted a conditional use permit in June 2005 to operate a children’s daycare facility for eight children. Mr. Williams is requesting an amendment to that conditional use permit to allow the facility to accommodate fifteen children. The Laurinburg Planning Board heard this request at its regular meeting held March 14, 2006 and recommends approval of the request.

Mr. Bill Peele, City Planner and Zoning Officer, being duly sworn, appeared before City Council and explained that Mr. and Mrs. Darwin Williams have requested that a conditional use permit granted on June 21, 2005 for the operation of a children’s day care center at 707 West Allen Lane be amended. The proposed amendment would increase the maximum number of children at the facility from 8 to 15 per shift. This application was reviewed by the City’s Planning staff with the findings being:

- The location of the proposed day care facility at 707 West Allen Lane is within the planning jurisdiction of the City of Laurinburg.
- The application submitted is complete.
- The proposed facility described in the application is in substantial compliance with the regulatory provisions of the Unified Development Ordinance.

The City of Laurinburg Planning Board considered this request at its March 14, 2006 meeting and unanimously concurred with the findings of the Planning staff. It is Planning Board’s recommendation that a conditional use permit be granted in this matter.

Mr. Darwin Williams, being duly sworn, appeared before City Council and explained that he and his wife are requesting the amendment to the conditional use permit issued last year because he and his wife did not fully understand the terminology at that time and had made an error in their previous request. He stated the amended request increased the maximum number of children from eight to fifteen.

There was no one present to speak in opposition to this request.

Motion was made by Councilmember Parker, seconded by Councilmember Griswold, and unanimously carried to grant an amendment to the conditional use permit issued for a children's daycare facility at 707 West Allen Lane to increase the maximum number of children from eight to fifteen.

## **PUBLIC HEARING ON FY 2005 CDBG ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AMENDMENT TO KORDSA GRANT**

Mayor Slaughter explained that this public hearing is being held in accordance with Section .1002 of Subchapter 19L of the North Carolina Community Development Block Grant Program. A public hearing was held previously regarding the 2005 CDBG Economic Development Grant. Since that public hearing, the monies for the CDBG grant have changed, and the State requires a public hearing if any line item in the project budgeted is to be changed more than ten-percent.

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

Motion was made by Councilmember Griswold, seconded by Councilmember Leak, and unanimously carried to grant an amendment to the FY 2005 CDBG Economic Development Kordsa Grant in accord with the changes requested.

## **DELEGATIONS**

### ***Dr. John Deegan, Jr., President, St. Andrews Presbyterian College***

Dr. John Deegan appeared before Council to express his concern about the intersection of Lauchwood Drive and Dogwood Mile. He stated that he felt this intersection presents an unacceptable risk to pedestrian and vehicular traffic. He further stated that the NC Department of Transportation (DOT) is planning to make improvements to Lauchwood Drive including widening the road and making a turning lane. He stated that he would like to see the College, the City and the DOT work together to find a solution. He explained one suggestion would be to move the college entrance from Lauchwood Drive onto South Main Street across from Mi Casita restaurant, making it a right in, right out turn from South Main Street.

Upon question by Councilmember Griswold as to whether this change would make Dogwood Mile a private road, Dr. Deegan stated that the college would be open to any possibility.

A discussion ensued concerning safety for the wheelchair students. Dr. Deegan explained that the major concern is the confluence of traffic from Holly Square, Lauchwood Drive, Dogwood Mile, Wachovia Bank and South Main Street in conjunction with a lack of light-controlled access points for pedestrians and wheel-chair bound individuals to cross Lauchwood Drive.

The City Manager explained that the City and DOT are working on a sidewalk plan for Lauchwood Mile that controlled access for pedestrians and wheel-chair bound individuals have been discussed and that the sidewalk plan has been prepared.

Dr. Deegan stated he had scheduled a meeting with a high-ranking official from DOT for the following day.

Following further discussion, it was consensus of Council that the City work together with the college and DOT to help address the issues raised.

### ***Doris Douglas, Scotland Community Free Health Clinic***

Mrs. Doris Douglas of the Scotland Community Free Health Clinic appeared before Council and explained that the Free Health Clinic had been created to provide health care for approximately 5,000 to 6,000 Scotland County residents who do not have health insurance. She further explained that the Clinic applied for 501-3(C) status in July 2005; however, because of the great number of applicants who filed for non-profit status in order to be able to assist victims of Hurricane Katrina, the Free Clinic's application had not been a priority. Because funds are getting low, the Free

Clinic is requesting that Council waive the water and sewer tap fees.

Upon question by Councilmember Leak, the City Manager stated that the City has not performed any in-kind service for any non-profit.

Councilmembers Parker and Griswold expressed their feeling that, although they were sympathetic to the request, Council's policy is not to provide funding or assistance to non-profit groups.

Following further discussion, it was consensus of Council that the City Manager will research possible ways for the City to assist the Free Health Clinic and present the information to Council at the next meeting.

### ***Tom King, NC Dept. of Commerce - Scotland County Parks and Recreation Master Plan***

Mr. Tom King, Senior Planner with the NC Department of Commerce, appeared before Council to provide an update on the Scotland County Parks and Recreation Master Plan. He explained the history of the Master Plan as well as the priority of proposed items in the Master Plan. He requested a letter of support endorsing the Master Plan.

Motion was made by Councilmember Griswold, seconded by Councilmember Parker, and unanimously carried for the City Manager to write a letter of support to the Scotland County Board of Commissioners endorsing the Scotland County Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

### **ADOPT-A-STREET/ADOPT-A-SPOT CERTIFICATES**

Mayor Slaughter explained that there are 42 volunteer groups who pick up litter in our community. She presented certificates and City pins to the following leaders of the Adopt-A-Street/Adopt-A-Spot groups who were present:

Laurinburg Fire Department Explorer Post 440  
Laurinburg Police Department Explorer Post 400  
Hunter's Chapel AME Church  
Camellia Acres Residents  
Rembert DeBerry  
Laurinburg Presbyterian Youth Connection  
Sandhills Junior Bassers  
Trinity Presbyterian Church  
East Laurinburg Church of God Pioneers for Christ  
The Tessman Family  
Edward Tessman

### **LITTER SWEEP DAY**

Mayor Slaughter declared Saturday, April 29, 2006 as Litter Sweep Day in Laurinburg.

### **ARBOR DAY PROCLAMATION**

Mayor Slaughter explained that the City earned its 27<sup>th</sup> consecutive Tree City Award this year and that this proclamation recognizes Arbor Day in the City, which will be held Friday, April 28, 2006. There will be a celebration at 10:00 a.m. at the James Lot downtown.

### **LEARNING ORGANIZATION**

Mayor Slaughter explained that several employees have completed a Learning Organization class. She presented certificates to Craig Honeycutt, Brandi Cutler, Ronnie Ivey, Victor Torres, and Dorothy Eaton. The following completed the course but were not present at the Council meeting: Tammy Little, Eric Deese, John Terry, Greg

Woodard, Jason Lighthall, Cale Pevey, Tim Maynor, Mitchell Atkins, Doug Whitt, Kris Singletary, Cliff Sessoms, and David Clark.

## **CODE OF ETHICS FOR CITY COUNCIL**

The City Manager explained that at the Council retreat on March 24, the City Council instructed the City Manager to look at a proposed Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct for the City Council. He further explained that a first draft of the document is included in Council's agenda. He recommended a workshop be scheduled to review the entire document thoroughly.

Councilmember Leak suggested that a facilitator from the Institute of Government might be useful for the discussion on a code of ethics.

Upon question by Councilmember Griswold, the City Manager explained that the Institute does not have much information on a code of ethics for a City Council. He further explained that the information for the draft code he had prepared had come from a county in Virginia and a city in California. He added that most codes of ethics are created for business and not for governing bodies.

Following discussion, motion was made by Councilmember Parker, seconded by Councilmember Griswold, and unanimously carried for Council to study the proposed Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct, decide if a facilitator is necessary, and discuss the document at a later date.

## **ORDINANCE DIRECTING THE HOUSING INSPECTOR TO REPAIR OR DEMOLISH PROPERTY**

The City Manager explained that complaints were received from area residents and property owners concerning a dilapidated structure located at 1512 Chestnut Street. Attempts were made to notify the property owner of these concerns and no corrective action was taken. Condemnation proceedings were initiated requiring the dwelling be secured, repaired or demolished no later than March 19, 2006. No action was taken by the owner in response to the notice. The next step is for the City to condemn and demolish the structure.

Councilmember Griswold moved for the adoption of Ordinance O-2006-03 which directs the housing inspector to repair or demolish property located at 1512 Chestnut Street. Councilmember Leak seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Parker, Griswold, DeBerry, Rainer, Leak

Nays: None

(Ordinance No. O-2006-03 on file in the City Clerk's Office)

## **ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE LAURINBURG CODE OF ORDINANCES ARTICLE IV, SECTION 16-107 POST TOWING NOTICE REQUIREMENTS AND SECTION 16-109 REDEMPTION OF VEHICLE DURING PROCEEDINGS**

The City Manager explained that due to changes regarding individual privacy, the Police Department could no longer run license tags and VIN's for the Planning Department. Therefore, when dealing with possible junk, abandoned or nuisance vehicles, the Planning Department has no way of determining the owner of a vehicle without incurring expenses by contracting with a third party vendor.

Staff recommendation is, in order to continue dealing with junk vehicles, to change the ordinance so that the owner of the vehicle does not have to be notified if ownership is not readily obtainable. The ordinance provides that if ownership is not easily obtainable, then the "person entitled to possession" will be notified. This would include the real property owner and/or tenant of the property where the vehicle is located. The City Attorney, Mr. Gordon, has approved these changes.

Councilmember Parker moved for the adoption of Ordinance O-2006-04 which amends Article IV, Section 16-107, Post-towing notice requirements and Section 1-109, Redemption of vehicle during proceedings of Chapter 16 of the

Code of Ordinances for the City of Laurinburg. Councilmember Griswold seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Parker, Griswold, DeBerry, Rainer, Leak

Nays: None

(Ordinance No. O-2006-04 on file in the City Clerk's Office)

### **REQUEST TO REZONE FROM RESIDENTIAL-15 TO GENERAL BUSINESS PROPERTY LOCATED AT WEST BOULEVARD AND US 401 BYPASS**

The City Manager explained that Mr. Joe Mendola on behalf of Tri-Cities, Inc. is requesting that an 11.5-acre tract located at the corner of West Boulevard and US 401 Bypass be rezoned from Residential-15 to General Business. The Laurinburg Planning Board heard this request at its regular meeting held April 11, 2006 and recommends denying the request by a 5-2 vote. A public hearing can be set on Tuesday, May 16, 2006.

Upon question by Councilmember Leak, the Assistant City Attorney explained that at this time, Council could call for a public hearing or not call for a public hearing. If a public hearing is not called, then no action is taken on the rezoning request.

Councilmember Griswold expressed concern that in order to be fair to the citizens of Laurinburg, Council should give those in favor of the rezoning request as well as those opposed to the request an opportunity to be heard by Council.

Councilmember Parker explained that he concurred with Councilmember Griswold that Council should hear from citizens on both sides of this matter in order to make the appropriate decision.

Following further discussion, motion was made by Councilmember Leak and seconded by Councilmember Rainer to not call for a public hearing on the request to rezone from Residential-15 to General Business the property located at West Boulevard and US 401 Bypass. Councilmembers Leak and Rainer voted in favor of the motion, and Councilmembers Parker, Griswold, and DeBerry voted in opposition to the motion. Therefore, the motion failed by a 2-3 vote.

Motion was then made by Councilmember DeBerry and seconded by Councilmember Parker, to set a public hearing for Tuesday, May 16, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers of the Municipal Building to consider a request to rezone the property located at the corner of West Boulevard and US 401 By-Pass from Residential-15 to General Business. Councilmembers DeBerry, Parker, and Griswold voted in favor of the motion and Councilmembers Rainer and Leak voted in opposition to the motion. Therefore, the motion passed by a 3-2 vote.

### **REQUEST TO CLOSE AN ALLEY JOINING WILKINSON DRIVE AND AZURE COURT**

The City Manager explained that on March 7, 2006 a petition was received from Mr. Charles Brown of 612 Wilkinson Drive to close the alleyway joining Wilkinson Drive and Azure Court and running parallel between South King Street and Gilchrist Street. Mr. Brown feels the alley is no longer passable and closing it would give individual property owners the opportunity to maintain and use the alley.

The proposed Resolution of Intent calls for a public hearing to be held on Tuesday, June 20, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the upstairs council room of the Municipal Building. One of the requirements to close an alley or street is that notice of the closing is advertised four consecutive weeks in the local newspaper prior to the public hearing. In order to comply with this requirement, the public hearing is proposed to be held June 20<sup>th</sup>.

Motion was made by Councilmember Parker, seconded by Councilmember Griswold, and unanimously carried to approve Resolution No. R-2006-09 which sets a public hearing on a petition to close an alley joining Wilkinson Drive and Azure Court for Tuesday, June 20, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers of the Municipal Building.

**RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE CITY OF LAURINBURG PERSONNEL POLICY, ARTICLE IX, UNSATISFACTORY JOB PERFORMANCE AND DETRIMENTAL PERSONAL CONDUCT, SECTION 1 DISCIPLINARY ACTION FOR UNSATISFACTORY JOB PERFORMANCE AND SECTION 7, NON-DISCIPLINARY SUSPENSION**

The City Manager explained that during the past couple of years, the City has had two employees charged with felonies. Based upon the City's Personnel Policy, these employees were suspended without pay, but the City continued their benefits pending disposition of the charge against the employee. This proposed change will allow the City to determine how long an employee is allowed to remain on suspension.

Councilmember Rainer expressed concern with terminating an employee because an individual could ultimately be found innocent.

A discussion ensued concerning termination of an employee. The City Manager stated that the City would conduct an internal investigation and staff would use common sense in making a termination.

Following discussion, motion was made by Councilmember Parker, seconded by Councilmember Griswold, and unanimously carried to amend the City of Laurinburg Personnel Policy, Article IX, Unsatisfactory Job Performance and Detrimental Personal Conduct, Section 1 Disciplinary Action for Unsatisfactory Job Performance and Section 7, Non-Disciplinary Suspension as proposed.

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SALE OF LAND**

Mr. Luchus Ginyard has expressed an interest in purchasing property located on Cary Street in the Carolina Park area. Mr. Ginyard is planning to construct a house on the lot and move to Laurinburg from New Jersey. In accordance with City policy, the parcel has been appraised and Mr. Ginyard has paid the appraised value of \$1,500.00. The proposed resolution authorizes the sale of the lot on Cary Street and authorizes the execution of a deed for the property to the purchaser.

Upon questions by Councilmember Leak, Mr. Bill Peele, City Planner and Zoning Officer, explained that the lot was suitable for development. He further explained that when the CDBG program was administered through the Housing and Urban Development Department, land acquired could not be sold to a developer. However, since the State administers the CDBG program now, there is no such restriction. He concluded by stating that it was his understanding that Mr. Ginyard planned to build a house on the property and move into it.

Councilmember Parker moved for the adoption of Resolution No. R-2006-11 which approves the sale of Lot Pin ID 010013A17006 to Mr. Luchus Ginyard for the sum of \$1,500.00 and authorizes the execution of a deed for the property to the purchaser. Councilmember Griswold seconded the motion, and it was adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: Parker, Rainer, Griswold, Leak, DeBerry

Nays: None

(Resolution No. R-2006-11 on file in the City Clerk's Office)

**RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN ITEMS AS SURPLUS PROPERTY AND AUTHORIZES THE DEPOSITION**

The City Manager explained that the Water/Sewer Department of Public Works is requesting that a 1994 6-ton flat bed dump truck be declared surplus property. This truck is no longer needed by the City of Laurinburg. The replacement of this dump truck was approved in the F/Y 2005-2006 budget. Council approved the purchase of the dump truck at its November 2005 meeting.

Upon question by Councilmember Parker, the City Manager stated that the City will be accepting sealed bids for the dump truck. He added that he had recently received requests from East Laurinburg and from the Town of Gibson for

a dump truck.

Councilmember Parker moved for the adoption of Resolution No. R-2006-12 which declares the previously mentioned item to be surplus property and authorizes its disposition. Councilmember Griswold seconded the motion, and it was adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: Parker, Rainer, Griswold, Leak, DeBerry

Nays: None

(Resolution No. R-2006-12 on file in the City Clerk's Office)

### **LEASING OF PROPERTY LOCATED ON STEWARTSVILLE ROAD TO HARVEY EDGE FARMS**

The City Manager explained that on March 27, 2006 the City placed an ad in the Laurinburg Exchange to request bids for leasing the Harris Property for agricultural use. The City received one bid from Harvey Edge Farms for \$1,900.00 annually with the lease being for three years.

Councilmember Parker moved for the adoption of Resolution No. R-2006-13 which leases property located on Stewartsville Road to Harvey Edge Farms and directs the Mayor and City Clerk to execute appropriate lease document. Councilmember Griswold seconded the motion, and it was adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: Parker, Rainer, Griswold, Leak, DeBerry

Nays: None

(Resolution No. R-2006-13 on file in the City Clerk's Office)

### **SALARY OF MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS**

The City Manager explained that at the City Council retreat on March 24, the City Council instructed the City Manager to look at Council salaries and to look at proposed cost of living increases to the current rate which has been in effect for a number of years. Staff looked at an average of three-percent over the past ten years. If approved, this will instruct staff to budget these amounts for the City Council in the 2006-2007 budget.

Councilmember Leak explained that he appreciated staff's information concerning Council's and the Mayor's salaries. He stated that what he was looking for was a base salary of \$300.00 for Councilmembers and then beginning in 2007-2008 annual increases of three-percent.

Councilmember Parker explained that he does not serve the public for the salary. He stated that he would vote against an increase in pay.

Councilmember Griswold stated that she did not want to discuss any increase in pay.

Motion was made by Councilmember Leak and seconded by Councilmember Rainer to increase the Councilmembers' salaries to \$300.00 per month beginning in fiscal year 2006-2007 and increase it annually thereafter (each fiscal year) according to the cost of living increase given to City employees. Councilmembers Rainer, Leak, and DeBerry voted in favor of the motion and Councilmembers Parker and Griswold voted against the motion. Therefore, the motion passed by a vote of 3-2.

Motion was made by Councilmember Rainer and seconded by Councilmember Leak to increase the Mayor's salary to \$600.00 per month beginning in fiscal year 2006-2007 and increase it thereafter according to the cost of living increase given to City employees. Councilmembers Rainer, DeBerry, and Leak voted in favor of the motion and Councilmembers Parker and Griswold voted against the motion. Therefore, the motion passed by a vote of 3-2.

### **2006-2007 BUDGET WORKSHOP**

The City Manager explained that staff recommends that City Council have the first budget workshop on June 6, 2006

beginning at 7:00 p.m. with a Public Hearing on the 2006-2007 budget schedule for the regular council meeting on June 20, 2006.

Following discussion, it was consensus of Council to schedule a budget workshop on June 5, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

### **TREE TRIMMING PROGRAM**

Mr. Pete Morris, Beautification Director, appeared before Council and explained that effective May 1<sup>st</sup>, all City tree trimming will be done under his direction. He explained that currently the Beautification Department and the Electric Department both have crews pruning trees. Citizens have expressed concern about the pruning the Electric Department has done for the Electric Department. Mr. Morris added that he will take a look at taking down some trees around electric lines and planting more site appropriate trees such as a crepe myrtle. Mr. Morris also stated that he would try to do a better job of communicating with residents to ensure residents are aware of tree pruning efforts.

The City Manager thanked Mr. Morris, Harold Smith, Public Works Director, Ronald Pierce, Electric Superintendent, and Bill Riemer, Director of Administration and Development, for working together to find a solution

### **FIRE TAX**

The City Manager stated that he and Mr. Harold Smith, Interim Fire Chief, would be meeting with the Scotland County Fire Commission to discuss the inequitable distribution of the fire tax. He added that they would present a Powerpoint presentation with suggestions on how the City could be treated more equitably.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

There was no one present to speak during the Public Comment Period.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Councilmember DeBerry, seconded by Councilmember Griswold, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

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Ann B. Slaughter, Mayor

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Dolores A. Hammond, CMC, City Clerk