

**CITY OF LAURINBURG
COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 22, 2008
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
303 WEST CHURCH ST.
LAURINBURG, NC
7:00 P.M.**

Minutes

The City Council of the City of Laurinburg held its regular monthly meeting July 22, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the council room of the Municipal Building with the Honorable Matthew Block, Mayor, presiding. The following Councilmembers were present: Rembert DeBerry, Amanda B. Faulk, Thomas W. Parker, III and Herbert M. Rainer, Jr. Councilmember Curtis B. Leak was absent from the meeting.

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

Mayor Block called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Councilmember DeBerry gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Councilmember DeBerry, seconded by Councilmember Faulk, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the budget workshop sessions held May 27, 2008, June 3, 2008, June 10, 2008; and the regular meeting held June 17, 2008.

PRESENTATION

Mayor Block explained that, after serving faithfully as a member of the Laurinburg Maxton Airport (LMA) Commission for over 20 years, Pete Liles has recently concluded his service on that commission. He stated that the Laurinburg City Council would like to present him a plaque to publicly thank him for his dedication and service to LMA on behalf of the City.

From March 1998 to June 2008

In grateful appreciation to Nelson "Pete" Liles, Jr. for outstanding service on the Laurinburg/Maxton Airport Commission on behalf of the City of Laurinburg

Through his twenty years of service he has served faithfully and unselfishly on the Laurinburg/Maxton Airport Commission as a member and as a chairperson. His sense of community responsibility and dedication has made him a most valuable public servant.

DELEGATIONS

LAURINBURG DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION CORPORATION

The Executive Director was to be introduced. However, Ms. Donna Young, Executive Director, was unable to attend.

UPTOWN SERVICES, LLC – NEIL SHAW, PRINCIPAL

Mayor Block explained that Neil Shaw with Uptown Services will make a presentation to the City Council on the possibility of contracting with his firm to look at the City's current fiber system and to study the feasibility of expanding the City's system to provide fiber to the home.

Neil Shaw, a principal of Uptown Services, LLC, introduced himself and Dave Stockton, the other principal of Uptown Services. He explained that he and Mr. Stockton both have 20 plus years of service and experience in the communications industry. He further explained that he has been working with the City Manager on a feasibility study of the City's broadband market. He presented a PowerPoint presentation concerning the project scope of work and the characteristics of a good market study. Mr. Shaw explained that Uptown Services recently completed studies within the State for the Cities of Wilson and Salisbury to see what is viable and cost feasible with respect to expansion of their current fiber services, including fiber to the home.

Following questions by Councilmembers, motion was made by Councilmember Rainer, seconded by Councilmember DeBerry, and unanimously carried to table this matter in order to have additional information and for further discussion.

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 10, ARTICLE V, CONDUCT OF PERSONS, SECTION 181 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LAURINBURG

The City Manager explained that as part of the revisions to the City's Cemetery Ordinance, staff would like to recommend adding a section to the ordinance that would allow the flying of American flags during the two-week period of Veterans Day, Memorial Day and 4th of July. He then explained that during those times American flags (no higher than 24" and 36" in area) will be allowed; other times they will be removed.

Following discussion concerning the size limitations for American flags, Councilmember Faulk moved for the adoption of proposed Ordinance No. O-2008-13, with an amendment to limit the size of American flags (the amendment to provide that the flag may extend upward no more than 24 inches from the ground and that the surface area of the flag may not touch the ground), which amends Chapter 10, Article V, Conduct of Persons, Section 181 of the Code of Ordinance of the City of Laurinburg. Councilmember Parker seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Faulk, Rainer, Parker, DeBerry

Nays: None

(Ordinance No. O-2008-13 is on file in Clerk's Office)

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE (ORDINANCE NO. O-2008-12) TO TRANSFER FUNDS FROM THE SOLID WASTE FUND BALANCE TO EQUIPMENT PURCHASE

The City Manager stated that a budget amendment is required for the Sanitation Department due to the recent fire loss of a front-end loader. He explained that the Sanitation Department would like to purchase a used 2001 front-end loader that has been checked out by Harold Haywood for \$60,700.00 (the loader being replaced is a 1997 back up, and staff is currently using a 17 year-old backup that had to recently be placed back in service). The insurance reimbursement from the fire is \$25,166.00, requiring a budget amendment to move revenue from the solid waste fund to cover the balance of the purchase price (\$36,000.00).

Councilmember Parker moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. O-2008-15 which amends the Budget Appropriation Ordinance (O-2008-12) by transferring funds from the Solid Waste Fund Balance to Equipment Replacement. Councilmember Faulk seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Rainer, Parker, DeBerry, Faulk

Nays: None

(Ordinance No. O-2008-15 is on file in Clerk's Office).

ORDINANCE ADOPTING A CAPITAL BUDGET PROJECT ORDINANCE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW RICHMOND COMMUNITY COLLEGE (RCC) WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CENTER

The City Manager explained that in order to make expenditures for the RCC project, the City needs to approve a capital project budget ordinance. He stated that as part of the agreement with RCC, the City of Laurinburg is responsible for the construction of the improvements on the campus with all contracts, accounts payable and funding running through the City's finance department.

He further explained that this ordinance is separate from the operations budget of the City and that capital budgets can also be multi-year budgets running the duration of the project. Funding will be through outside sources, and no City funding is to be used for the project.

Councilmember Parker moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. O-2008-14 which adopts a capital budget project ordinance for construction of the new Richmond Community College Workforce Development Center. Councilmember Rainer seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Parker, Rainer, Faulk, DeBerry

Nays: None

(Ordinance No. O-2008-14 is on file in Clerk's Office)

AWARD OF BID

The City Manager explained that as part of the approved Fiscal Year 2008-09 budget, the City budgeted \$185,000.00 for the purchase of a new automated "one armed bandit" garbage truck.

Four sealed bids were received and opened on July 14, and the low bid is from Lodal-South Inc. at \$188,814.00. Staff recommends approval of the bid from Lodal-South, Inc. with a delivery to the City within 6-7 months.

Following discussion about the bidding process, motion was made by Councilmember Parker, seconded by Councilmember Faulk, and unanimously carried to award bid in the amount of \$188,814.00 to Lodal-South, Inc. for a new automated "one armed bandit" garbage truck.

RESOLUTION APPLYING TO THE NORTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR'S HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAM

The City Manager explained that the Police Department is in the third-year of a four-year Governor's Highway Safety Program Grant. The grant this year is a 50/50 grant, with the City receiving up to \$36,000.00 of grant funds (\$72,000.00 in total salary and benefits). The revenue and expenditures have been budgeted in this year's budget.

Councilmember Parker moved for the adoption of Resolution No. R-2008-11 which applies to the North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program to continue the four-year grant that was applied for in 2006 for traffic safety. The motion was seconded by Councilmember DeBerry, and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Parker, DeBerry, Faulk, Rainer

Nays: None

(Resolution No. R-2008-11 is on file in Clerk's Office).

RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE CITY'S SOLID WASTE POLICY

The City Manager explained that with the change from curb sort to co-mingle in the City's recycling program, the City can now collect items previously prohibited, including:

All plastic containers (#1-#7)

Mixed paper

Magazines

Cardboard (now picked up once a month, with change will be picked up bi-weekly)

Furthermore, the bulky item pickup schedule can now be changed from Mondays to the day that the resident's household garbage is picked up.

Councilmember Parker moved for the adoption of Resolution No. R-2008-12 which amends the City's Solid Waste Policy. The motion was seconded by Councilmember DeBerry, and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Parker, DeBerry, Faulk, Rainer

Nays: None

(Resolution No. R-2008-12 is on file in Clerk's Office).

ELECTRIC RATE INCREASE

The City Manager explained that with the approval of a 14% wholesale rate increase by the NCEMPA Rate Committee, an increase of no more than 13% in the City's electric rates is recommended to take place as of August 1, 2008. The NCEMPA rate increase was brought about by NCEMPA's increased costs including:

Progress Energy Average Costs	+ 6.2%
Debt Service	+ 2.0%
Mayo/Roxboro coal	+ 2.0%
Nuclear fuel	+ 1.5%
Transmission	+ 0.9%
O&M/Capital Additions	+ 0.8%
Interest Income	<u>+ 0.6%</u>
	14% INCREASE

In working with the City's Electrical Engineer, Fowler & Associates, staff recommends that City retail rates be increased no more than 13% for any level of service with the rate increase being effective August 1, 2008.

Following a brief discussion, motion was made by Councilmember Parker, seconded by Councilmember Rainer, and unanimously carried to increase City retail electrical rates no more than 13% for any level of service to be implemented August 1, 2008.

HIRING FREEZE

The City Manager explained that with the retirement of two (2) lead foremen in the Water/Sewer Distribution Department, staff would like to unfreeze three (3) positions within the Water/Sewer Distribution Department and one (1) in the Street Department. Due to lack of personnel, staff has had to delay some extension projects because of a lack of manpower and time. Staff would first look internally for the supervisory positions and then advertise for the remaining positions.

Following discussion, motion was made by Councilmember DeBerry, seconded by Councilmember Rainer, and unanimously carried to unfreeze three (3) positions within the Water/Sewer Distribution Department and one (1) position in the Street Department.

JOINT MEETING WITH LAURINBURG/MAXTON AIRPORT COMMISSION, TOWN OF MAXTON AND THE CITY OF LAURINBURG

The City Manager explained that the Laurinburg City Council, the Maxton Town Council and the Board of the Laurinburg/Maxton Airport Commission will meet on August 5, 2008 at Laurinburg/Maxton Airport (LMA). The primary purpose of the meeting is to discuss the current situation with the sludge issue and how the airport can move forward.

Some possible topics to discuss are:

- Sludge issues - Where are we with the State?
- Update on toxicity issues at sewer plant.

- Runway issues - strategies in trying to get additional funding for runway improvements
- SAIC Development - Where are we with respect to bringing them to the Airport?

Councilmember Rainer stated that he would like to add another topic for discussion. He explained that in May when the LMA 2008-2009 budget was presented, Council was given incorrect information concerning LMA employee pay raises. He stated that he would like further information on this issue.

Motion was made by Councilmember Parker, seconded by Councilmember Faulk, and unanimously carried to approve the proposed topics for discussion to include the additional topic requested by Councilmember Rainer.

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR BRAC REGIONAL TASK FORCE'S APPLICATION

The City Manager explained that Councilmember Parker attended the Base Realignment and Closure Regional Task Force meeting on Thursday, July 17, 2008 and received information on an application for interactive 3D stereoscopic systems in secondary and post-secondary institutions throughout the region. Councilmember Parker would like Council to approve sending a letter of support for this application.

Councilmember Parker explained that the Department of Defense proposes to fund interactive 3D stereoscopic systems in secondary and post-secondary schools in Tier 1 and Tier 2 counties surrounding Fort Bragg. Scotland County would benefit because systems would be placed at Scotland High School, Richmond Community College, and St. Andrews Presbyterian College. He further explained that the systems are interactive high-tech training systems.

It was consensus of Council to send a letter of support for the application for interactive 3D stereoscopic systems in secondary and post-secondary schools.

APPOINTMENTS

SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE

Mayor Block explained that appointments to the City's Solid Waste Committee are Council appointments. The following citizens have expressed interest in serving on the committee:

Matthew Bull
Bettie P. McNair
Billy R. Owens
C. Lee Gaunt
James Thomas
Frances Willis
Dr. Jim McQueen
Mike Chase
Susan McArn

Motion was made by Councilmember Parker, seconded by Councilmember Faulk, and unanimously carried to appoint Matthew Bull, Bettie P. McNair, Billy R. Owens, C. Lee Gaunt,

James Thomas, Frances Willis, Dr. Jim McQueen, Mike Chase, and Susan McArn to the Solid Waste Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no one present to speak.

LUMBER RIVER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT'S (COG) TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Councilmember Parker suggested that Jackie Laviner of Wagram represent local municipalities on the Lumber River Council of Government's Transportation Advisory Committee. Letter of support regarding this suggestion will be included on the agenda at the next meeting.

INTERCHANGE MOWING

Mayor Block stated that Council did not come to a consensus concerning mowing of the interchanges along US Highway 401. Council had decided to go with Option 2 of the mowing options; however, the low bidder withdrew his bid after this decision was made.

Following discussion, Mayor Block stated that this matter could be added to the agenda for the next agenda meeting.

MOSQUITO SPRAYING

Upon question by Councilmember Parker, Stacey McQuage, Public Utilities Director, explained that because of budget concerns, the City is spraying only low-lying areas, for special events and upon receipt of complaints.

The City Manager added that the program was cut in half when the 2008-2009 budget was approved.

NOISE

Upon question by Councilmember Parker, the City Manager explained that Chief Evans and Capt. Monroe are gathering information concerning effective methods and the costs involved of determining noise levels to enforce the noise ordinance.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Matthew Block, Mayor

Dolores A. Hammond, City Clerk