

**CITY OF LAURINBURG  
AGENDA WORKSHOP  
DECEMBER 14, 2010  
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 meeting December 14, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room of the W. Charles Barrett Administration Building with the Honorable Matthew Block presiding. The following Councilmembers were present: Curtis B. Leak, Thomas W. Parker III, and Davian LaJoyce "Joy" Ellison. Councilmember Herbert M. Rainer, Jr. was absent. Councilmember Kenton Spencer arrived at 8:35 p.m.

Also present were Edward F. Burchins, City Manager and Dolores A. Hammond, City Clerk.

Staff members present were: Cindy Carpenter, Bob Bell, Stacey McQuage, and Bill Peele.

Mayor Block called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

The City Manager reviewed the upcoming agenda for the December 21, 2010 regular meeting.

- 1) Consent Agenda
  - a. Minutes from the meetings held September 21, 24 and 25, 2010; October 12, 13 and 19, 2010; and November 9, 11 and 16, 2010
  - b. Set public hearing for a rezoning request by St. John's Holiness Church (12.032 acres located off of US Highway 401 North) from R-6 to Office/Institutional  
*Property recently annexed into City Limits*
  - c. Ordinance No. O-2010-24 amending the 2010-2011 Budget Appropriation Ordinance to allocate \$8,100.00 from Federal Grants to Police Department-Equipment (Governor's Highway Safety Grant)  
*The finance director explained that money is usually set aside for grants when staff has funding allocated to their department during the budget process. This item was not included in the budget process; therefore, this ordinance will correct the revenue and expenditure of the grant money received. Council has approved the grant.*
  - d. Resolution R-2010-21 authorizing manager to sign contracts  
*The City Manager explained that following Council's approval at last month's meeting regarding financing equipment for the City that this resolution is another step in the process*
  - e. Firefighters Certification  
*The City Manager stated that this certification is required by the North Carolina State Firemen's Association to certify all eligible firemen for the line of duty death benefit as well as continue eligibility for Pension Fund credit*
  - f. Firemen's Relief Fund (move to January)  
*A discussion ensued on the appointment of a member, and this item will be reviewed at the January Council meeting. Councilmember Leak suggested that a Councilmember be considered for this appointment*

- g. Laurinburg/Maxton Airport Commission Resignation Letter  
*The City Manager stated that former Mayor Ann Slaughter is asking that Council accept her letter of resignation from the Airport Commission*  
*A discussion ensued on former Mayor Slaughter and her family's (Beacham family) contributions to the City of Laurinburg. Councilmember Parker suggested that a Resolution for the Beacham family be drafted to be presented at the January meeting.*
- 2) Consider Resolution No. R-2010-22 which closes a 10-foot alley located in the 100 Block of Washington Avenue  
*The City Manager explained that the proposed resolution would close an unopened alley.*
- 3) American Legion Post 181 - Mr. Ulysses Thomas, Jr. – Lot Cutting Fee  
*A discussion ensued on the request of the waiver of the lot-cutting fee. Action to be considered at December 21, 2010 meeting.*
- 4) Police Traffic Safety Award - Triple AAA has awarded the City of Laurinburg Police Department an award for the lowest amount of traffic violations with a population between 10,000 and 30,000. Mayor Block will present at December 21, 2010 meeting
- 5) Marcus Smith Certification (City of Laurinburg IT Specialist) - graduated from UNC Chapel Hill School of Government Certified Government Chief Information Officer program  
*The City Manager stated that a resolution would be drafted for adoption at Council's regular meeting December 21, 2010.*
- 6) Lt. Darwin Williams - award for Leadership Program for Law Enforcement  
*The City Manager stated that a resolution would be drafted for adoption at Council's regular meeting December 21, 2010*
- 7) City of Laurinburg Finance Report - Cindy Carpenter-Finance Director  
*Cindy Carpenter reported on the current financial status of the City*
- 8) Discussion on Biggs St. Railroad Crossing  
*Consensus to ask for input at citizen input session*
- 9) Discuss energy conservation credits  
*The City Manager explained that Councilmember Spencer asked that this be put on the agenda. He explained that this item deals with discussion of different programs related to conservation, weatherization and how to help citizens conserve power and save on their electric bills. He stated that he has invited several people who help set rates to come in January to discuss programs and rates. There was discussion on the fuel adjustment charge on utility bills and rebates. Councilmember Leak requested that the engineers who assist us in setting rates be asked to address Council on electric rates and the fuel adjustment charge. The City Manager stated that this might be a good time to review other electric rate engineers for the City. He also stated that he would put an outline together on how citizens can save money on their electric bill.*
- 10) Internet Sweepstakes Statewide Update  
*The City Manager stated that the District Attorney has advised that the City continue to be sure that all internet sweepstakes remain closed.*
- 11) NCLM Advocacy Goals meeting January 20, 2011 - authorize delegate  
*The City Manager stated that the North Carolina League of Municipalities will hold its Advocacy Goals meeting January 20, 2011. He explained that the purpose of the meeting is to come up with ideas to help Governor Perdue save money for the State. The Council also needs to authorize a voting delegate for this event.*
- 12) Consider agenda workshop schedule and adopt meeting times and dates  
*The City Manager stated that there has been discussion about discontinuing the agenda workshop sessions. Councilmember Parker suggested that the Citizen Input Session be*

*considered as the workshop session in January.*

*Councilmember Ellison suggested that the City Manager prepare a PowerPoint presentation to show what the City has done and what the plans are for the future.*

*Councilmember Leak suggested that a roundtable discussion be held. He also suggested that Bob Bell come up with a plan for a roundtable discussion.*

*The City Manager suggested that the session be held after the NCLM Advocacy Goals Meeting so that Council could then prioritize what cuts could be made to the City's budget.*

*Councilmember Leak suggested that the City Manager look at cutting the City's budget somewhere between 3 and 5%.*

13) Consider Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policy

*The City Manager stated that this policy should be adopted by December 31, 2010.*

*Councilmember Ellison stated that social networking should be considered as part of the Policy.*

14) Discussion regarding retreat with stakeholder representatives in the downtown area

*The City Manager stated that this was discussed at Council's September retreat, and it was decided to hold a summit with property owners, retail establishment owners, and all stakeholders in the downtown area. He informed Council that Liz Parham, North Carolina Main Street Program Director, has been invited to meet with a small group on January 12, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. This group would be representatives that the City and Laurinburg Downtown Revitalization Corporation (LDRC) would designate. The Mayor stated that this group is a planning core group to plan the larger summit. He stated anyone from Council could attend who would like to be a part of the steering group. The group will also include representatives from LDRC as well as downtown. It is estimated that the group will be approximately 8 to 10 people.*

*The City Manager stated that LDRC has also informed their group that anyone that would like to attend could also join the group.*

*Councilmember Leak suggested that someone from Piggy Wiggly or other folks around the perimeter of the downtown area be included.*

15) Laurinburg/Maxton Airport Commission Appointment to fill unexpired term of Ann B. Slaughter

*No discussion at this time.*

16) Laurinburg Housing Authority (mayoral appointment) two appointments-

*A resident of the program needs to be appointed along with another appointment*

17) Laurinburg Board of Adjustment (2 appointments –Ron Riggins & Linda Douglas)

*Both individuals are willing to serve another term.*

## **CLOSED SESSION**

At 8:20 p.m. Councilmember Parker moved to go into closed session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a) (3) to receive information from attorneys employed by and/or retained by the City in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and City regarding a lawsuit involving former employee Thomas Wright.

At 8:35 p.m., Councilmember Parker moved to resume the open meeting. Councilmember Leak seconded the motion and it unanimously carried.

## **AGENDA MEETINGS**

Mayor Block stated that the big picture for agenda workshops was not fully discussed. There

was discussion about how long the meetings were and the facilitation of the meetings.

Mayor Block suggested that the Citizen Input session be held February 2011.

A discussion ensued on the format of the Citizen Input Session.

*Councilmember Spencer arrived at 8:40 p.m.*

A discussion then ensued about the agenda and the number of items on the agenda and the delivery of the agendas.

Councilmember Leak suggested that the agenda be delivered and that if anyone has questions they should contact the City Manager for discussion.

Councilmember Ellison stated that the agenda meetings are an opportunity for all information to be shared equally.

The City Manager stated that the agenda could be sent out and that he would keep a list of general questions that need to be answered.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Councilmember Parker, seconded by Councilmember Leak, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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Matthew Block, Mayor

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Dolores A. Hammond, City Clerk