

**CITY OF LAURINBURG  
COUNCIL MEETING  
JUNE 18, 2013  
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 on June 18, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the council room of the Municipal Building with the Honorable Thomas W. Parker, III, Mayor, presiding. The following Councilmembers were present: Mary Jo Adams, Curtis B. Leak, Kenton T. Spencer, Andrew G. Williamson, Jr. and J. D. Willis.

Also present were: Jennifer A. Tippet, City Clerk; and William P. Floyd, Jr., City Attorney.

Mayor Parker called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The invocation was given by Councilmember Adams.

Mayor Parker explained that the Interim City Manager was unable to attend the meeting due to a death in the family. He added that everyone's thoughts and prayers were with the Peele family.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion was made by Councilmember Willis, seconded by Councilmember Leak, and unanimously carried to adopt the agenda as presented.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

There was no one present to speak.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Parker presented the Consent Agenda as follows:

- a) Approve minutes of March 12, 2013 agenda workshop; March 14, 2013 special meeting (Citizen Input Session); March 19, 2013 regular meeting, March 20, 2013 reconvened meeting, March 25, 2013 special meeting; March 27, 2013 reconvened meeting; April 9, 2013 agenda workshop; April 10, 2013 reconvened meeting; April 15, 2013 reconvened meeting; April 16, 2013 regular meeting
- b) Approve amendments to Community Access Channel Application
- c) Set public hearing to be held on Tuesday, July 16, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building to consider a request to rezone from Residential-6 to Office/Institutional property located at 1021 Shaw Street
- d) Set public hearing to be held on Tuesday, July 16, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building for the second required public hearing for Grant

Application to North Carolina Commerce Department

e) Consider Ordinance No. O-2013-14 amending the 2012-2013 Budget Appropriation Ordinance (O-2012-21)

f) Consider Ordinance No. O-2013-15 condemning the property located at 107 King Street and authorizing the City Building Inspector to clear and demolish the property

Councilmember Spencer motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilmember Adams seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Spencer, Adams, Leak, Williamson, Willis

Nays: None

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **CONSIDER AMENDING ELECTRIC RATES AND SERVICE REGULATIONS**

Mayor Parker opened the public hearing.

Mr. Robert Smith, Electric Services Director, explained that he conducted research concerning rates charged by other electric providers in the area for area lights, and discovered that the City was far below other providers. He recommended that the City increase the monthly fee for area lights by \$3.00 per month, which would still be below what other providers in the area charge.

There was no one to speak for or against this amendment to the Electric Rates and Service Regulations.

Mayor Parker closed the public hearing.

Councilmember Spencer motioned to approve Ordinance No. O-2013-16 amending Ordinance No. O-2000-04 City of Laurinburg Electric Rates and Service Regulations. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Leak, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Spencer, Leak, Willis, Williamson, Adams

Nays: None

(Ordinance No. O-2013-16 on file in City Clerk's Office)

### **FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014 BUDGET**

Mayor Parker opened the public hearing.

Councilmember Willis explained that he had requested budget information from entities that receive tax dollars from the City, such as the Chamber of Commerce and Laurinburg Downtown Revitalization Corporation (LDRC). He explained that he did not want to see the entire budget, he wanted to see what the City was contributing and how those funds were being spent.

Upon question by Mayor Parker, Mrs. Carpenter, Finance Director, explained that the City pays \$42,500.00 total to LDRC, with half of that being the special taxes paid by downtown property owners.

Further discussion ensued concerning the expenditure of the taxpayers' dollars by the Chamber and LDRC. Councilmember Willis explained that he wanted to determine what projects the City is funding to provide more accountability for the funding.

Mayor Parker explained that he believed all funding for the Chamber goes into one account and is spent on various programs as needed. He added that LDRC does not have any administrative overhead and all funds are being spent downtown.

Councilmember Willis requested that he would like this information in the future before the budget is approved.

Mayor Parker closed the public hearing.

Councilmember Willis motioned to approve Ordinance No. O-2013-17 approving the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Budget Appropriations Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Adams, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Willis, Adams, Spencer, Leak, Williamson

Nays: None

(Ordinance No. O-2013-17 on file in City Clerk's Office)

#### **INITIAL PUBLIC HEARING FOR GRANT APPLICATION TO NC COMMERCE DEPARTMENT**

Mrs. Deese explained that this is the initial public hearing required by the North Carolina Department of Commerce. She added that staff is working on the application. She further added that the second public hearing will be held in July to describe the infrastructure project that will be the project for the grant application.

Mayor Parker opened the public hearing.

There was no one present to speak.

Mayor Parker closed the public hearing.

#### **DELEGATION**

#### **ADRIAN LOWERY – NORTH CAROLINA HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY GRANT**

Mr. Adrian Lowery of the Lumber River Council of Governments (COG) explained the City recently was awarded a grant in the amount of \$75,000.00 for Urgent Repairs from the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency. Mr. Lowery provided an overview of the Urgent Repairs Program and an explanation of what the grant funding will allow. Mr. Lowery discussed the application process for citizens to receive assistance through this program.

Upon question by Councilmember Adams, Mr. Lowery explained that citizens may file applications with the City's Planning Department.

Upon questions by Councilmember Leak, Mr. Lowery explained that the grant is available only for property owners inside the City limits of Laurinburg.

No action was required on this matter.

## **CITY MANAGER REPORTS**

### **CONSIDER AWARDING AUDITING CONTRACT FOR THE 2012-2013 FISCAL YEAR**

Mayor Parker explained that this item was added to the agenda on Friday, June 14, 2013 and is necessary in order for the City's audit firm Gustaf C. Lundin & Company to begin auditing the City's financial reports for Fiscal Year 2012-2013.

Motion was made by Councilmember Leak, seconded by Councilmember Williamson, and unanimously carried to authorize the Mayor to execute the auditing contract between the City of Laurinburg and Gustaf C. Lundin & Company for auditing services.

Councilmember Adams noted that the previous year's audit was late and she wanted to ensure that it be completed on time this year.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

### **LAURINBURG PLANNING BOARD**

Mayor Parker explained that the Planning Board terms of James Graham and Kathy Williamson end June 30, 2013. Mrs. Williamson would like to continue serving; however, Mr. Graham does not wish to continue serving. He thanked Mr. Graham for his service to the citizens of Laurinburg. He encouraged interested citizens to file an application with the City Clerk for the Planning Board term which will expire June 30, 2016.

Motion was made by Councilmember Adams, seconded by Councilmember Willis, and unanimously carried to reappoint Kathy Williamson to a three-year term on the Laurinburg Planning Board, which term will expire on June 30, 2016.

### **LAURINBURG-MAXTON AIRPORT COMMISSION**

Mayor Parker explained that Mrs. Ella Morris' term on the Laurinburg-Maxton Airport Commission expires June 30, 2013.

Motion was made by Councilmember Leak, seconded by Councilmember Williamson, and unanimously carried to reappoint Mrs. Ella Morris to a three-year term on the Laurinburg-Maxton Airport Commission, which term will expire on June 30, 2016.

## **COMMENTS FROM MAYOR AND/OR COUNCILMEMBERS**

Councilmembers Adams and Williamson commented on the recent newspaper article regarding work downtown completed by volunteers and staff.

Councilmember Leak reminded staff and citizens about the upcoming Fourth of July activities.

Mayor Parker reminded everyone that Charles Nichols would be sworn in as City Manager on July 1, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. and there would be a drop-in reception for him from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. He commended the Interim City Manager and staff for work over the past six (6) months and stated that the incoming City Manager would inherit a talented staff.

Councilmember Spencer stated that after careful thought, he was resigning from Council effective June 30, 2013 in order to focus his time with his family, his wife's medical practice and to pursue an academic opportunity. He added that through collaboration the Youth Council, the Farmers Market and the prescription drug cards for citizens were accomplished. He further added that he believed in Laurinburg and he felt the City had fantastic staff and leadership. He concluded by stating that he was honored and humbled to have served the citizens of Laurinburg.

Mayor Parker then presented a plaque as follows:

***PRESENTED IN RECOGNITION AND SINCERE APPRECIATION TO***

***KENTON T. SPENCER***

***MAYOR PRO TEMPORE  
NOVEMBER 2011 – JUNE 2013***

***COUNCILMEMBER  
NOVEMBER 2007 – JUNE 2013***

*In special tribute to Kenton T. Spencer for his outstanding and dedicated service to the City of Laurinburg and its citizens. He strived to introduce innovative ideas and projects to improve the quality of life for all citizens such as the Farmers Market and the City of Laurinburg Youth Council. His thoughtful and completely impartial consideration of all issues presented to Council made him a true public servant for every citizen in the City. Never one to shy away from difficult discussions and decisions, he helped guide the City through difficult and controversial matters in an effort to serve the public and make the City a better place for all.*

*Presented this the 18<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2013.*

*Thomas W. Parker, III  
Mayor*

*Curtis B. Leak  
Councilmember*

*Mary Jo Adams  
Councilmember*

*Andrew G. Williamson, Jr.  
Councilmember*

*J. D. Willis  
Councilmember*

Mayor Parker expressed appreciation for Councilmember Spencer and his wealth of knowledge. He added that Councilmember Spencer brought a unique perspective to the Council and he would be missed.

Mayor Parker explained that Saturday July 29<sup>th</sup> would be “Jackson Funeral Home Appreciation Day” in Laurinburg to honor its 50 years of service to the community.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

At 7:48 p.m. Councilmember Spencer moved to go into closed session pursuant to NC General Statute 143-318.11(a)(3) for the purpose of consulting an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the City Attorney. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Willis, and unanimously carried.

At 8:22 p.m. Councilmember Willis moved to adjourn the closed session and resume the open meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Leak, and unanimously carried.

### **ADJOURN**

Motion was made by Councilmember Willis, seconded by Councilmember Williamson, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

---

Thomas W. Parker III, Mayor

---

Jennifer A. Tippet, City Clerk