

**CITY OF LAURINBURG
COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 16, 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 August 16, 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 7:00 p.m. Councilmember Rainer gave the invocation.

Mayor Block recognized John Easterling, Laurinburg Police Department Explorer Post, Junior Service League representatives Lindsay Dervin, Menar Malloy, and Sherita Blue and presented everyone with a City pin.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Block asked for approval of the agenda.

Councilmember Parker asked that a closed session to discuss personnel be added to the agenda after the public comment session.

Councilmember Leak asked that the Crime and Drug Committee discussion be moved to the first item under City Manager reports.

Councilmember Leak moved to adopt the agenda with the previously mentioned mentioned changes. Councilmember Spencer seconded the motion and it unanimously carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Block reviewed the consent agenda.

- a. Approve minutes from the June 7, 2011 budget workshop and the June 14, 2011 agenda workshop

Councilmember Leak moved for the approval of the Consent Agenda as submitted.

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

Ayes: Leak, Ellison, Rainer, Spencer Parker

Nays: None

SWEARING IN OF LAURINBURG HOUSING AUTHORITY APPOINTEE

Mayor Block explained that Ms. Dudley was appointed to the Laurinburg Housing Authority to fill an unexpired term of a member who resigned. Ms. Dudley has now been appointed to begin her full term which will expire June 30, 2016. This is a five-year appointment

Mayor Block swore in Ms. Maria Dudley as the City of Laurinburg appointee to the Laurinburg Housing Authority.

RECOGNITION OF THE LAURINBURG/SCOTLAND COUNTY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Councilmember Parker stated that the next item on the agenda is recognition of the Laurinburg/Scotland County Area Chamber of Commerce and proceeded to introduce Drew Williamson, Immediate Past Chairman and Theresa Lamson, President, of the Laurinburg/Scotland County Area Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Williamson stated that it is nice to have a change to brag about the Chamber.

Mr. Williamson stated that the Chamber is very proud being selected as US Chamber of the Year for our revenue category which is \$450,000.00 and under. He explained that the award was received earlier this month in Los Angeles, CA. at the American Chamber of Commerce Executives Convention.

He further explained the criteria on which the Chamber was chosen, the process of submitting the application, and the final process of being selected.

He then explained that after the award that several of the judges expressed how impressed they were with the Chamber and its accomplishments especially with two employees.

Mr. Williamson then thanked City Council for the confidence in the Chamber by funding the organization. He stated that he feels that the City's contribution helps to provide the quality Chamber that Laurinburg/Scotland County has and this award would not have been received with the City's support and funding. He then thanked Council for its support and being a partner with the Chamber.

Mrs. Lamson stated that it is truly a partnership between the City of Laurinburg and the Chamber. She then stated that the award is every member's award, the volunteers, and the Chamber Board of Directors.

Mayor Block on behalf of the City congratulated the Chamber and congratulated Mrs. Lamson on the initiative of researching the award, submitting the application and winning the award. He concluded that this is a great positive for our community and to keep up the good work

TAXATION

Ms. Janice Morrison, Tax Collector, stated that before delivering the tax receipts to the tax collector in any year, the municipal governing body shall adopt and enter in its minutes an order directing the tax collector to collect the taxes charged in the tax records and receipts. A copy of

this order shall be delivered to the tax collector at the time the tax receipts are delivered to him, but the failure to do so shall not affect the tax collector's rights and duties to employ the means of collecting taxes provided by this Subchapter.

The order of collection shall have the force and effect of a judgment and execution against the taxpayers' real and personal property.

At this point in the meeting, Mayor Block recognized Temeric Morrison, son of the City's tax collector presented him with a City pin.

Motion was made Councilmember Leak, seconded by Councilmember Rainer, and unanimously carried to authorize the Mayor to execute order of collection.

CRIME AND DRUG COMMITTEE

The City Manager stated that over the past several months and throughout the year, a number of shooting incidents in our community has plagued the city. He explained that these shootings incidents have created a lot of fear and anxiety in certain parts of our community and that is something that this Council does not does not like to hear about or witness. He stated that he and City staff feel the same way and feel that certain actions need to be taken.

Chief Evans stated that the police department is doing everything it can to address these problems. He informed Council that one of the obstacles is that citizens that witness such incidents or hear of certain things are not willing to come forward and help the police. He stated that when interviewing the victims that their response is that "they will take care of this ourselves." He explained that that statement tells the police department that there is another shooting coming up in a couple of weeks. He also explained that there are conflicting stories from potential witnesses.

Chief Evans stated that the police department as increased patrolling and has extra manpower to help the situation. He explained that in one incident the owners of as particular business has put up a 16-camera system to help minimize the problem.

He explained to Council that the Laurinburg Housing Authority has given the police full rights to work has an agent of the housing authority when they are on housing authority property so that if the police see anyone that does not live there or does not belong can be escorted off the property.

Chief Evans stated that he is very concerned as well as his officers about the onset of these random acts of violence. He explained that the police department is reaching out to the community to help them if they have knowledge of anything concerning the current investigations or if they hear about something that may happen.

Upon question by Mayor Block, Chief Evans stated that City's street crime unit has increased working hours. He explained that they are working a 10-hour day or as many hours as needed. The officers are concentrating on certain areas and there are four officers who work from 6:00 p.m. until 12 midnight to help alleviate some of the activity during those hours.

Chief Evans informed Council that the police department has a \$1,000.00 reward for any

information on the McIntosh Apartment incident. He explained that if anyone has information that they can call crime stoppers and give any information anonymously. He also explained that if any information given to crime stoppers leads to an arrest they will receive a monetary reward also anonymously

A discussion ensued on neighborhood watches that have seems to have diminished in recent years.

A discussion ensued on getting citizens involved.

Upon question by Councilmember Ellison, Chief Evans reported that over the past year, there have been three people that lost their lives and two persons shot and injured at a particular shopping center.

Upon question by Mayor Block, Chief Evans stated that when a person is released from prison that the police are notified.

Councilmember Leak then presented the concept of forming a crime and drug committee.

He explained that the purpose and overview of the Crime and Drug Committee is to help prevent crime and reduce drug use in Laurinburg and Scotland County. He stated that this committee would be comprised of citizens from the City of Laurinburg and Scotland County.

Councilmember Leak stated that ex officio members would be representatives from the Scotland County Sheriff's Department, the Laurinburg Police Department, the Court System, Scotland County School System, and the City of Laurinburg Youth Council.

He explained that appointments will be made in September by the City and Scotland County.

Councilmember Leak explained that everyone wants a good quality of life in our community and this is one of many steps that can contribute to the well being of our citizens and our community.

Upon question by Councilmember Ellison, Councilmember Leak stated that there is anyone from the business community that would like to submit an application to serve on the committee that it would be greatly appreciated.

RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE DISSOLUTION OF RICHMOND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The City Manager explained that the proposed resolution is in opposition to the dissolution of Richmond Community College. He stated that during the past session of the North Carolina General Assembly the joint Program Evaluation and Oversight Committee on June 28, 2011 made a recommendation to eliminate the President of Richmond Community College and assign the leadership and authority over all the current programs to the President of a neighboring college.

He explained that the City has partnered with Richmond Community College through the year and built a new facility that is located in Laurinburg. He stated that he feels that it is in the best

interest of the City to support Richmond Community College by opposing the dissolution.

He explained that copies of the resolution will be sent to the President of the North Carolina Community College System, to the City's legislative delegation and the leaders of the NC General Assembly, and also to the Governor.

A discussion ensued on Richmond Community College and the proposed resolution.

Councilmember Parker stated that Richmond Community College is the fastest growing community college in the State.

Councilmember Parker moved for the adoption of Resolution No. R-2011-06 which opposes the dissolution of Richmond Community College. Councilmember Spencer seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Parker, Spencer, Rainer, Ellison, Leak

Nays: None

(Resolution No. R-2011-06 on file in the City Clerk's Office)

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 40 UTILITIES, ARTICLE III (WATER SYSTEM) AND ARTICLE V (ELECTRICAL SYSTEM) OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LAURINBURG

The City Manager stated that he recommends that the proposed ordinance amendment be tabled until the next meeting in order to consult further with the Assistant City Attorney.

Councilmember Spencer moved to table the proposed Ordinance amendment until the next scheduled Council meeting in September. Councilmember Parker seconded the motion, and it unanimously carried.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING FILING OF APPLICATION FOR FINANCING AGREEMENT

The City Manager explained that the proposed resolution authorizes the filing of an application for a financing agreement. He stated that this resolution addresses Datamatic, LLC and the City's automated meter reading program. He then explained that Council approved at its May special meeting the purchase of a automatic meter reading system from Datamatic, LLC. He then stated that the City Attorney was instructed to draft a contract accordingly that could be signed by the Mayor upon the agreement negotiating between Datamatic and the City. The City Manager informed Council that the City Attorney has completed the agreement. He explained that before the agreement is signed that the City needs to secure the necessary financing.

The City Manager stated that he and Cindy, Carpenter, Finance Director has been consulting with the Local Government Commission (LGC) in order to provide appropriate documents to secure the financing for the purchase of the automated meter reading devices.

Mrs. Cindy Carpenter, Finance Director, stated that the proposed Resolution is a requirement of the Local Government Commission, which authorizes the findings of the application before proceeding with the execution of other documents. Mrs. Carpenter stated that the proposed resolution states the proposed findings that have been reviewed by the City Attorney and the

Local Government Commission to be sure that the City complies with what is needed to secure the financing.

She stated that part of the resolution explains why the City is asking that this be an installment purchase instead of a bond issue. She explained the installment purchase agreement is better because that there is three years of no interest in the contract and it is cheaper than bond financing.

Mrs. Carpenter explained that the Resolution needs to be approved as the City continues to work with the LGC. The deadline is first thing tomorrow morning so that the LGC can include it at its September meeting. She also explained that the other thing that needs to be ready besides the resolution is that Council authorizes the Mayor to sign the application of installment purchase.

Mrs. Carpenter explained that there were three bids received for financing and the lowest bid for financing when the City first initiated the installment purchase was a 2.21% interest rate through a company from Texas. She then explained that the Local Government Commission wishes to have a bank in North Carolina to finance the project. She stated that the other two bids are lower than the 2.21% and the lowest rate will be 1.97% that will be added to the installment purchase agreement.

She asked that Council approve the resolution, authorize the Mayor to execute the financing agreement, and give the City Manager the authority to approve the lowest financing. She concluded by stating that these are the last three steps to complete the process with the Local Government Commission for financing.

Councilmember Parker moved for the adoption of Resolution No. R-2011-07 and authorize the Mayor to execute the financing agreement document and to give the City Manager the authority secure local financing within the State of North Carolina bank financing. Councilmember Spencer seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote:

Before a vote was taken and upon question by Councilmember Leak, Mrs. Carpenter stated the two North Carolina banks that bid on the financing were BB&T and RBC. She stated that BB&T is 1.97% and RBC was 1.99%. These banks have a Scotland County presence.

Ayes: Parker, Spencer, Rainer, Ellison, Leak

Nays: None

(Resolution No. R-2011-07 on file in the City Clerk's Office)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CONTINUATION OF THE CITY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE GOVERNOR'S HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAM

Laurinburg Police Chief John Evans stated that this resolution authorizing the continuation of the Governor's Highway Safety grant that the police department received a couple of years ago. This is the third year of a four-year grant. Chief Evans explained that this is one-half the officer's salary for the 2011-2012 budget year.

Councilmember Parker moved for the adoption of Resolution No. R-2011-08 which authorizes the continuation of the City's participation in the Governor's Highway Safety

Program. Councilmember Leak seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Parker, Leak, Ellison, Rainer, Spencer

Nays: None

(Resolution No. R-2011-08 on file in the City Clerk's Office)

**ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2011-2012 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE-
LAURINBURG MAXTON AIRPORT COMMISSION-RUNWAY PROJECT**

The City Manager explained that this proposed ordinance rescinds Ordinance No. O-2011-09 in regard to the amendment of the loan that the City made to the Laurinburg-Maxton Airport Commission for the construction of the runway as matching funds for the federal grant to surface the runway. The proposed ordinance does not have any numbers entered because it needs direction from Council.

The previous Ordinance loans a total of \$500,000.00 to the Airport Commission and they wish to drawdown \$300,000.00 and return \$200,000.00 to the City.

Staff recommendation is to leave the total amount of \$500,000.00 as already allocated until the project is completed and charge interest on the money that is drawn down in other words set up as a line of credit

Councilmember Parker, City representative on the Airport Commission, stated that the Commission would like to keep the flexibility of the loan and just pay interest on what is drawn down.

Therefore, there needs to be no action on the proposed Ordinance and to keep the previous Ordinance in place loaning \$500,000.00 for the matching portion of the federal grant for runway improvements.

Mrs. Cindy Carpenter explained that the reason she feels the proposed Ordinance needs to be adopted is that the funds were previously included in the 2010-2011 City budget and because there was no drawdown or monies requested by the Airport Commission during that time, the amendment allows the \$500,000.00 to be transferred to the current budget year of 2011-2012.

Councilmember Parker moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. O-2011-15 which rescinds previous Ordinance No. O-2011-09 and amends the 2011-2012 Budget Appropriation Ordinance (O-2011-11) which allocates \$500,000.00 to the Laurinburg/Maxton Airport Commission for runway repairs. Councilmember Spencer seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Parker, Spencer, Rainer, Ellison, Leak

Nays: None

(Ordinance No. O-2011-15 on file in the City Clerk's Office)

**CONSIDER BIDS TO FENCE PROPERTY AROUND THE NORTH FIRE STATION AND
ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE**

Laurinburg Police Chief John Evans stated that during the budget process, a request was made to secure bids to erect a security fence around the training ground at the North Fire Station. He explained that he has received three bids for the installation of a security fence.

He informed Council that he received a bid from Quality Gate and Supply Company at \$13,695.00 for 1,075 feet of nine-gauge fencing. The same company's gave a cost for a residential gauge which is 11½

gauge at 11, 565.00. He explained that their other bid is for 915 feet of nine-gauge fencing with a double drive gate and walk through gate is \$11,600.00. He explained that the \$11,600.00 bid was for fencing that just encompasses the training ground where training is being held along with the props and buildings areas. He informed Council that the other bid for was 1,075 feet of 6' x 9' gauge fence, double drive, gate and a walk through gate with barbwire for a total of \$16,398.00.

He stated that staff recommends the \$11,660.00 bid for security fencing.

Councilmember Rainer motioned to accept the \$11,600.00 bid to install security fencing around the training ground of the North Fire Station and to adopt Ordinance No. O-2011-16 to amend the 2011-2012 Budget Appropriation Ordinance. Councilmember Spencer seconded the motion and it was adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: Rainer, Spencer, Parker, Leak, Ellison

Nays: None

(Ordinance No. O-2011-16 on file in the City Clerk's Office)

SCHEDULE DATES FOR AGENDA WORKSHOP

Agenda workshops were not held in July or August 2011. If Council wants to resume agenda workshops, we request that the City Council adopt the time, dates and location of the agenda workshops mentioned above for the remainder of the calendar year.

The proposed dates are listed below:

September 13, 2011

October 11, 2011

November 15, 2011

December 13, 2011

Councilmember Parker moved to adopt the proposed agenda workshop schedule. Councilmember Leak seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

NORTH CAROLINA LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES ANNUAL CONFERENCE-OCTOBER 23-25, 2011

The City Manager informed City Council that the North Carolina League of Municipalities Annual Conference would be held October 23-25, 1022. He stated that Council should let the City Clerk know if anyone plans to attend.

APPOINTMENTS

Scotland County Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

The City Manager stated that Mayor Block is the current representative on the Parks and Advisory Committee and his term expired July 2011.

Mayor Block stated that he would be glad to continue to serve on the committee.

Councilmember Spencer stated that he has a concern that citizens do not get enough notice about vacancies to the City's appointed committees. He suggested he would like to advertise and post on the

website the upcoming vacancies for committees in order to allow citizens interested in these vacancies to have an opportunity to apply.

The City Manager stated that these appointments can be posted to the website and advertising in the local media will be put in place.

Councilmember Spencer also suggested that this item be tabled in order that interested parties apply.

Councilmember Parker stated that because the Mayor has served in this position and has shown a continued interest that the Mayor be reappointed to a three-year term ending in July 2014.

Following further discussion, Councilmember Parker motioned to reappoint Mayor Matthew Block to the Scotland County Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee to a three-year term to expire in July 2014. Councilmember Rainer seconded the motion and it unanimously carried.

COMMENTS FROM MAYOR AND/OR COUNCILMEMBERS

Discussion on retreats to be held in August, November, and February along with closed session if needed

The City Manager there was discussion to hold a retreat in August, but there was not an agenda, date or time discussed. He stated that it is a good idea to have retreats throughout the year and is proposing that Council considers a retreat on a quarterly basis to begin in October. The October retreat discussions on where staff is with various projects and various activities. Staff is drafting a project inventory report for Council to review, working with the employee survey, and various elements on how to get an understanding on how to put together a human resources strategic plan.

He stated that in January Council typically meets and talks about their goals for the upcoming fiscal year and in March finalize any budget directives and goals. He then stated that in May and June would be review and budget discussions.

Councilmember Ellison stated that in the project inventory report she would like items that were discussed at the last retreat carried over so that Council does not lose what was discussed and leave on the table with any direction to staff.

Following further discussion, there was a consensus among Councilmembers that a mini-retreat will be held prior to the agenda workshop on Tuesday, September 13, 2011. The mini-retreat will begin at 6:00 p.m. at the W. Charles Barrett Building.

Councilmember Parker stated a portion of the taxes for the Laurinburg Downtown Revitalization Corporation is okay to drawdown because it is the special tax assessment that they pay, but the portion that the City allocates is currently in contingency. He further stated that he would like to approve or discuss the contingency monies so that they can request it.

There was a consensus among Council that the President of Laurinburg Downtown Revitalization Corporation (LDRC) appear before Council at the September meeting to report on the activities and plans for LDRC in order to request the City's allocation for funds.

Councilmember Rainer requested that copies of the February retreat minutes be mailed (not emailed) to Council for review before the September 13, 2011 mini-retreat.

Councilmember Ellison thanked the City of Laurinburg Police Department for an excellent National Day Out.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Councilmember Rainer asked about a young man that expressed interest in an internship with the City.

The City Clerk explained that the young man scheduled an appointment and then called and cancelled because of car trouble and did not call to reschedule.

There were no others present for the public comment session

CLOSED SESSION

At 8:21 p.m. motion was made by Councilmember Parker to go into closed session pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6), to discuss the qualifications, competency performance, character, fitness, condition of appointment or conditions of initial appointment of an individual public officer or employee. Councilmember Spencer seconded the motion and it unanimously carried to adjourn to closed session.

At 9:04 p.m., motion was made by Councilmember Leak, seconded by Councilmember Parker, and unanimously carried to adjourn the closed session and resume the open meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Matthew Block, Mayor

Dolores A. Hammond, City Clerk