

**CITY OF LAURINBURG
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING/WORK SESSION
FEBRUARY 17, 2014
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
303 WEST CHURCH ST.
7:00 p.m.**

The City Council of the City of Laurinburg held a special meeting/work session on February 17, 2014 in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building at 7:00 with the Honorable Thomas W. Parker, III, 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.

Councilmember Adams gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The City Manager requested that the discussion on the entrance signs be discussed first prior to the review of the February 18th agenda.

Motion was made by Councilmember Williamson, seconded by Councilmember Adams, and unanimously carried to approve the agenda as amended.

DISCUSSION OF ENTRANCE SIGNS

Ms. Sandy Skamperle, Chairman of the Beautification Committee, appeared before Council to request consideration of the entrance signs proposed by the Beautification Committee. She explained that the Committee had been working on the entrance signs for several years, and the Committee felt the signs were very important and positive for the City.

The City Manager discussed the history of entrance signs and the Beautification Committee. He explained that staff would like to order one (1) of the proposed signs for the Committee, staff and Council to view before moving forward with ordering additional signs.

Upon questions by Councilmembers Adams and Williamson, the City Manager explained that the cost for erecting, lighting and landscaping six (6) signs is approximately \$46,000.00.

A discussion ensued concerning the budget for the signs and if the funds for the signs were included in the Grounds Maintenance budget. The City Manager explained that currently, there is approximately one-half (1/2) the amount needed to purchase signs in the budget, not specifically the six (6) signs being recommended. He added that staff worked on designing signs to remain within the budget; however, staff nor the Beautification Committee were satisfied with the design.

A lengthy discussion ensued concerning the Grounds Maintenance/Beautification budget options that were discussed during the 2013-2014 budget workshops and what projects were included in the "medium" option Council chose. Councilmember Willis explained that he recalled the discussion concerning the option Council chose with regard to staffing.

The City Manager explained that current staff was shuffled around to take care of staffing needs.

Upon question by Councilmember Hammond, the City Manager explained that approximately \$20,000.00 to \$25,000.00 was in the Grounds Maintenance budget for signs.

Councilmember Leak expressed concern that it be transparent what funds pay for the entrance signs.

Further discussion ensued concerning what the \$87,000.00 budget in Grounds Maintenance included. Mrs. Cindy Carpenter, Finance Director, explained that when Council approved the \$87,000.00 for Grounds Maintenance, that amount was to include projects and personnel.

Upon question by Mayor Parker, Mr. Rodney Byrd, Beautification Supervisor, explained that projects included in the \$87,000.00 were the annual tree giveaway, replanting of right-of-way trees, signs and some other small projects like landscaping several beds at the A.B. Gibson Center. He added that not all of the projects had been completed.

Upon question by Councilmember Hammond, Mrs. Skamperle explained that the Beautification Committee never approved the design of the brick columns suggested by former City Manager Ed Burchins.

Mrs. Lynne Mabry, Beautification Committee member, explained that the brick columns were discussed, but there was no quorum of the Committee to take action.

Following further discussion, motion was made by Councilmember Adams, seconded by Councilmember Hammond, and unanimously carried to authorize staff to move forward with purchasing one (1) entrance sign for staff, Council and the Beautification Committee to approve before purchasing all six (6) signs.

HIGHWAY 74 LIGHTING

The City Manager explained that Cory Hughes with the Tourism Development Authority is trying to schedule a "Lighting of the Lights" on March 6, 2014 at approximately 5:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Mr. Hughes is coordinating this event with the NC Department of Transportation and Mr. David Burns.

Councilmember Willis expressed concern about the brightness of the lights.

SCOTLAND COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The City Manager explained that the County Manager wanted to know if any councilmembers are interested in serving on the Comprehensive Transportation Committee. The first meeting will be on February 27, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. He added that if any councilmember is interested to please notify him or the City Clerk.

CHAMBER REENTRY COUNCIL

The City Manager reported that the Chamber of Commerce is starting a local re-entry council to help inmates coming out of prison and council members were invited to participate. He added to let him or the City Clerk know if anyone is interested in participating.

AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY 18, 2014

The City Manager reviewed the agenda for the February 18, 2014 meeting as follows:

- 3) Recognition of SHS Football Team – Resolution No. R-2014-02
- 4) Consent Agenda
 - a) Consider minutes of January 14, 2014 special meeting/work session and January 21, 2014 regular meeting
The City Manager noted corrections on pages 1 and 3 of the January 14, 2014 minutes.

- b) Set public hearing to be held on March 18, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers to consider a request for a Conditional Use Permit to operate a carnival from March 27-April 6, 2014 at 900 U.S. Hwy 401 Bypass

DELEGATION

- 5) William Shaw, Scotland County Fire Commission
The City Manager explained that Mr. Shaw will provide information on the fire tax increase and the possibility of adding substations to lower homeowners' insurance rates.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

- 6) Consider authorizing the City Manager to execute Memorandum of Understanding with RCC for Resource Officer
The City Manager explained that RCC asked the City if it was interested in providing an SRO at RCC. He added that RCC would provide the funding for salaries and fringe benefits, while the City provides uniforms and equipment.
Mrs. Betty Galloway, HR/Risk Management Director, added that the SRO would primarily be located at the Honeycutt Center but would travel to other RCC locations including the Early College at St. Andrews University.
- 7) Consider Resolution No. R-2013-03 resolution requesting the NC DOT lower speed limit on Shaw Road from 45 mph to 35 mph
- 8) Consider Ordinance No. O-2014-01 amending the FY 2013-2014 Budget Appropriations Ordinance (Ordinance No. O-2013-17) by allocating \$21,000 from Police-Salaries (510-500200)- to Building Maintenance- Maintenance & Repair Building (500-501500)
- 9) Consider Ordinance No. O-2014-02 amending the FY 2013-2014 Budget Appropriations Ordinance (Ordinance No. O-2013-17) by allocating \$25,000 from Cemeteries-Salaries (506-500200)- to Grounds Maintenance-Salaries (505-500200)
The City Manager explained that when Tim Pierce took over Cemetery, Rodney Byrd moved to Grounds Maintenance. This budget amendment moves Rodney's salary from Cemetery to Grounds Maintenance.
Upon question by Councilmember Leak, the City Manager explained that there was no salary increase for Tim Pierce, but there was a minimal increase for Rodney Byrd.
- 10) Authorize Tax Collector to advertise tax liens
- 11) Consider adjustments to the tax levy
- 12) Consider amendments to Beautification Committee Guidelines
- 13) Consider Crime and Drug Committee Guidelines
- 14) Consider Citizen Participation Plan for Comprehensive Pedestrian Plan

QUARTERLY FINANCIAL & OVERTIME REPORT

Mrs. Cindy Carpenter, Finance Director, explained that the report is through January, 2014, and all figures should be approximately at 58% except for salary line items as there was an additional pay period included in the figures. She provided a brief review as follows:

- No concerns in the General Fund other than salaries in Grounds Maintenance that will be taken care of by the proposed budget amendment.
- In the Electric Fund, the capital expenditures needs to be closely monitored and an amendment may be needed. Electric Operations is overspent probably because of the work done for the FCC Project in advance. Because of the recent inclement weather, there was no time to review charges and make adjustments for this report, but staff will review and make adjustments as necessary.
- In the Water/Sewer Fund the only concern is that revenues are less than expenditures by \$147,000.00. She added that \$284,000.00 remained in the Datamatic money that will be transferred over from the BB&T loan.
- No concerns in Solid Waste Fund.

Mrs. Carpenter then reviewed the Quarterly Overtime Report. She explained that at this point she is unsure if any budget amendments will be necessary since Council put 50% of the General Fund overtime in Contingency and that there will be lapsed salaries in some departments to cover the overtime expenses.

A discussion ensued concerning the need to have a true picture of overtime expenditures. The City Manager explained that at the end of the year, Council will be able to tell the dollar amount spent on overtime in each department.

DISCUSSION OF BUILDING MAINTENANCE PROJECTS

Mr. Harold Haywood, General Services Director, discussed the proposed building maintenance projects now that the repairs at the Sanford Building will be taken out of the Police Department. Those projects include: repair and paint ceilings at City Hall, repair plaster, doors and ceiling tiles, repair the Barrett Building porch including replacing broken tiles and re-grouting, replacing window at Emma Ruth McLean Library, strip floor and clean carpet at City Hall, and any miscellaneous projects that might come up.

DISCUSSION OF RCC CLOSEOUT

The City Manager explained that constant research by staff was conducted to ensure that the close-out of this project was accurate. He added that the City had been double-billed for one (1) invoice from The Wooten Company which had since repaid \$37,645.41 back to the City, leaving a balance of \$412,852.00, \$12,852.00 above the upfront expenses the City funded. He further added that this balance will be transferred to the General Fund, increasing the cash on hand and positively affecting the General Fund Fund Balance.

Motion was made by Councilmember Williamson, seconded by Councilmember Adams, and unanimously carried to approve the close-out of the Richmond Community College Project.

DISCUSSION OF EDC STRATEGIC PLAN

The City Manager explained that the draft strategic plan for the Economic Development Commission (EDC) had been prepared and sent to municipalities for review and comment. He requested that any comments on the plan be submitted to him or the Clerk.

Councilmember Adams questioned why Laurinburg-Maxton Airport Commission was not listed as a partner on all Goals.

Upon question by Councilmember Hammond, the City Manager explained that MBA students from St. Andrews University assisted in preparing the Strategic Plan and added St. Andrews University as a partner where they thought St. Andrews should be a partner.

Councilmember Hammond suggested that on page 2, Strategy 3 of Goal 1 should be revised to indicate that modifications would be requested of the zoning code and not imply that any requested modification would be automatic.

The City Manager requested that Council and the Mayor provide comments to him or the Clerk to forward to Mr. Icard with the comments discussed tonight.

DISCUSSION OF CRIME & DRUG COMMITTEE

Mayor Parker discussed two (2) items that Mr. Noran Sanford, Chairman of the Crime & Drug Committee, had discussed with him, which were \$300.00 for refreshments for a meeting and a safe place for kids to play basketball.

Councilmember Willis suggested that the request for a place to play basketball should be presented to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and the Scotland County Commissioners.

Following discussion of the origination of the Committee and its purpose, Councilmember Williamson suggested that a representative of the Committee appear before Council to provide an update on the Committee.

COMMENTS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Councilmember Willis requested that the recent ordinance approved by Council allowing military training facilities be revisited in March.

CLOSED SESSION

At 8:23 p.m. Councilmember Adams moved to go into closed session pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a) (3) to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the City concerning Shoeheel Farms, LLC v. City of Laurinburg; pursuant to NC GS 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the City concerning Strata Solar v. City of Laurinburg; pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the City; and pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a) (5) to establish, or instruct the public body’s staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating the price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange, or lease. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hammond, and unanimously carried.

At 9:26 p.m., motion was made by Councilmember Willis, seconded by Councilmember Adams, and unanimously carried to adjourn the closed session and resume the open meeting.

STRATA SOLAR V. CITY OF LAURINBURG

Councilmember Hammond motioned to not appeal the Order issued by Judge D. Jack Hooks, Jr. ordering the City of Laurinburg to issue to Strata Solar the requested Conditional Use Permit for a solar farm on US 501(Johns Road). The motion was seconded by Councilmember Leak and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Hammond, Leak, Willis
Nays: Adams, Williamson

PURCHASE OF PROPERTY

Motion was made by Councilmember Williamson, seconded by Councilmember Willis, and unanimously carried to purchase a sewer line easement from Aubrey McCormick/Safeway Motors in the amount of \$10,000.00 for the FCC Project.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m.