

**CITY OF LAURINBURG
COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 16, 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 September 16, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the council room of the Municipal Building with the Honorable Mary Jo Adams, Mayor Pro Tem, presiding. The following Councilmembers were present: Dolores A. Hammond, Curtis B. Leak, Andrew G. Williamson, Jr. and J. D. Willis. Absent was Thomas W. Parker III, Mayor.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Adams called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Invocation was given by Councilmember Leak.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion was made by Councilmember Leak to approve the agenda as submitted. Following a brief discussion, Councilmember Leak withdrew his motion.

Motion was made by Councilmember Williamson and seconded by Councilmember Hammond to remove Item c) Consider setting public hearing to be held on October 21, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building to consider a request to rezone a 44.21 acre tract of land on Scotland High School Drive from General Business to Industrial from the Consent Agenda and Item 4 Public Hearing to Consider request to rezone a 44.0 acre tract of land on X-Way Road from Residential-20 to Industrial from the agenda.

Councilmember Williamson explained that when Council amended the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) to require that solar farms had to be located in the Industrial Zoning District, he thought that the City's consultant, Holland Consulting, would provide its expertise and the revised UDO would be in place at this point. He added that he would like to have the UDO revision before moving forward with the two (2) rezoning requests that are related to use of property for solar farms. He added that he felt that requiring property to be zoned Industrial in order to allow a solar farm was severe.

Councilmember Willis explained that he felt Council should have taken City staff's recommendation to wait on the revision of the UDO before making any changes to regulations on solar farms. He added that he was not in favor of removing Item 4 Public Hearing from the agenda as he felt the petition submitted by Mr. Locklear had been mishandled, and the public hearing had been scheduled and advertised.

Councilmember Hammond explained that it would be beneficial for Mr. Locklear for Council to develop better rules and regulations concerning solar farms before considering his rezoning request.

Councilmember Leak explained that the UDO was changed mid-stream of Mr. Locklear's request and there is another request for a rezoning for development of a solar farm.

Following further discussion, Mayor Pro Tem Adams added that she felt that the consultants should be consulted and Council direct staff on how to regulate solar farms.

Mayor Pro Tem Adams explained that a closed session needed to be added to the agenda.

Councilmember Williamson revised and restated his motion to amend the amend and approve the amended agenda by removing Item c from the Consent Agenda and Item 4 and add a closed session to the agenda. The motion revised motion was seconded by Councilmember Hammond, and the vote was 4-1 with Councilmember Willis casting the dissenting vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There was no one present to speak.

CONSENT AGENDA

The City Manager presented the Consent Agenda as follows:

- a) Consider minutes of June 10, 2014 special meeting/work session; June 17, 2014 regular meeting; July 15, 2014 special meeting/work session; July 22, 2014 regular meeting; August 12, 2014 special meeting/work session; and August 19, 2014 regular meeting
- b) Consider Ordinance No. O-2014-15 amending the FY 2014-2015 Budget Appropriations Ordinance (Ordinance No. O-2014-11) for Get Alarm Grant

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

Ayes: Hammond, Willis, Leak, Williamson, Adams

Nays: None

PUBLIC HEARING

CDBG 2013 INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT FUNDS

Mayor Pro Tem Adams opened the public hearing.

Mrs. Brandi Deese, Planning and Community Development Director, explained that due to changes with the CDBG program, the application process for grants had been changed. She added that the City's application was submitted for improvements to the Leith Creek Outfall and

no City funds would be required.

There was no one to speak on this matter.

Mayor Pro Tem Adams closed the public hearing and no action by Council was necessary.

APPOINTMENTS

Laurinburg Downtown Revitalization Corporation

The City Manager explained that Council appointed two (2) members to the Laurinburg Downtown Revitalization (LDRC) Board and directed staff to research the City's third appointment to the Board. He added that Mr. Jim Willis was the City's last appointee in 2010.

Motion was made by Councilmember Williamson, seconded by Councilmember Hammond, and unanimously carried to appoint Mr. Jim Willis to the Laurinburg Downtown Revitalization Corporation (LDRC) Board of Directors for a two-year term expiring July 31, 2016.

North Carolina League of Municipalities Annual Conference

The City Manager explained that normally the City Manager is voting delegate and an alternate is appointed in the event he is unable to vote at the Conference. He added that all of Council is attending the Conference.

Motion was made by Councilmember Hammond, seconded by Councilmember Willis, and unanimously carried to appoint the City Manager as the Voting Delegate and Councilmember Curtis Leak as the Alternate Delegate for the North Carolina League of Municipalities Annual Conference.

COMMENTS

Upon question by Councilmember Williamson, the City Manager explained that the draft revision of the UDO would be presented to Council in October. He added that he would have the consultant at the October work session to discuss solar farm regulations.

Councilmember Williamson thanked staff and all involved in the Beautification Day in conjunction with the United Way Day of Caring.

Councilmember Hammond explained that when she and Councilmember Adams were in Washington, the group attending made sure that our national representatives know that Laurinburg and Scotland County appreciate any assistance they provide.

Mayor Pro Tem Adams explained that she had attended a Grand Opening of Red Willow Hair Studio downtown.

CLOSED SESSION

At 7:28 p.m., Councilmember Hammond motioned 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. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Leak, and unanimously carried.

At 7:36 p.m. motion was made by Councilmember Hammond, seconded by Councilmember Willis, and unanimously carried to adjourn the closed session and resume the open meeting.

ADJOURN

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Thomas W. Parker III, Mayor

Jennifer A. Tippett, City Clerk