

**CITY OF LAURINBURG
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 12, 2009
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
303 WEST CHURCH ST.
7:00 P.M.**

Minutes

The City Council of the City of Laurinburg held a special meeting February 12, 2009 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 and Curtis B. Leak; Councilmembers Amanda B. Faulk, Thomas W. Parker, III, and Herbert M. Rainer, Jr. were absent.

Also present were Craig F. Honeycutt, City Manager, Dolores A. Hammond, City Clerk and Management Team Members.

Councilmember Leak gave the invocation.

Because there was not a quorum, this was an informational meeting only.

CITIZEN INPUT FOLLOW-UP MEETING

Mayor Block explained that at the November 6, 2008 citizen input session, citizens were informed that a follow up meeting would be scheduled to address issues that were discussed. He stated that the City Manager has prepared a summary of the results of that meeting.

The City Manager explained that at the citizen input meeting citizens were asked what they liked and what they did not like.

He stated that there was not time at the input session to discuss individual issues in detail so the purpose of this meeting is to go over a list of suggestions for new/improved services.

He then reviewed what the City does well and also discussed possibilities for new or improved services.

A discussion ensued about the mosquito program, and the City Manager stated that the plan is to continue the program.

He explained that most of the issues that were concerns at the Citizen Input session were budgetary issues. These issues will depend upon the upcoming budget process and what decisions Council will make about improvements or new programs.

The City Manager then explained that one concern was blind spots on public streets. He stated that if citizens will let staff know of their specific concerns, they will be looked into for further consideration. He also explained that if the concerns relate to state roads, the North Carolina Department of Transportation would be contacted.

He explained that the widening of US 401 to Fayetteville, NC is on the priority needs list with the Regional Planning Transportation Organization but that it is not on the State's Transportation Improvement Plan. He stated that the City addresses this issue each time there is a meeting with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (DOT).

Other issues and concerns addressed were parking reflectors; public transportation between Laurinburg and Ft. Bragg,

NC; military contracts at the Laurinburg/Maxton Airport; human relations committee; City Council/staff attending public events; recreation (swimming pool); globalization; construction projects; replacement or repair of sidewalks, sidewalk pavers/street signs; sidewalks at Central School; limiting number of animals per resident; Laurinburg Downtown Revitalization Corporation; more areas for Historical designation; community center; the need for city growth; beautification of road from North Main St. to cemetery; erect fence at Market Park; and pave all the dirt roads within the City.

The City Manager reiterated that a lot of the concerns were budgetary and would have to be decided by Council.

A discussion ensued on the street signs that had to be removed when the mast arm project was completed downtown. He explained that new street signs were being relocated on the mast arms. The previous street signs would be removed. It was also pointed out that several street signs in the city were crooked and need to be straightened.

The City Manager explained that most of the crooked signs were erected by DOT and that they would be contacted to find out what could be done about improving them.

Councilmember Leak expressed concern about citizens comparing electric bills (especially in light of the City's recent increase in electric rates). He stated that he would like everyone to remember that there are three electric providers within the City limits and that the bills reflect different rates with each provider.

A discussion then ensued about the North Carolina Eastern Municipal Power Agency (NCEMPA) and the City's programs that can help with residential electric bills.

Mayor Block thanked everyone for attending.

The informational meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Matthew Block, Mayor

Dolores A. Hammond, City Clerk