

**CITY OF LAURINBURG  
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
AUGUST 11, 2009  
W. CHARLES BARRETT ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
305 WEST CHURCH ST.  
LAURINBURG, NC  
7:00 P.M.**

**Minutes**

The City Council of the City of Laurinburg held an agenda work session on August 11, 2009 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room of the W. Charles Barrett Administration Building with the Honorable Matthew Block, Mayor, presiding. The following Councilmembers were present: Rembert DeBerry, Curtis B. Leak, Herbert M. Rainer, Jr. and Thomas W. Parker, III. Councilmember Faulk was absent.

Also present were Edward F. Burchins, City Manager, Dolores A. Hammond, City Clerk and Charles L. Hicks, Jr., City Attorney.

Mayor Block called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Invocation was given by Councilmember DeBerry.

Mayor Block asked Council that a portion of the closed session which was advertised be moved to the beginning of the meeting so as to allow the presenter to drive back to Raleigh before it became too late.

There was a consensus among Councilmembers to move the closed session to the beginning of the meeting.

**CLOSED SESSION**

At 7:03 p.m. Councilmember DeBerry motion to go into closed session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11((a) (6), to consult with attorneys employed by and/or retained by the City in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorneys and the town concerning a lawsuit between Linda Galligan and the City of Laurinburg. Councilmember Leak seconded the motion and it unanimously carried.

At 7:35 p. m. motion was made by Councilmember DeBerry, seconded by Councilmember Parker, and unanimously carried to adjourn the closed session and resume the open meeting.

**AGENDA WORKSHOP**

The City Manager reviewed the proposed agenda for the upcoming Council meeting to be held August 18, 2009.

The following items on the agenda were briefly discussed:

- Presentation to retired City employees Alex Clark, Leroy (Roy) Brown and Bobby Smith, and Larry Caddell
- Order to Collect, Tax Settlement for FY 2008
- Setting public hearing on a request to rezone 5.727 acres on Westwood Way from Residential-15 to General Business (Conditional District)
- Setting public hearing on a request for a Conditional Use Permit to operate a solar Photovoltaic array facility on McColl Rd.
- Setting public hearing on a request for a Conditional Use Permit to operate a solar Photovoltaic array facility on Stewartville Road
- Award Piggyback Bid for the purchase of an Automated Leaf Vacuum Truck
- Resolution for North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program and Ordinance which amends the 2009-2010 Budget Appropriation Ordinance –Equipment

- Ordinance to amend the 2009-2010 Budget Appropriations Ordinance-City Council
- Resolution which modifies the Gryphon Lease Agreement and authorizes the Mayor and City Clerk to execute modification of lease in its final version
- Resolution which sets public hearing to levy assessments for street improvements on a 230± foot section of Deluca St. from Durso St. to Isabelle St.
- Appointment to Beautification Committee
- Appointment to the Laurinburg Downtown Revitalization Corporation

Following the review of the proposed agenda, there were no deletions or additions.

## **COMMUNITY CENTER**

Mayor Block stated that he would like to organize a committee to research the possibility of building a community center in the City of Laurinburg. He stated that the suggested composition would be two City Councilmembers (Herbert M. Rainer, Jr., Rembert DeBerry), two Scotland County Commissioners (one being Guy McCook), representatives from the Scotland County School Board, the City and County Manager, City of Laurinburg's Mayor, and the Scotland County Parks and Recreation Director.

Mayor Block explained that this committee will discuss what the center would consist of, where it should be located, and how to fund it. He also explained that Laurinburg would take the lead in this project and then it would be turned over to Scotland County Parks and Recreation for long term maintenance in conjunction with the County's Parks and Recreation Program.

Councilmember Parker expressed his thoughts that there should be some consideration and thought process to have Scotland County Schools open its gyms on the weekends.

There was discussion on the current James P. Morgan Recreation Complex and the Scotland Civic Center in regards to the concern that it is hard for people without transportation to use these facilities.

## **EMMA RUTH MCLEAN LIBRARY**

The City Manager stated that he has a request from Commissioner Joyce McDow requesting that Council waive the rental fee for the use of the facility by the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

A discussion ensued concerning the effect of waiving fees for certain entities and not others. There was a consensus among Councilmembers not to waive fees

## **CITY OF LAURINBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT PATROLLING PLAN**

Chief John Evans explained that the Laurinburg Police Department has had numerous complaints this year regarding shooting incidents in all neighborhoods in the City. He stated that the police department has formed the NIT (Neighborhood Improvement Team). He further explained that he has one officer from each shift as part of the Team. He stated that if they get a complaint from a citizen about an incident in their particular neighborhood, this team will then saturate the area and stay in the area and work it until results are seen.

He informed Council that a couple of particular areas have already been identified and the results have been very positive. Several arrests have been made, weapons have been confiscated, graffiti writing has been reduced by 80 percent, and gunfire has been reduced by 90 percent.

Chief Evans then explained a program entitled "Nixie" which is a free service to the police department as well as to citizens where the police department is available and can be used to disseminate any information they may find necessary to distribute.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

At 8:45 p.m. Councilmember DeBerry motioned to go into closed session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a) (3) and (6), to consult with attorneys employed by and/or retained by the City in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorneys and the town and to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of one or more individual or perspective public officers or employees. The motion as thereafter seconded by Councilmember Leak and unanimously approved.

At 9:19 p.m. motion was made by Councilmember DeBerry, seconded by Councilmember Rainer, and unanimously carried to resume the open meeting

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

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Matthew Block, Mayor

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Dolores A. Hammond, City Clerk