

**CITY OF LAURINBURG
COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 18, 2011
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 October 18, 2011 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: Curtis B. Leak, Thomas W. Parker, III, Herbert M. Rainer Jr., Kenton T. Spencer, and Joy Ellison.

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

Mayor Block called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Councilmember Ellison gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Block asked for approval of the agenda.

Councilmember Leak moved to adopt the agenda. Councilmember Spencer seconded the motion and it unanimously carried.

Mayor Block recognized Brandon White from Boy Scout Troop 420 and presented him with a City pin.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Block reviewed the consent agenda.

- a. Approve minutes from the June 20, 2011 budget workshop; June 22, 2011 budget workshop; the June 23, 2011 budget workshop; July 12, 2011 special meeting; July 19, regular meeting; August 16, regular meeting; and agenda workshop, September 13, 2011
- b. Consider Resolution No. R-2011-09 which authorizes the adoption of updates to the Fair Housing Plan and other adopted plans
- c. Consider Ordinance No. O-2011-18 which amends the Budget Appropriation Ordinance(O-2011-11) to transfer \$23,500.00 from Contingency- (990-509900)-to Non-Department- (660-509000)-Downtown Improvements
- d. Authorize the City Manager to execute agreement between the City of Laurinburg and Wetherill Engineering, Inc. for services in the replacement of Bridge #81 on Commonwealth Avenue over Leith Creek
- e. Consider awarding contract to low bidder, Dougherty Equipment Company, in

- the amount of \$104,708.15, for the purchase of a new tool carrier wheel loader for the Water and Sewer Department
- f. Consider Resolution R-2011-11 Establishing Goal For Minority Businesses Construction Contracts
 - g. Consider Resolution R-2011-12 authorizing the borrowing of funds from Branch Banking and Trust Company

Councilmember Leak moved for the approval of the Consent Agenda as amended with Item G removed for discussion. Councilmember Rainer seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Rainer, Spencer, Parker, Leak, Ellison
Nays: None

ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE XVII SIGNS, SECTION 276 (10), TOTAL SIGN SURFACE AREA, AND SECTION 284, SHOPPING CENTER/MAJOR RETAIL DEVELOPMENT SIGNS OF THE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE

Mayor Block explained that this public hearing is regarding Ordinance No. O-2011-19 amending Article XVIII Signs, Section 276 (10), Total Sign Surface Area, and Section 284, Shopping Center/Major Retail Development Signs of the Unified Development Ordinance. He asked that Mrs. Brandi Deese, City Zoning Officer, provide background on the proposed request.

Mrs. Brandi Deese explained that Tri-Cor Development Corporation has requested an amendment to the sign ordinance to allow additional signage for shopping centers and major retail developments. She stated that Planning Board heard this request at its September 13, 2011 meeting and voted unanimously to approve the request.

She explained that last week there was a question about what exactly the new signage would look like and provided Council with a sketch of the difference in the signage.

Mayor Block then asked Mrs. Deese to provide further background on the context of the proposed request.

Mrs. Deese stated that the request was received from Tri-Cor Development Corporation that owns most of outparcels surrounding the Wal-Mart location. She explained that this particular request is concerning an outparcel located beside the Murphy Oil location and a proposed development there. Mrs. Deese then explained that there are tenants considering opening a business in Laurinburg and staff has been told that they would do so if the sign ordinance is amended. She then explained that the proposed tenants wanted more visibility from US Highway 401 and to continue to have signage on the access drive as well as the square footage being modified from one square foot per lineal foot of lot frontage to 1.5 square feet.

Mayor Block stated that the information refers to a secondary sign.

Councilmember Rainer asked if there is a sign at the shopping center that indicate the different merchants in the area.

Mrs. Deese stated that this would be permitted to a monument sign or a free-standing sign.

Mayor Block opened the public hearing.

Mr. Jeff Rose, Tri-Cor Development, stated he has been working the city staff on the proposed request for the amendment. He stated that there has been difficulty leasing across the Wal-Mart parking lot. He explained that the reason, he has been told, is the limited visibility from the highway. Mr. Rose stated that he realized the City of Laurinburg sign ordinance did not allow what the proposed tenants were looking for. He then stated that he met with the City Manager, Mr. Bill Peele, and Mrs. Brandi Deese to discuss the situation. He then explained that following conversations with staff, that the proposed amendment seemed to be a doable solution.

Upon question by Mayor Block, Mr. Rose stated that the outparcel adjacent to the Murphy Gas Station is the property in question.

Upon question by Councilmember Leak regarding drainage, Mr. Rose stated that there is a North Carolina Department of Transportation (DOT) drainage ditch located on the property and they have a prescriptive easement that has been there longer than 15 years. He stated that his company will work with DOT to relocate it and pipe it along the DOT right-of-way and the surface drainage from the parking lot area will sheet flow across into the same Wal-Mart retaining basin.

There was no one to speak against the proposed request.

Mayor Block declared the public hearing closed.

Councilmember Ellison moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. O-2011-19 which amends Article XVII Signs, Section 276 (10), Total Sign Surface Area, and Section 284, Shopping Center/Major Retail Development Signs of the Unified Development Ordinance. Councilmember Rainer seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Ellison, Rainer, Spencer, Parker Leak,

Nays: None

(Ordinance No. O-2011-19 on file in the City Clerk's Office)

LAURINBURG/SCOTLAND COUNTY BUSINESS INCUBATOR

Mr. Greg Icard, Scotland County Economic Development Director, presented information to Council regarding the proposed Laurinburg/Scotland County Business Incubator. He explained that Scotland County received a \$1,000,000.00 grant to build a business incubator. He then explained that he would discuss what a business incubator is, the location, also the big picture, and then give you what a time line and the next steps will be in the process.

Mr. Icard stated that a business incubator is essentially to accelerate the success of business startups; entrepreneurs; provide business resources and support; and offer space at very low risk to those going into the incubator space. He explained that some of the services provided at this location would include links to higher education and resources, links to strategic partners, assistance, and access that would be provided to those interested interesting in starting a business

or expanding their current business.

Mr. Icard informed Council that the Scotland County Economic Development Committee has purchased 7.41 acres and will be locating the business incubator along US Highway 401 North towards Wagram, NC. He explained that the building is 25,000 square feet of which 16,000 will be leasable space. He stated that at this point the plan is two spaces of 4,000 square feet and then a bay area of 8,000 square feet. He then explained that the spaces will be offered at reduced lease rates, those leasing space will be there 3-5 years, and then ideally they will move out into a more permanent location.

Mr. Icard then explained the big picture and that the location could potentially be grown to a much larger park. He stated that it could be an industrial park or business park. He proceeded to state that at this time, the proposed name for the park is the Southeast Regional Innovative Business Campus and if necessary, it could be changed or tweaked. He explained that this is a different approach to how things have been done in the past. He stated that this project has been worked on for almost a year and a half. He then stated that this is a much more proactive and aggressive approach to growing jobs within the community. It is a way to be involved in local people in the community who have interest in creating a business or starting a business or providing goods or services and applying this with the resources necessary in one location to allow them to be successful. Mr. Icard stated that the reason it is important is that a company that goes through an incubator that after five years, they are 87% more to be in business than a company that does not and a company that does not is about 44%.

He explained that entrepreneurship training would be held at the business incubator. He stated that there is currently a partnership with Richmond Community College (RCC). There will eventually be start up capital to help companies that have good business plans as they go through the entrepreneur training. He stated that there will be incubator space for them to go into and there will also be a revolving loan fund for companies that have been in business for 3-5 years. The plans are to start with a company, walk them through, and then help them become successful as they grow in the community.

Mr. Icard stated that this location and business incubator has a very good potential for recruitment for military contractors.

He also stated that the partnership with RCC is more permanent in that the RCC Board of Trustees have elected to house the small business center staff, the industrial workforce training director as well as the career readiness certificate personnel at the incubator location.

Mr. Icard stated that the process has begun for request for qualifications and that will close out soon. An engineering firm would then be chosen, design will begin, and then construction should begin in January 2012. He explained that this timeline is based upon the Economic Development Administration and its paperwork process. The proposed ground breaking ceremony is January 15, 2012 and completing of the facility June 30, 2012.

Upon question by Mayor Block, Mr. Icard stated that this particular part of the project is inside of the City limits. He then stated that city taxes would be paid and additional customers to the City's system (power, water, & sewer).

He then explained that the project is one of the suggested items in the 21st Century Plan.

Upon question by Councilmember Leak, Mr. Icard stated that the name of the business park could be changed but at this time, the proposed name is “Southeast Regional Invocative Business Campus”.

Upon question by Councilmember Spencer, Mr. Icard stated that by using the proposed name it would not limit the campus to one particular aspect of the business or industrial community. Mr. Icard explained that the current zoning is industrial and retail is not included in that zoning classification.

Upon question by Mayor Block, Mr. Icard explained that a business incubator in Bladen County has been in business eight years and they own 10-12 buildings.

Mr. Icard explained that the results will not be seen in the first year, but this is a long-term project that will be more proactive than what is currently being done.

Mr. Icard concluded by recognizing Councilmember Curtis Leak and Tom Parker as members of the Scotland County Economic Development Corporation. He stated that Mr. Parker is vice-chair of the corporation.

WESTPOINT STEVENS WATER AND WASTEWATER STUDY

Mayor Block stated that Jim Perry, Lumber River Council of Governments (COG) and Angie Mettlen, W. K. Dickson Engineers would report on the West Point Stevens Water and Wastewater Study

Mr. Perry stated that a few years ago there was interest by a number of governments to look at the abandoned WestPoint Stevens’s water and wastewater utilities. He explained that studies were conducted to look at the plants to see if they were feasible for rehabilitation and if they were viable. He stated that once that work was concluded it was determined that they were feasible for rehabilitation and viable facilities. He then explained that there was interest by several governments, Scotland County, Robeson County, and Moore County about looking at whether those plants could supply service to their jurisdictions and those sorts of things. He stated that resources were gathered including some local money, a grant from the North Carolina Rural Center, and some money that the GOC had collected from the Economic Development Administration to fund the study.

He informed Council that the study looked where potential customers could be put together to use those facilities and the cost that might be associated with that. He then turned the presentation to Angie Mettlen with W.K. Dickson Engineers, and Joe McGougan with Marziano and McGougan.

Mr. Angie Mettlen, W.K. Dickson Engineers, appeared before Council to discuss the WestPoint Stevens Water and Wastewater Study. She gave Council background information on the study.

Following her presentation, her recommendation to Council is to acquire the wastewater treatment plant in order to continue serving Gulistan, who is currently using the wastewater

plant. She stated that there has been discussion with another local industry about their needing wastewater service. She explained that this recommendation generates increased usage for this would allow having immediate customers on the wastewater side and potentially one of those customers if a deal could be reach and it was mutually acceptable to all parties. This recommendation has the highest probability of securing grants and private funds with fewer issues from the Local Government Commission (LGC). She stated that this recommendation gets it into the hands of a public entity and it is related to economic development and that is where grant dollars are right now. She further stated that ownership would be with public entity. She reviewed some downsizes to it that would require an environmental assessment and if the entity were then to need the plant for future usage outside the industrial users, plant upgrades and expansions would need to be considered in the future. The estimated cost based on this with operational, maintenance is approximately \$2.52 per thousand gallons, and that is using what we have as a flow from the proposed industry as well as Gulistan.

Mr. Joe McGougan stated that as far as the existing facilities one thing with the wastewater facility and water treatment plant is that you are buying a discharge and a withdrawal and most of the plants in the area have a discharge that you are not going to give us. The City of Laurinburg has a discharge that it is not going to give up. This plant is already permitted and operational. Mr. McGougan then stated that the discharge is the primary asset and opens up a window for industrial growth. Mr. McGougan stated that the State has implemented more requirements for new permitting of a facility and because this facility is already permitted, the process would not difficult.

Following discussion regarding the WestPoint Stevens Wastewater Treatment Plant, Mr. McGougan stated that the same type analysis was conducted on the availability of water of the scenario. He explained that Moore County is the county in the most need for water because they are projected to deplete their resources. Southern Pines uses Drowning Creek, they had water restrictions during the summer, and they have a very small water source. Southern Pines has an immediate need for water and the projection is that by 2040 they would be out of water. Mr. McGougan explained other counties and their projected water usage.

Mr. McGougan stated that the recommendation is to provide a raw water source to the Moore County area by running a new pipeline to Southern Pines to their water treatment plant. They are also completing construction of a new reservoir. The pipeline would be a secondary source for Southern Pines. Mr. McGougan stated that the running the pipeline to Moore County would secure a readily available and high yield (7.0 mgd) water supply.

Following further discussion, there was consensus among Councilmembers to meet with the Scotland County Commissioners to meet and discuss the next step in determining whether to pursue the project.

POLE ATTACHMENT AGREEMENT UPDATE

Mr. Ronald Pierce, City of Laurinburg Electrical Services Director, gave an update on the pole attachment agreements with AT&T and Time Warner. He explained that work began last year on a pole attachment agreement AT&T and Time Warner. He stated that the proposed agreement would deal with each party's responsibility for the pole, their attachments, attachment transfers, request for a taller pole or addition of a pole, and any emergency response.

He then explained that the agreement updates the attachment values to today's cost of pole ownership that should be \$12.00-\$15.00 per pole per year. He then stated that completion of fieldwork in auditing the attachments is around 95%. The documents are in the attorneys' offices for review and negotiations.

He further explained that as soon as the agreements are finalized with the City, AT&T, and Time Warner they would be brought before Council for approval.

Upon question by Councilmember Rainer, Mr. Pierce stated that the revenue would be approximately \$44,730.00 with 90% of the poles inventoried. He then stated that those numbers would change would the inventory is completed.

Mr. Pierce stated that the pole attachment fee has not been increased for several years. He then stated that the proposed agreements would bring everyone up to date in market values.

Upon question by Councilmember Rainer, Assistant City Attorney Hicks stated that the proposed agreement could include a retroactive clause that the entities would pay for a certain time.

STREET LIGHT IMPROVEMENTS

Mr. Ronald Pierce informed Council that pilot test areas have been established. He stated that after contacting other municipalities that the basis for lighting is in line with others. He explained that one difference from other municipalities was in the mid block lighting. He then stated that the lighting has been realigned from placement from 600 feet to 400 feet. He then explained also in place is that lighting may be adjusted for natural features and upon request from the police department for public safety. He further explained that natural features are the tree canopies in the city.

He informed Council that one of the pilot locations is on West Boulevard from Atkinson Street to US Highway 401 and Caledonia Road from West Church Street to Sugar Road. He stated that Church Street is almost complete and lighting had to be ordered and when the bulbs come in that location should be finalized. He also stated that the police department would be contacted to find out what areas they feel would be a good pilot testing area.

Upon question by Councilmember Ellison, Mr. Pierce stated that solar lighting has been researched and the cost is extremely expensive at this time.

Upon question by Councilmember Rainer, Mr. Pierce explained that in the residential areas where the trees block some of the lighting, the trees would be trimmed. He then explained that if the trimming did not accommodate the lighting that they would increase the lighting.

CITY OF LAURINBURG TREE SERVICES

Mayor Block stated that Mr. Pierce would provide information on a city tree trimming crew costs.

Mr. Ronald Pierce informed Council that the average salary of a tree trimmer is between \$27,600.00 with benefits increasing the salary to \$36,000.00 per employee. He explained that it

usually takes a three-man crew and salaries for the tree would approximately be \$108,000.00 per year. The equipment to begin a crew would cost approximately \$199,000.00, another \$5,000.00 for protective equipment and if the crew is needed at night, it would cost more.

Upon question by Mayor Block, Mr. Pierce stated that the four-year average the City now pays for tree trimming for electrical and beautification is \$93,900.00 per year.

Councilmember Rainer stated that he would like other options presented. He explained that he understands the personnel costs, but like to get options using the City's seasonal employees.

The City Manager stated that the tree personnel are typically specialized in tree trimming and at this time the City does not have specialized labor to fulfill those tasks.

A discussion ensued regarding the request for options about tree trimming crews and there was a consensus among Council that the City Manager and Mr. Pierce to find out if there are other options available for a City tree trimming crew.

Councilmember Ellison stated that once the City employee is trained to become an arborist that that person should lead the way in determining the trees that need to be taken down.

The City Manager then stated that a report would be provided to Council about the number of trees that have been taken out this year.

SCOTLAND COUNTY TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TDA)-US HIGHWAY 74 INTERCHANGE LIGHTING

The City Manager explained Mr. Corey Hughes, TDA Executive Director, will present additional information to Council on the proposed lighting of two interchanges inside the City limits.

Mr. Hughes updated Council on the funding for the proposed. He stated that the TDA commits to \$100,000.00 and the North Carolina Department of Transportation commits \$100,000.00 towards the project.

Mr. Hughes reported on the request by Council addressing the impact of economic development when lights are installed on interchanges.

He reported that he had spoken with representatives of Anderson, South Carolina who is one year again of Scotland County in installing interchange lighting.

He stated he visited Anderson, South Carolina and spoke with restaurants owners and other establishments to see if they had seen an increase in sales. He presented a PowerPoint on the information he had gathered.

He explained that across the boards and hotels, a little bit of increased was determined. He stated that this project is not just for the hotels, but other establishments. He the explained that everyone he spoke with addressed customer safety and how customers expressed that they felt safer with the lights that had been installed.

He then stated that the restaurants stated they have increased sales 4-5 percent. Restaurants have also hired additional personnel because they are staying open later. He stated that they reported there was less litter at the exits

Mr. Hughes reported that the manager at Fatz Restaurant stated that part of the site selection for Anderson, South Carolina was the fact that the exits are lighted.

Upon question by Mayor Block, Mr. Hughes stated that the City and the South Carolina Department of Transportation paid Anderson's lights.

Councilmember Parker stated he is in favor of lighting the two Laurinburg interchanges but he understood that the TDA could not help pay for operating costs, but the question is can TDA help five years out with those costs.

Mr. Hughes stated that the TDA has pledged the \$100,000.00 and if Council would like additional funding, a request to the TDA Board would need to be considered.

Councilmember Leak stated that the citizens in his district would like more streetlights and then asked if the TDA had approached the Scotland County Commissioners for funding in this project.

Following discussion regarding a request to the Scotland County Commissioners for assistance in funding the interchange lighting project, Mr. Hughes stated that he had talked with the County Manager and there are several roadblocks ahead for the County before committing to funding the project. He then stated that he still address the Commissioners regarding the proposed request.

Councilmember Spencer stated he supports the proposed request but is concerned about financing projects for the City because the City also needs to think about its strategic planning for the future needs of the City.

Councilmember Rainer expressed concerned over the ongoing yearly expense of the lighting which is estimated at \$14,000.00.

Councilmember Ellison stated that the concept is a good idea; however, she explained that from a City side and the budget, it is important that as a group it needs to be determined where this project would put the tax rate next year, determine how it is going to affect other items that the City has financed, and other indebtedness.

The City Manager stated that his recommendation would be to pay for the lighting from the Electric Fund. The Electric Fund has no debt at this time.

Following further discussion, Councilmember Parker motioned that the City Manager and the TDA Executive Director explore all options of financing for the installation of lighting, other entities that should be involved with the project and bring to Council at the next meeting. Councilmember Spencer seconded the motion and it carried with Councilmember Leak casting the dissenting vote.

PARTNERSHIP WITH SCOTT REDINGER, INC. IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE NORTH CAROLINA INDIAN HOUSING AUTHORITY TO APPLY FOR A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)

The City Manager explained that last month Scott Redinger, Inc. in conjunction with the North Carolina Indian Housing Authority and the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency made a presentation to construct a 12-unit multi-family development off Homer Street. They are requesting the City to partner with their development firm to request funding from the Department of Commerce to help offset the cost of constructing this development.

He stated that staff has reviewed the request and the CDBG programs that the City has been involved in typically benefits the City in some way. He then stated that in reviewing the proposal from Mr. Redinger, it appears the City does not benefit from this request. He then stated that if the partnership is formed, that the City may not be able to apply for grants that the City would benefit from.

Mr. Scott Redinger, appeared before Council and stated that at the last council meeting Barbara Melton and Margrit Bergholz presented the North Carolina Indian Housing Authority's interest in developing 12 apartment units for persons with disabilities on a piece of property on Homer Street. He explained that they had a neighborhood meeting with the residents to inform them of the proposed project. He stated that the request is that the City partner with his company for funding that could be used to help build the facility.

Ms. Mary Rico Todd, North Carolina Housing Finance Agency, appeared before Council to express desire that the City partner with Mr. Redinger and her office to apply for a grant to help fund the requested 12-unit apartment complex. Ms. Todd stated that the agency is prepared to invest up to \$600,000.00 to create the housing project. She explained that this grant requires a 30% match.

Upon question by Councilmember Parker, Mr. Redinger stated at this time there is not a total cost. Mr. Redinger also stated that there is not an anticipated cost but his assumption is that the cost would be somewhere between 1.2-1.5 million dollars.

Upon question by Councilmember Parker regarding the 30% match, Ms. Todd stated that the agency can providing funding up to 70% of the cost of the project not to exceed \$600,000.00.

Mr. Redinger then explained the process in applying for the funding and the type apartments he proposed to build.

Following discussion regarding funding and the application process, motion was made by Councilmember Parker, seconded by Councilmember Ellison, and unanimously carried to **not** partner with Scott Redinger, Inc. and the North Carolina Indian Housing Authority because the City has other needs for its money that will serve the citizens of Laurinburg.

BOND ORDER AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING BONDS IN THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF \$1,700,000.00 TO REFUND SANITARY SEWER BONDS ISSUED IN 1995 AND RESOLUTION NO. R-2011-12 WHICH AUTHORIZES THE CITY CLERK TO PUBLISH A NOTICE OF THE ADOPTION OF SUCH BOND ORDER

The City Manager stated that the City has the opportunity to issue refunding bonds and refund debt incurred in 1995 to make improvements to the sanitary sewer system. He explained that an analysis along with BB&T banking, sent the analysis in along with a letter requesting that the Local Government Commission (LGC) give its approval to issue up to 1.7 million dollars in refunding bonds. He stated that the LGC received the application and will accept for submission the request to refund the bonds. He then explained that the benefit to the City would be, over a 3.5 year period, a savings of \$80,000.00. This is a result of decreasing the interest rate from 5.58 percent to 1.64 percent.

The City Manager then stated that in order to proceed with the refunding bonds for the 1995 Sanitary Sewer Bonds that Council would need to adopt the proposed bond order and proposed resolution.

Councilmember Parker moved for the adoption of a Bond Order authorizing the issuance of General Obligation Refunding Bonds in the maximum amount of \$1,700,000.00 to refund Sanitary Sewer Bonds issued in 1995 and the adoption of Resolution No. R-2011-13 which directs authorizes the City Clerk to publish a Notice Of The Adoption Of Such Bond Order. Councilmember Spencer seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Parker, Spencer, Rainer, Ellison, Leak

Nays: None

(Resolution R-2011-13 on file in the City Clerk's Office)

RESOLUTION R-2011-12 AUTHORIZING THE BORROWING OF FUNDS FROM BRANCH BANKING AND TRUST COMPANY

The City Manager explained that Item G (Resolution No. R-2011-12 that was pulled from the agenda is a proposed resolution authorizes the borrowing of funds from Branch Banking and Trust Company. He explained that the proposed resolution deals with the borrowing of \$2,418,858.00 for the automated meter reading devices.

Parker Spencer

Councilmember Parker moved for the adoption Resolution No. R-2011-12 which authorizes the borrowing of funds in the amount of \$2,418,858.00 for the from Branch Banking and Truck Company for the purchase of automated meter reading devices from Datamatic LLC.

Councilmember Rainer seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Parker, Spencer, Rainer, Ellison, Leak

Nays: None

(Resolution R-2011-12 on file in the City Clerk's Office)

WEBSITE POLICIES

Mrs. Jenny Tippet, Webmaster for the City's webpage, explained that currently the City has no website policy. She then explained that after researching website policies, staff has discovered that some cities and towns in North Carolina have an internal as well as an external policy. The external policy provides information for the public on issues such as purpose of the website, privacy, content, linking, privacy, security and accessibility.

The Assistant City Attorney stated that he had reviewed the proposed policy, made some revisions, and it is in final form.

The City Manager stated that Council should review the proposed policies for consideration at Council's regular meeting in November.

COMMENTS FROM MAYOR AND/OR COUNCILMEMBERS

Councilmember Spencer, Laurinburg Airport Commission member, reported that the 523 runway (main runway) has been completed at the Laurinburg/Maxton Airport. He stated that everyone was very excited and the Airport Commission is now working on a strategic plan. The planning session began last month.

He stated that one of the things to present to Council is to think about the airport as an asset. He then stated that creating revenue streams whether through leasing airport hangars, looking at ways to expand the airport, and ways to recruit industry are being considered. He explained that the completion of the project shows that when there are partnerships with different entities that accomplishments can happen.

He informed Councilmembers if they have any thoughts or concepts that they would like to share with the Airport Commissioners is welcomed.

Upon question by Councilmember Rainer regarding a large plane encountering trouble if they could land at the airport, Councilmember Spencer stated they could land.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Margaret Gordon, resident of the Central School Apartments, appeared before to express her concerns about the facility. She explained that the Scotland County Area Transit System does not stop in the driveway of the facility and would like to see the bus stop moved from the street location to the front door of the building.

She stated that the following issues are a concern and would like the Mayor and Council to contact the Laurinburg Housing Authority about the concerns.

1. Mold and mildew in the basement of the facility;
2. No umbrellas on the tables outside;
3. The residences are spoken to horribly;
4. The elevator to the basement should be closed at 5:00 p.m. and reopened in the morning; (people sleeping in the basement-comforters found)

5. People walking in and through the facility that are not residents;
6. No Christmas party for the residents; and
7. A \$90.00 fee the residents have to pay if someone is locked out after 5:00

There was consensus among Council that the Mayor should draft a letter to the Laurinburg Housing Authority Chairman outlining the concerns of Ms. Gordon.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Thomas W. Parker III, Mayor

Dolores A. Hammond, City Clerk