

**CITY OF LAURINBURG
COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 17, 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 December 17, 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, Dolores A. Hammond, Curtis B. Leak, Andrew G. Williamson, Jr. and J. D. Willis.

Also present were: Charles D. Nichols III, City Manager; Jennifer A. Tippet, City Clerk; and William P. Floyd, Jr., City Attorney.

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

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE

The City Clerk administered the oath of office to Councilmember J. D. Willis.

The Invocation was given by Councilmember Williamson.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There was no one present to speak.

EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS

Mayor Parker and the City Manager presented the Service Awards as follows:

5 Years – Terry Gales and Benita Mullis
15 Years – Darwin Williams
20 Years – Harold Haywood
30 Years – Ricky Odom

The following were not present to receive their service awards:

5 Years – James Bennett, Jean Hewett, Felicia Lambert
10 Years – Charles Haywood, Kevin Mauldin, Gary Moody, Chris Patterson, Ann Shampy
15 Years – Jason Butler, Terry Chavis, Levern Cole, Bryan Miller, Kris Singletary, Richard Snipes, Victor Torres
20 Years – John Terry
25 Years – Ervin Strickland

Mayor Parker congratulated the employees and thanked them for their many years of service.

CONSENT AGENDA

The City Manager presented the Consent Agenda as follows:

- a) Consider minutes of October 15, 2013 agenda

Councilmember Williamson moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Willis seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Williamson, Willis, Adams, Hammond, Leak

Nays: None

PUBLIC HEARINGS

CONSIDER AMENDING THE CITY OF LAURINBURG FEE SCHEDULE AND CONSIDER ORDINANCE CREATING FIBER OPTIC SERVICES AND RATES

Mayor Parker explained this public hearing was to consider amending the City's Fee Schedule to eliminating fiber optic fees from the Schedule and to consider an ordinance creating Fiber Optic Services and Rates.

Mayor Parker opened the public hearing.

There was no one present to speak in favor of or against this matter, and Mayor Parker closed the public hearing.

Mr. Bruce Fowler of McGavran Engineering explained that in the 1980's the City started its fiber optic service within the City limits, expanded the service in the 1990's to provide fiber optic service outside the city limits to serve schools and other entities. He added that since the City recently contracted with Broadplex, different services are available making it necessary for City to adopt services and rates reflective of what is currently being offered.

Upon question by Councilmember Hammond, Mr. Fowler explained that the City leases dark fiber and lit services for internet use.

Councilmember Adams moved to amend the City of Laurinburg Fee Schedule by eliminating the Fiber Optic Fees listed in the Fee Schedule and approve Ordinance No. O-2013-30 creating the Fiber Optic Services and Rates. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Leak, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Adams, Leak, Willis, Williamson, Hammond

Nays: None

(Ordinance No. O-2013-30 on file in the City Clerk's office)

CONSIDER ORDINANCE EXTENDING THE CORPORATE LIMITS AS REQUESTED BY PETITION

Mayor Parker explained that this public hearing was being held to consider an ordinance which extends corporate limits as requested by petition.

The City Manager explained that the property to be annexed included the remainder of the FCC North

Carolina and Small Business Innovation Center properties and the City's 3-acre pump station site along Heck Norton Road.

Mayor Parker opened the public hearing.

There being no one to speak in favor of or against this matter, Mayor Parker closed the public hearing.

Councilmember Williamson moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. O-2013-31 which extends the corporate limits of the City of Laurinburg to include property located on US Hwy 401 North and Heck Norton Road. Councilmember Willis seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Williamson, Willis, Hammond, Leak, Adams

Nays: None

(Ordinance No. O-2013-31 on file in the City Clerk's Office)

DELEGATION

Mr. Robert Macy of the Lumber River Council of Governments (COG) presented a PowerPoint presentation on Project Greenbuild, YouthBuild of Lumber River, a job training opportunity for youth, with the highlights as follows:

- Program can serve up to 70 youth.
- Funded by \$1.1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to the COG, with matching funds of \$275,000.00.
- Goal is to improve the following areas: graduation rate, sustained employment or college attendance, reduced recidivism rate, housing and youth leadership development.
- 50% of students' time must be invested working towards high school diploma or GED.
- Work on credentials to make them more employable.
- Engage in up to 260 hours of paid work experience.
- To be eligible to participate, must be between 16 and 24 years of age, a high school dropout or enrolled in alternative school and must be one of the following: low-income, in foster care, youth or adult offender, child of an incarcerated parent, migrant youth or disabled.
- Must attend a 10-day "Mental Toughness" for evaluation before being enrolled in program. Recently completed first "Mental Toughness" and out of 30 students, 16 finished.

Mr. Macy introduced Mr. Ranshe Gunther, one of the program participants.

Mr. Gunther explained that the program has shown him correct guidance to lead him in the right direction, the opportunity to prove himself and to help the community. He added that he had learned about teamwork and leadership.

Mr. Macy explained that the youth in this program will complete up to 3,500 hours solving local, relevant social issues and will complete up to 18,200 hours rehabilitating or constructing a new home for a local citizen. He concluded by stating that Project Greenbuild, through November 2016, will prepare leaders, repair homes and build communities here in Laurinburg.

RECOGNITION OF RETIREE

Mayor Parker explained that Crime Scene Investigator (CSI) Victor Torres was delayed in arriving at the meeting; therefore he wanted to present the following plaque to CSI Torres upon his retirement:

**APPRECIATION
to
VICTOR TORRES**

NOVEMBER 1998 – DECEMBER 2013

In special tribute for his 15 years of dedicated public service as an employee of the City of Laurinburg Police Department.

He joined the Police Department as a Patrol Officer on November 13, 1998 after retiring from the military, and through his dedication and strong work ethic, worked his way up the ladder to become the City’s Crime Scene Investigator (CSI) in August, 2010.

The Mayor and the Laurinburg City Council express their sincere appreciation for his tireless and unselfish professional service to the citizens of Laurinburg. Displaying true professionalism and integrity, he is the true epitome of a public servant.

We wish him many more years of continued success in the next chapter of his life.

Presented this the 17th day of December, 2013.

*Thomas W. Parker, III
Mayor*

*Mary Jo. Adams
Mayor Pro Tempore*

*Dolores A. “Dee” Hammond
Councilmember*

*Curtis B. Leak
Councilmember*

*Andrew G. Williamson, Jr.
Councilmember*

*J. D. Willis
Councilmember*

Mayor Parker presented CSI Torres with his 15 year service pin.

CSI Torres explained that he came to work for the great people of Laurinburg in 1998 and made it his home. He thanked the City and the citizens for giving him the opportunity.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

CONSIDER RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF LEASE OF REAL PROPERTY

The City Manager explained this resolution authorized the Mayor and City Clerk to execute a lease with Harvey Edge Farms to farm land located behind the Public Works facility.

Councilmember Willis moved to approve Resolution No. R-2013-27 authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute lease of real property and power of attorney, if needed, to Harvey Edge Farms. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Williamson, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Willis, Williamson, Adams, Leak, Hammond
Nays: None
(Resolution No. R-2013-27 on file in the City Clerk’s office)

CONSIDER SETTING PUBLIC HEARING TO REVOKE CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT

The City Manager explained that a public hearing needed to be set at 7:00 p.m. on January 21, 2014 to consider revoking a Conditional Use Permit to operate a salvage yard and recycling center at 13841 Dixie Guano Road. He added that the business has not complied with the conditions of the Conditional Use Permit.

Upon question by Leak, Mrs. Deese explained that the company was served notice by law enforcement after refusal of certified letters concerning the violations.

Councilmember Leak requested tax information at the public hearing.

Motion was made by Councilmember Willis, seconded by Councilmember Adams, and unanimously carried to set a public hearing to be held on January 21, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building to revoke the Conditional Use Permit to operate a salvage yard and recycling center at 13841 Dixie Guano Road.

CONSIDER AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AGREEMENT WITH MCGAVRAN ENGINEERING PC FOR ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING CONSULTING

The City Manager explained that this contract was for electrical engineering services with McGavran Engineering PC.

Motion was made by Councilmember Williamson, seconded by Councilmember Adams, and unanimously carried to authorize the City Manager to execute agreement with McGavran Engineering PC for electrical engineering consulting.

CONSIDER AWARDING BID FOR WATER LINE CONSTRUCTION

The City Manager explained that bids were received on December 3, 2013 for the waterline construction at the FCC Project. He added that Sanford Contractors Inc. was low bidder at \$594,358.36, approximately \$60,000.00 under budget.

Motion was made by Councilmember Willis, seconded by Councilmember Adams, and unanimously carried to award bid to Sanford Contractors, Inc. for water line construction in the amount of \$594,358.36.

CONSIDER RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXERCISE OF POWER OF EMINENT DOMAIN THROUGH THE PROCEDURE OF CONDEMNATION

The City Manager explained that Resolution No. R-2013-28 authorizes the use of eminent domain through condemnation procedures to obtain three (3) wellhead sites. He added that the wellheads are part of the second round of wells to service the industrial park and FCC. He explained the process the City had utilized with various property owners to drill test wells, including the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding between the City and the property owner.

Following a brief discussion, Councilmember Adams moved to approved Resolution No. R-2013-28 authorizing the exercise of power of eminent domain through the procedure of condemnation to acquire title to three (3) wellhead sites on property owned by Shoeheel Farms, LLC. Councilmember Leak seconded the motion, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Adams, Leak, Hammond, Willis, Williamson

Nays: None
(Resolution No. R-2013-28 on file in the City Clerk's office)

CONSIDER COUNCIL WORK SESSION SCHEDULE FOR 2014

The City Manager explained that Council had been discussing changing the agenda workshop to a work session and also changing the location to the Council Chambers instead of the Barrett Building Conference Room; therefore the proposed schedule was prepared to reflect those changes.

Motion was made by Councilmember Willis, seconded by Councilmember Williamson, and unanimously carried to approve the Council Work Session Schedule for 2014 with the change of location to the Council Chambers.

Councilmember Hammond expressed concern that the work session be advertised.

APPOINTMENTS

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Motion was made by Councilmember Williamson, seconded by Councilmember Adams, and unanimously carried to reappoint Linda Douglas to the Board of Adjustment for a three-year term expiring December 31, 2016; to appoint Joyce Jewell to the Board of Adjustment for a three-year term expiring December 31, 2016; and to appoint Tim Ivey as an Alternate Member to the Board of Adjustment for a three-year term expiring December 31, 2016.

CRIME AND DRUG COMMITTEE

Motion was made by Councilmember Adams, seconded by Councilmember Williamson, and unanimously carried to appoint Tim Ivey to the Crime and Drug Committee.

COMMENTS FROM MAYOR AND/OR COUNCILMEMBERS

A discussion ensued concerning the Scotland High School Football Team and the need to celebrate its success.

Councilmember Hammond thanked the citizens for electing her and for attending her swearing in event earlier in the day.

Mayor Parker stated he was glad to have a full Council again. He added that there is a lot of confidence in each member.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Thomas W. Parker III, Mayor

Jennifer A. Tippett, City Clerk