

**CITY OF LAURINBURG  
COUNCIL MEETING  
OCTOBER 21, 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 October 21, 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. 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 Williamson.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

Mayor Parker explained that Halloween will be on Friday, October 31, 2014 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for children 12 and under. He cautioned everyone to be careful.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

There was no one present to speak.

**PRESENTATION**

Mayor Parker presented a Memorial Resolution from the North Carolina League of Municipalities to Mrs. Danielle Priest and Ms. Brandy Chavis, daughters of the late Diane Carol Kohnen Chavis, retired City employee, as follows:

*RESOLUTION  
OF THE  
NORTH CAROLINA LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES*

*WHEREAS, the North Carolina League of Municipalities notes with sadness  
the death of Diane Carol Kohnen Chavis  
who faithfully served the  
City of Laurinburg for thirty-five years; and*

*WHEREAS, Diane Carol Kohnen Chavis made significant contributions to the City of Laurinburg and its residents and contributed to the advancement of excellence in municipal government;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the membership of the North Carolina League of Municipalities, meeting in Annual Conference on this 13<sup>th</sup> day of October 2014, expresses their sorrow at the passing of Diane Carol Kohnen Chavis, former Customer Service Manager of the City of Laurinburg, who made lasting contributions to municipal government and whose memory we are proud to honor.*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution is made a part of the permanent records of the North Carolina League of Municipalities and that copies be forwarded to the family of Diane Carol Kohnen Chavis and to the City of Laurinburg.*

/S/ Alfonzo King, President

/S/ Paul A. Meyer, Executive Director

Mayor Parker commented on Mrs. Chavis' service to the City as Customer Service Manager as well as the service of Mrs. Chavis' mother, Annie Kohnen, as Scotland County Clerk to the Board of Commissioners.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

The City Manager presented the Consent Agenda as follows:

- a) Consider minutes of August 25, 2014 special meeting/retreat; September 10, 2014 special meeting/work session; and September 16, 2014 regular meeting
- b) Consider authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute Construction Agreement with CSX Transportation, Inc.

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

Ayes: Williamson, Hammond, Willis, Adams, Leak

Nays: None

## **DELEGATION**

## **SISTER CITIES PROPOSAL**

Ms. Nuekie Aku Opata of 412 McKenzie Street, Laurinburg, appeared before Council to discuss a proposal for the City to become a Sister City to Tema, Ghana. She explained her personal relationship with Tema and that when she visited last summer, she was named the Queen Mother

of the Village. She added that she wanted to fuse the American and African cultures. She provided the following information concerning the Sister City initiative:

- Tema has four (4) Sister Cities, but none in North Carolina
- Website created: [laurinburgtemasistercities.org](http://laurinburgtemasistercities.org)
- Proposed activities include African American Cultural Resource Center, cultural parade, African American Cultural Club at the high school
- Has support of the Civic League and the Scotland County Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and individual community members

Ms. Oyata concluded her comments by thanking Council for considering supporting the Laurinburg-Tema Sister Cities Initiative.

Upon question by Councilmember Adams, Ms. Oyata explained that Tema has four (4) sister cities – one (1) in London and three (3) in the United States.

Upon question by Councilmember Hammond, Ms. Oyata explained that she had contacted various groups concerning the Steering Committee and needed to check back with the Rotary Club, the Laurinburg/Scotland County Area Chamber of Commerce, the American Legion, St. Andrews University and UNC-Pembroke.

Upon question by Councilmember Adams, Ms. Oyata stated that she would be meeting with Ms. Kelly Ficklin who had hosted some students with the Laurinburg-Oban Sister Cities Initiative and that she had spoken with Mr. Beacham McDougald who indicated that he would support this initiative.

A brief discussion ensued concerning Ms. Oyata's high school and college experiences.

Mr. Terrence Williams, President of the Scotland County Chapter of the NAACP, explained that this initiative will bring pride and cultural awareness and empower young people.

Upon question by Councilmember Hammond, Ms. Oyata explained that she is working on organizing the Lion Heart Development Group of Laurinburg, NC, a 501(3) (c) corporation.

Councilmember Williamson expressed interest in hearing about progress of this initiative. He also urged Ms. Oyata to work with the Oban Sister Cities group as it is a great model to follow.

Mr. Williams explained that the first step in the initiative is to get buy-in from the community. He added that there would be no expenditure required by the City other than the membership fee already paid to Sister Cities International. He further added that he and Ms. Oyata were seeking Council's blessings to move forward. He explained that Mr. Beacham McDougald would be a member of the Steering Committee.

Upon question by Councilmember Hammond, Ms. Oyata explained that she was requesting that Council approve a resolution supporting the initiative as soon as possible.

## **CITY MANAGER REPORTS**

### **SET PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER AMENDMENT TO UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE**

The City Manager explained that a public hearing needed to be set to consider an amendment to Article X Permissible Uses of the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) with regard to solar arrays.

Upon request by Councilmember Adams, Mrs. Brandi Deese, Planning & Development Director, provided a brief history of recent changes to the UDO with regard to solar arrays as follows:

- Earlier this year the ordinance was amended to allow solar arrays in the Industrial zoning district and adopted supplemental regulations such as setbacks and buffer requirements.
- Draft revision keeps the supplemental regulations but change back to allowing solar arrays in the Residential-20 and Residential-20 Mobile Home zoning districts by Conditional Use Permit and removing the use from the Industrial zoning district.

Upon questions by Councilmember Adams and Hammond, Mrs. Deese explained the following:

- It would take staff time to study available tracts of land to determine appropriate distance separations between solar arrays.
- The proposed amendment removes the use of solar arrays from the Industrial zoning district because it does not make sense to require a Conditional Use Permit for a less intensive use such as a solar array but allow harshest uses such as a gas plat or concrete plant as a permitted use.

Motion was made by Councilmember Willis, seconded by Councilmember Leak, and unanimously carried to set a public hearing to be held on Tuesday, November 18, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers of the Municipal Building to consider an amendment to Article X Permissible Uses, Section 146 Table of Permissible Uses of the City of Laurinburg Unified Development Ordinance.

### **SET PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT**

The City Manager explained that a public hearing needed to be set to consider a request for a Conditional Use Permit for an accessory apartment by the occupants of the Gill House. He added that the occupants wish to use the second floor of the Gill House as an apartment, and that the occupants have talked with the County Building Inspector regarding Building Code requirements.

Motion was made by Councilmember Hammond, seconded by Councilmember Leak, and unanimously carried to set a public hearing to be held on Tuesday, November 18, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers of the Municipal Building to consider a request for a Conditional Use Permit for an accessory apartment at 203 West Cronly Street.

## **UPDATE ON URGENT REPAIR GRANT**

Mrs. Brandi Deese, Planning and Development Director, discussed the \$75,000.00 Urgent Repair Grant the City received from the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency. She explained the qualifying factors for individuals to participate in the grant program and encouraged citizens to call the Planning and Development Department for more information and to determine if they were eligible to participate in the grant.

## **CONSIDER AUTHORIZING UPSET BID PROCEDURE FOR AMENDED LEASE**

The City Manager explained this resolution was to amend the lease of City property for a solar farm. He added that the acreage and the lease amount had changed since the original lease was approved by Council.

Councilmember Adams motioned to approve Resolution No. R-2014-14 authorizing upset bid procedure for amended lease of property for period of more than 10 years and authorizing appropriate City officials to execute related documents. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Williamson, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Adams, Williamson, Leak, Willis, Hammond

Nays: None

(Resolution No. R-2014-14 on file in City Clerk's office)

## **COMMENTS**

Councilmember Willis requested a list of City personnel including the Leadership Team and Supervisors with information as to their positions, salary, how many people supervised and credentials including workshops attended. He added that he also would like to see the City's future manpower needs.

Mayor Parker explained that he, Councilmembers Adams and Hammond and the City Clerk attended the Lumber River Council of Government Annual meeting last week and three (3) Laurinburg citizens were recognized: Kevin Patterson, Ann Kurtzman and Howard Whitehurst.

## **ADJOURN**

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

---

Thomas W. Parker III, Mayor

---

Jennifer A. Tippet, City Clerk