

**CITY OF LAURINBURG
COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 18, 2014
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 February 18, 2014 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. Tippett, 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.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There was no one present to speak.

RECOGNITION OF SHS FOOTBALL TEAM

Councilmember Leak motioned to approve Resolution No. R-2014-02 recognizing the 2013 Scotland High School Football Team. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Adams and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Leak, Adams, Hammond, Willis, Williamson

Nays: None

(Resolution No. R-2014-02 on file in City Clerk's office)

Mayor Parker presented Resolution No. R-2014-02 to Coach Richard Bailey as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. R-2014-02

***RESOLUTION HONORING THE 2013 SCOTLAND HIGH SCHOOL
FIGHTING SCOTS VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM AS THE
4A STATE RUNNER-UP***

WHEREAS, the 2013 Scotland High School Fighting Scots Varsity Football Team, under the direction of Coach Richard Bailey and staff, finished the 2013 football season with an impressive 15-1 record; and

WHEREAS, the Fighting Scots won the Eastern Regional Championship; and

WHEREAS, the Fighting Scots played Dudley High School for the State Championship in Raleigh on December 14, 2013; and

WHEREAS, despite its best efforts, the Fighting Scots team was defeated by Dudley High School for the State 4A Championship;

WHEREAS, this team brought pride and community to all citizens of Laurinburg and Scotland County through its hard work, heart and success.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor of the City of Laurinburg and the Laurinburg City Council that the Scotland High School Fighting Scots Football Team and Coaching Staff are hereby honored for their outstanding achievements and are commended for their display of sportsmanship and leadership for the City of Laurinburg.

ADOPTED this the 18th day of February, 2014.

Thomas W. Parker, III, Mayor

Jennifer A. Tippett, City Clerk

Mayor Parker thanked Coach Bailey, staff and players for representing the community in a positive way and for the manner in which they brought the community together.

Coach Bailey thanked the Mayor and Council for recognizing the team and explained that not everyone could be in attendance due to baseball and basketball. He added that it was wonderful to be the football coach in Scotland County because of the pride and support. He introduced the staff and players present as follows:

Logan Hatcher
Mazani Stubbs
Domenique Davis
Cordell Campbell
Timon McMillan
Ben Utter
Niga Hailey
Avery Simmons

Ty McLaurin
Tyquan Ingram
Shy'Keim Oliver
Garrett Best
Tristan Strong
J'Quan Breeden
Jonathon Carmichael
Coach Wood

Mayor Parker and Councilmember Adams presented the Coach and players with City pins.

Mayor Parker also recognized Justin McNickle, voice of the Fighting Scots, and Bill Floyd, the clock man.

CONSENT AGENDA

The City Manager presented the Consent Agenda as follows:

- a) Consider minutes of January 14, 2014 special meeting/work session and January 21, 2014 regular meeting
- 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

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

Ayes: Adams, Williamson, Leak, Willis, Hammond

Nays: None

DELEGATION

NEIL SHAW, SCOTLAND COUNTY FIRE COMMISSION

Mr. Neil Shaw of the Scotland County Fire Commission appeared before Council and provided a brief history of the Scotland County Fire Commission and its purpose. He also explained the following:

- The Commission is requesting a tax increase from the Scotland County Commissioners in an effort to improve fire coverage for citizens, particularly for two (2) areas of the County, the southern portion and west of Laurel Hill, do not have fire protection on paper. He quickly pointed out that if there is a fire in these areas, departments respond.
- The Commission has developed a vehicle replacement schedule as well as plans for a fire substation in the southern part of the County. This substation could be located inside the City limits or outside.
- With improved fire coverage, homeowners should see a reduction in homeowners' insurance rates.
- The Commission is seeking support in its efforts.

Upon questions by Councilmember Willis and Mayor Parker, Mr. Shaw explained that a substation for the southern portion of the County was proposed because of the population density, and that future plans included a substation to provide improved coverage for the area west of Laurel Hill.

Upon question by Councilmember Leak, Mr. Shaw explained that the Airbase is provided fire service through the City's North Fire Station utilizing County-owned equipment that is housed at the North Fire Station.

A discussion ensued concerning fire vehicles.

Mayor Parker thanked Mr. Shaw and the Fire Commission for trying to help all citizens of Scotland County.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH RICHMOND COMMUNITY COLLEGE (RCC)

City Manager explained that RCC had requested that the City execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the City for a School Resource Officer, primarily for the Diane Honeycutt campus, but the officer would also have a presence at other RCC campuses in Laurinburg. He further added that RCC would pay salary and benefits and the City would be responsible for uniforms and equipment.

Motion was made by Councilmember Leak, seconded by Councilmember Adams, and unanimously carried to authorize the City Manager to execute the Memorandum of Understanding with Richmond Community College for a School Resource Officer.

RESOLUTION REQUESTING SPEED REDUCTION

The City Manager explained that this matter was discussed in January and staff was instructed to draft a resolution to reduce the speed limit on Shaw Road.

Councilmember Williamson motioned to approve Resolution No. R-2014-03 requesting that North Carolina Department of Transportation lower the speed limit on Shaw Road (SR 1627) from 45 mph to 35 mph. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Willis, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Williamson, Willis, Hammond, Leak, Adams

Nays: None

(Resolution No. R-02014-03 on file in City Clerk's office)

CONSIDER BUDGET AMENDMENT

The City Manager explained that this ordinance amending the FY 2013-2014 Budget Appropriations Ordinance moves funds from the Police Department budget to Building Maintenance for repairs at the Sanford Building.

Upon question from Councilmember Williamson, the City Manager explained that the mold remediation had been completed, the building had been cleaned and Thames Construction had begun other repairs. He added that next year's budget would include cosmetic items for the Sanford Building such as power-washing and painting trim.

Councilmember Williamson motioned to approve Ordinance No. O-2014-01 amending the FY 2013-2014 Budget Appropriations Ordinance (Ordinance No. O-2013-17) by allocating \$21,000.00 from Police-Salaries to Building Maintenance-Maintenance & Repair Building. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Willis, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Williamson, Willis, Adams, Hammond, Leak
Nays: None
(Ordinance No. O-2014-01 on file in City Clerk's office)

CONSIDER BUDGET AMENDMENT

The City Manager explained that this budget amendment stems from reallocation of staff from Cemetery to Grounds Maintenance. He added that the Grounds Maintenance Supervisor's salary was included in the Cemetery budget and needed to reflect the staff realignment.

Councilmember Adams motioned to approve Ordinance No. O-2014-02 amending the FY 2013-2014 Budget Appropriations Ordinance (Ordinance No. O-2013-17) by allocating \$25,000.00 from Cemetery-Salaries to Grounds Maintenance-Salaries. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hammond, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Adams, Hammond, Leak, Willis, Williamson
Nays: None
(Ordinance No. O-2014-02 on file in City Clerk's office)

AUTHORIZE TAX COLLECTOR TO ADVERTISE TAX LIENS

Ms. Diana Chavis, Tax Collector, explained that as required by GS 105-369a, the municipal tax collector must report to the governing board the total of unpaid taxes for the current fiscal year that are liens on real property. She added that currently \$247,843.94 remains in outstanding taxes.

Motion was made by Councilmember Willis, seconded by Councilmember Hammond, and unanimously carried to authorize the tax collector to advertise tax liens the week of March 17-21, 2014.

CONSIDER ADJUSTMENTS TO THE TAX LEVY

Ms. Diana Chavis, Tax Collector, reported the following releases, adjustments and discoveries to the tax levy:

Releases:	\$6,601.05
Discoveries:	\$61,298.22
Adjustments:	\$12,552.56

Councilmember Willis motioned to approve the releases and discoveries. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Adams, and unanimously carried.

CONSIDER AMENDMENTS TO BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE GUIDELINES

The City Manager explained that amendments to Beautification Committee Guidelines that have been made to original guidelines approved by Council when the committee was formed.

Upon question by Councilmember Williamson, the City Manager explained that the revisions including eliminating a member from the National Honor Society and tweaking the mission statement.

Motion was made by Councilmember Williamson, seconded by Councilmember Willis, and unanimously carried to approve the amendments to the Beautification Committee Guidelines.

CONSIDER CRIME AND DRUG COMMITTEE GUIDELINES

The City Manager explained that the Guidelines for the Crime and Drug Committee Guidelines had not been approved by Council.

Upon question by Councilmember Hammond, the City Manager explained that these guidelines were similar to the Beautification Committee Guidelines.

Motion was made by Councilmember Hammond, seconded by Councilmember Adams, and unanimously carried to approve the Crime and Drug Committee Guidelines

CONSIDER CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN

The City Manager explained that the Citizen Participation Plan needed to be adopted for the Comprehensive Pedestrian Plan.

Mrs. Brandi Deese, Planning & Community Development Director, explained that the City had received grants from the North Carolina Department of Transportation and Community Transformation Grant to develop a comprehensive pedestrian plan to increase connectivity within the City. She added that the Steering Committee had met and would continue to meet to develop the plan.

Upon questions by Councilmember Williamson, Mrs. Deese explained that the website for the plan was www.walklaurinburg.org and that the survey of needs was going well.

Motion was made by Councilmember Adams, seconded by Councilmember Williamson, and unanimously carried to adopt the Citizen Participation Plan for the Comprehensive Pedestrian Plan.

CITIZEN INPUT SESSION

The City Manager explained that due to the snow storm the Citizen Input Session was cancelled and needed to be rescheduled.

Following discussion, it was consensus of Council to schedule the 2014 Citizen Input Session on Monday, March 10, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at the A. B. Gibson Center.

COMMENTS FROM MAYOR AND/OR COUNCILMEMBERS

Councilmember Hammond expressed appreciation for Mr. Kevin Hedrick of NC DOT for removing the damaged sign on Highway 74.

Councilmember Willis requested that Council revisit the amendment to the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) regarding military training facilities in the Industrial Zoning District.

Councilmember Willis requested that the City Manager talk with NC DOT about the Highway 74 lighting as the lights are not as bright as they should be.

Councilmember Willis stated that he wanted to get the record straight that he did not recommend nor chose that the police vehicles be painted white. He added that Chief Williams discussed this matter with Council in October.

Councilmember Hammond requested that a discussion regarding regulations on solar farms be included on the March agenda.

Councilmember Adams suggested that the discussion regarding solar farms should also include procedures for a moratorium.

Councilmember Williamson requested that the City Attorney provide instructions on Council's role in the conditional use permit process and how it should consider evidence.

Councilmember Hammond suggested that perhaps a staff member from the School of Government or the North Carolina League of Municipalities could present information to Council about solar farms and the conditional use process.

Mayor Parker stated that Noran Sanford, Chairman of the Crime and Drug Committee would be present at the March meeting to update Council on the Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Thomas W. Parker III, Mayor

Jennifer A. Tippett, City Clerk