

**CITY OF LAURINBURG
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 15, 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 September 15, 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 if a portion of the closed session which was advertised could be moved to the beginning of the meeting so as to allow the presenter to be able to drive back to Raleigh before 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 motioned 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 city 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 September 22, 2009.

The following items on the agenda were briefly discussed:

- Presentation to retired City employees Alex Clark, Leroy (Roy) Brown and Bobby Smith, 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 of the committee would be two City Councilmembers (Herbert M. Rainer, Jr., Rembert DeBerry), two Scotland County Commissioners, Guy McCook as Chairman of the Scotland County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, representatives from the Scotland County School Board, the City and County Managers, City of Laurinburg's Mayor, and the Scotland County Parks and Recreation Director.

Mayor Block explained that this committee would 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 the 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 having the Scotland County Schools open their gyms on the weekends.

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

EMMA RUTH MCLEAN LIBRARY

The City Manager stated that he has received a request from County 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 received numerous complaints this year regarding shooting incidents in certain 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 the City receives a complaint from a citizen about a particular neighborhood, this team then saturates the area, stays in it and works it until results are seen.

He informed Council that several 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 called "Nixie" which is a free service to the police department as well as to citizens wherein the police department can notify the public about information it may need to distribute. This information dissemination is through text messaging.

CLOSED SESSION

At 8:45 p.m. Councilmember DeBerry motioned to go into closed session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a) (6) to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of one or more individual or prospective public officers or employees.

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.

Matthew Block, Mayor

Dolores A. Hammond, City Clerk