

**CITY OF LAURINBURG
CITY/COUNTY JANUARY 12, 2006
COUNCIL ROOM
303 WEST CHURCH ST.
LAURINBURG, NC
6:00 P.M.**

Minutes

The City Council of the City of Laurinburg and the Scotland County Commissioners held a joint meeting on January 12, 2006. The meeting was held in the upstairs council room of the Municipal Building beginning at 6:00 p.m. with the Honorable Ann B. Slaughter, Mayor, presiding. The following Councilmembers were present: Rembert DeBerry, Lisa D. Griswold, Curtis B. Leak, Thomas W. Parker, III, and Herbert M. Rainer, Jr.

Also present were: Craig F. Honeycutt, City Manager, Dolores A. Hammond, City Clerk, Finance Officer, Cindy Carpenter and Bob Bell, Human Resources Officer.

The following Scotland County Commissioners were present: Chairperson J. D. Willis, Vice Chairperson Betty B. Gholston, and Commissioners Charles "Scoofer" Jordan (left at 7:00 p.m.), John Alford, Joyce McDow, and Leon Butler. Commissioner Clarence McPhatter was absent.

Also present were: John A. Crumpton, County Manager and Kevin Patterson, Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager.

Mayor Slaughter called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Councilmember DeBerry gave the invocation.

Following dinner which began at 6:00 p.m., the County Manager stated that the Scotland County Commissioners had received a proposal by Waste Management Corporation to locate a regional landfill in Scotland County. He then stated that since receipt of the proposal by Waste Management, Republic Services and Waste Industries have also expressed an interest in submitting proposals to locate a regional landfill in our area. He explained that in fairness that the Commissioners will look at the proposals from the other companies as well as that from Waste Management. He also stated that the second reading of the Host/Franchise Agreement with Waste Management has been postponed.

Upon question by Councilmember Griswold, the County Manager stated that a site for the regional landfill has not been identified in either Scotland or Richmond County.

Councilmember Leak asked if the Lumber River Council of Government Groundwater Committee had been made aware of the proposals so that it might offer information as to how water in the County would be affected by such a landfill.

Chairperson Willis explained that at this time the LRCOG has not been brought into the discussions. He stated that questions and concerns have been asked of the State and that the State has assured the Commissioners that there is not a potential problem. He further stated that if the Board of Commissioners decides to go forward with the regional landfill that the Board will take everything into consideration and will bring the LRCOG into the discussions.

Councilmember Parker stated that the proposals should ensure that revenue generated, even twenty years from now, is proportionate. He also stated that the County should get the jobs that are promised.

Chairperson Willis explained that the Commissioners chose to postpone the second reading of the Host/Franchise Agreement because they are continuing negotiations so that everyone involved can live up to the contract.

Councilmember Parker stated that he felt that there is a lot of misinformation in the community and that, through the media, that the citizens need to understand the thoroughness that the Commissioners are going through. This will help make certain that citizens are informed about this project.

Chairperson Willis stated that the Commissioners are informing and will continue to inform the citizens of this project.

Commissioner Jordan stated that the Board is relying on the State of North Carolina and the Environment Protection Agency to assure everyone that lined landfills are good and safe. He then stated that the Board will continue to listen and ask questions before any decision is made.

Upon question by Councilmember Griswold, the County Manager explained that Waste Management had talked with other counties and other municipalities, but that the concentration is on Scotland County. He then explained that the permitting process required by the State is not an easy one and that it could take up to four to six years to accomplish.

Commissioner McDow stated that one of the concerns is what would happen when the landfill closes. She stated that the permittee would be required to take care and monitor the landfill. She then stated that a landfill in Bishopville was now a golf course.

Councilmember Parker suggested that Commissioners visit a retired landfill to see what the after affects might be.

Vice Chairperson Gholston stated that as Commissioners, they have done their homework and are still in the process of gathering information.

Chairperson Willis stated that if there is a decision made to have a landfill site in Scotland County, the County would want to get the most for the least amount of trash.

GIS/PLANNING ISSUES

The City Manager stated he and the County Manager had looked at areas where the city and county overlap in services and that GIS services was a good starting point. He then stated that combining this service would be a potential cost savings for the city and the county.

Following discussion regarding consolidating the GIS systems, there was a consensus of both Boards that staff begins working on the consolidation of the GIS services with the City as the lead entity.

The City Manager explained that there had been discussion between him and the County Manager regarding combining the planning departments, which would be a long range project at this point. The County Manager stated that one of the main reasons to consolidate these departments is that developers would only have to visit one location.

There was no further discussion on combining the planning departments.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Jim Frank Henderson, President, Laurinburg/Scotland County Chamber of Commerce, provided an update on industrial recruitment. He stated that the Development Zones for Scotland County have been approved by the North Carolina Department of Commerce.

He explained that there are projects that are still active and that he, the City Manager and the County Manager met with a client today. He then explained that there is a meeting next week with a client to discuss a potential automotive site.

Mr. Henderson then stated that the building inventory of sites in the County meeting the average needs of clients looking for a facility is depleted. He explained that most clients are now looking for a building with at least a 24-foot ceiling along with other features that are not found in those buildings presently available. He suggested that both

Boards consider the possibility of erecting a shell building to meet the needs of potential clients.

Chairperson Willis stated that such a building would keep Scotland County competitive because the existing vacant facilities do not meet the needs that most industries are looking for.

Mr. Henderson then stated that he and the County Manager had met with Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) representatives so that the County can be included in meetings. This is due to the proximity of Scotland County to Fort Bragg, NC.

He then informed both Boards that he had received information from the Mr. Masayoshi Masuda, President of MSD of North Carolina, Inc., concerning the closing of its Scotland County facility. Mr. Henderson then read the following statement from Mr. Masuda:

Earlier today we informed employees at our Laurel Hill, N.C., facility that MSD of North Carolina will discontinue manufacturing operations at this facility effective March 31.

After carefully weighing its overall strategic needs, the decision was taken by our parent company, MSD Co. Ltd., to consolidate work now being performed at Laurel Hill into an existing MSD facility located in closer proximity to suppliers.

We will be working closely with the N.C. Employment Security Commission to assist employees at the Laurel Hill facility in the transition.

Production work is expected to be phased out by the end of March. A small contingent of employees will remain through April to handle shipping of existing inventory.

On behalf of MSD Co. Ltd., I would like to express our deeply felt thanks and gratitude to the residents, community leaders, and public officials of Laurel Hill, Laurinburg, and Scotland County for the warm reception and friendly cooperation we have received since the opening of this facility in 2003.

Upon question by Mayor Slaughter, Mr. Henderson explained that whatever is in the Memorandum of Understanding between the governing body and the company regarding incentives is what the company must live up to.

He then informed both Boards that production remains solid at West Point Stevens. He explained that in its planning and customer service area, potentially 50-60 jobs would be consolidated somewhere in the United States. He stated that the new corporate name is West Point Home Furnishings.

He then stated that in November, the Laurinburg/Scotland County Board of Directors approved the Economic Incentive Policy that was presented by the City.

He then stated that under the umbrella of the Economic Development Industrial sector of the Chamber that the Board of Directors approved a committee to work on opportunities of economic development other than the traditional industrial development areas. He then said that Drew Williamson had been appointed Chairperson of this committee.

He also informed both Boards that Craig Honeycutt, City Manager, had been appointed to serve as Chairperson of the transportation committee of the Chamber.

BUXTON, INC.

The City Manager stated that he and Councilmember Leak had met a consultant from Buxton, Inc. at the National

League of Cities conference in Charlotte in December. He explained that this company specializes in retail recruitment to communities. He then explained that Buxton, Inc. attempts to match a community with retailers. He then stated that the cost is approximately \$43,000.00. He said that it is hoped that if the retail base is increased that it would increase the industrial base. He stated that a meeting has been scheduled for January 18, 2006 with Buxton, Inc., Laurinburg Downtown Revitalization Commission, and the Chamber. The County Manager would also attend this meeting. The City Manager then stated that he would like both Boards to consider this as a joint project and to share in the costs.

PEDESTRIAN LINK FROM THE INTERSECTION OF US 15/401 BY-PASS SOUTH AND WEST BOULEVARD TO THE SCOTLAND COUNTY COMPLEX

The City Manager explained that Councilmembers have expressed concern regarding the safety of pedestrians crossing the overpass bridge to the Scotland County Complex. He stated that by working with the County and the North Carolina Department of Transportation, something might be done to make it a safer route for citizens.

Mayor Slaughter stated that she believed a joint appeal would have more affect with the Department of Transportation.

Chairperson Willis stated that a joint resolution should be considered.

The County Manager stated that the Historic Properties Commission is asking that the speed limit be lowered from 45 mph to 35 mph and would also like a crosswalk at the John Blue House and the Museum because there is a lot of foot traffic between the two facilitates, particularly by children's groups. He explained this request could be added to the resolution.

SCOTLAND COUNTY RECREATION

The County Manager thanked the City for its assistance with the Recreation Complex. He stated that the County is working on the drainage system and the grading.

Councilmember Parker stated that during Council's workshop session, Council discussed the condition of City parks. He then stated that Council is asking for help in keeping the City parks in better condition.

Councilmember Griswold stated that there has been some discussion concerning the City parks with the County Manager and the Parks and Recreation Director.

The City Manager stated that work is in process with Senator Purcell regarding a \$40,000.00 grant with the NC Fit Fund which might be available in the future.

The County Manager stated that a spring clean up at all parks would be conducted and a safety check list developed.

Councilmember Rainer asked that the County provide the City with something in writing as to what work will be done in the City parks. He stated that by providing that information to the City that there might be some in-kind work that the City could provide to help expedite City park improvements.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Ann B. Slaughter, Mayor

Dolores A. Hammond, CMC, City Clerk