

**CITY OF LAURINBURG  
COUNCIL MEETING  
APRIL 21, 2015  
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 April 21, 2015 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, Andrew G. Williamson, Jr. and J. D. Willis. Councilmember Curtis B. Leak was absent (excused).

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 Willis, and he then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

There was no one present to comment.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The City Manager presented the Consent Agenda as follows:

- a) Consider minutes of March 5, 2015 special meeting/Citizen Input Session; March 10, 2015 special meeting/work session; March 17, 2015 regular meeting; and March 19, 2015 continued meeting
- b) Set public hearing to be held at 7:00 p.m. on May 19, 2015 to consider a request for a Conditional Use Permit for a ground-mounted solar array on a 44.21 acre tract of land on Scotland High School Drive

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

Ayes: Hammond, Adams, Willis, Williamson

Nays: None

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **CONSIDER REQUEST FOR CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO EXPAND EXISTING DAYCARE FACILITY**

Mayor Parker opened the public hearing.

Ms. Nancy Higgins, being duly sworn, appeared before Council and explained that Kids Campus wanted to increase its size and services to children. She added that the splash pad addition will be completed this week. She further added that other plans include addition of a gross motor lab that can be utilized when the weather prohibits outside recreation, security cameras and another pre-K class. She concluded her comments by stating that the daycare facility is a great asset to the community.

There was no one present to speak in opposition to the request.

Mayor Parker closed the public hearing.

Councilmember Willis motioned to approve the request for a Conditional Use Permit to expand an existing day care facility at 497 Produce Market with the statement as read by the attorney.

The City Attorney then recited the following to be incorporated into Councilmember Willis' motion:

- The development is within the planning jurisdiction of the City of Laurinburg;
- The application is complete;
- The development is in substantial compliance with the regulatory provisions of the Unified Development Ordinance;
- The request will not materially endanger the public health or safety;
- The request will not substantially injure the value of the adjoining or abutting property;
- The request will be in harmony with the area in which it is to be located; and
- The request will be in general conformity with the Land Use Plan, Thoroughfare Plan or other plan officially adopted by Council.

Councilmember Adams seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

### **CONSIDER AMENDMENTS TO THE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE**

The City Manager explained that Mr. Holland was present to answer any questions.

Mayor Parker opened the public hearing.

Mr. Dale Holland of Holland Planners explained that the public hearing is for council to consider amendments to the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO). He added that the majority of the changes with the UDO involved restructure, reorganization and clarification and that substantial portions of the UDO were not changed. He further added that one of the major changes simplifies the development review process.

Upon question by Councilmember Hammond, Mr. Holland explained that no citizens came to the Open House, but that was not unusual.

Upon request by Councilmember Adams, Mr. Holland explained that there are two (2) categories in special events: one is less than seven (7) days which is considered a minor special event, and the other is from seven (7) days to 14 days which is considered a major event. He added that the major events cannot occur more than four (4) times per year on the same parcel. He discussed other requirements for special events including hours of operation, noise, litter removal and parking.

Upon question by Councilmember Adams, Mr. Mac McInnis, City Planner/Zoning Officer, explained that yard sales are considered to be special events.

Councilmember Hammond clarified that the yard sales being discussed did not include residential yard sales.

Mr. Holland explained that one of the revisions included allowing circuses in the Office/Institutional zoning district by Conditional Use Permit.

Mayor Parker closed the public hearing.

Councilmember Hammond motioned to approve Ordinance No. O-2015-05 amending the City of Laurinburg Unified Development Ordinance in that:

The revisions to the current City of Laurinburg Unified Development Ordinance are consistent with an adopted comprehensive plan and any other officially adopted plan that is applicable because:

- All land within the city's zoning jurisdiction will continue as it is currently zoned. The updates will continue to coordinate the UDO with the overall City Code, address regulatory deficiencies, provide a more user friendly document, provide graphics to aid in the understanding of the UDO, and continue to regulate land uses following the guidelines of the Land Development Plan and current Zoning Map.

#### Reasonableness

The proposed amendments are reasonable and in the public interest in that:

1. The amendments will provide for regulations that promote the health and safety of the citizens of City of Laurinburg and Scotland County;
2. The amendments do not change zoning on parcels since the Official Zoning Map is not being amended.

The motion was seconded by Councilmember Williamson, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Hammond, Williamson, Adams, Willis

Nays: None

(Ordinance No. O-2015-05 on file in City Clerk's office)

## **CONSIDER COMPREHENSIVE PEDESTRIAN PLAN**

Mayor Parker opened the public hearing.

Mr. Holland explained that a committee was formed that worked on developing the Comprehensive Pedestrian Plan. He added that the North Carolina Department of Transportation has reviewed and approved the plan. He further added that most likely, the plan will not be implemented with local funds due to the cost, to wit: \$1 million in sidewalk construction, \$1.8 million for greenways and \$800,000.00 in road improvements. He further added that the Comprehensive Plan is a good foundation for Laurinburg.

Councilmember Hammond reported that the Comprehensive Pedestrian Plan was integrated into the Scotland County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (SCCTP) and a public hearing will be held regarding the SCCTP.

Mayor Parker closed the public hearing.

Motion was made by Councilmember Adams, seconded by Councilmember Hammond, and unanimously carried to approve the Comprehensive Pedestrian Plan entitled "Laurinburg Walks: A Plan for Health & Mobility".

## **CITY MANAGER REPORTS**

### **CONSIDER JOINT RESOLUTION CONCERNING JOBS INCENTIVE PROGRAM**

The City Manager requested that Council consider a joint resolution with Scotland County requesting that the Legislature develop a Jobs Incentive Program geared toward Tier 1 counties. He added that the resolution had been adopted by the Scotland County Board of commissioners.

Councilmember Williamson motioned to approve Resolution No. R-2015-06, a Joint Resolution Requesting that the North Carolina State Legislature Develop a Jobs Incentive Program Geared Toward Tier 1 Counties. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Willis, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Williamson, Willis, Adams, Hammond

Nays: None

(Resolution No. R-2015-06 on file in City Clerk's office)

### **UPDATE ON NCEMPA/DUKE PROGRESS ENERGY AGREEMENT**

The City Manager explained that Mayor held a press conference Friday, April 17, 2015 to provide a summary of the Duke Progress Energy purchase of assets from North Carolina Eastern Municipal Power Agency (NCEMPA). He added that the agreement between the two (2) entities is anticipated to close July 1, 2016. He further added that the City's electrical engineer has been contacted to begin preparations for an electric rate study once the purchase agreement is completed.

## **PLANNING BOARD VACANCY**

The City Manager explained that there is a vacancy on the City's Planning Board and that interested City residents can find the application on the website or pick one up at the W. Charles Barrett Building.

## **BUDGET SCHEDULE**

Following discussion, it was consensus to schedule a budget workshop to be held on Monday, May 11, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.

## **COMMENTS BY MAYOR OR COUNCILMEMBERS**

Councilmember Willis requested that staff contact NC Department of Transportation concerning the stoplight timing and synchronization at two (2) intersections downtown – Main Street and Railroad Street, and Main Street and Roper Street.

Councilmember Willis requested that Council allow the City Manager and Human Resources Director to look at employees whose salaries are out of synch and bring a recommendation back to Council for a one-time salary adjustment.

Following a brief discussion, motion was made by Councilmember Willis, seconded by Councilmember Adams, and unanimously carried to authorize the City Manager and Human Resources Director to review salary scale and present to Council recommendation, if any, for salary adjustment.

Councilmember Willis requested that the Management Trainee Program be placed in the budget so that the City is looking down the road to fill key positions.

Following a brief discussion, it was consensus of Council to consider adding the Management Trainee Program in the upcoming budget.

The City Manager explained that he would like to have the City's Auditor meet with Council on Tuesday, May 12, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. to give a financial audit update and to answer any questions.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

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Thomas W. Parker III, Mayor

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Jennifer A. Tippett, City Clerk