

**CITY OF LAURINBURG
COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 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 July 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, Curtis B. Leak, Andrew G. Williamson, Jr. and J. D. Willis. Councilmember Dolores A. Hammond was absent.

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 Leak requested a moment of silence to remember two (2) of the community's pillars who recently passed away: Sam Snowden and Jack Hasty.

The Invocation was given by Councilmember Leak, and he then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There was no one present to comment.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The City Manager requested that Mayor Parker explained that Item 6 needed to be removed from the agenda.

Motion was made by Councilmember Adams, seconded by Councilmember Leak, and unanimously carried to approve the agenda with the removal of Item 6 as requested.

CONSENT AGENDA

The City Manager presented the Consent Agenda as follows:

- a) Consider minutes of May 12, 2015 special meeting; May 12, 2015 special meeting/work session; May 13, 2015 reconvened meeting; and May 19, 2015 regular meeting
- b) Consider authorizing the Mayor to execute Municipal Bridge Supplemental Agreement with the NC Department of Transportation
- c) Consider Resolution No. R-2015-11 which amends Resolution No. R-2014-15 Purchasing Policy for the City of Laurinburg

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

Ayes: Williamson, Leak, Willis, Adams

Nays: None

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

CONSIDER AMENDING CHAPTER 40 UTILITIES OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LAURINBURG

The City Manager explained that the proposed ordinance amends the City Code pertaining to utilities and that Ms. Tammie Simmons, Customer Services Manager, was present to discuss the changes.

Ms. Tammie Simmons appeared before Council and highlighted changes to the City Code as follows:

- If there are three (3) or more tamperings, the landlord is required to be the contracting party for utility account.
- If there are consistent issues causing high electric or high water use as a result of negligence on the part of the landlord, the landlord is required to be the contracting party for utility account.
- Any delinquent utility account must be paid in full prior before establishing a new service.
- If tampering occurs when the property is vacant, the owner is responsible for the tampering charges.
- Water leak adjustments will be allowed once in a 24 month period instead of once in a 12 month period, and there will not be an adjustment caused by a third party.

Ms. Simmons briefly discussed the Standard Operating Procedures she has prepared for her office.

Upon question by Councilmember Leak, Mrs. Simmons explained that landlords would be provided a copy of the ordinance and it would be publicized on the website and in the quarterly newsletter.

Councilmember Leak motioned to approve Ordinance No. O-2015-11 amending Chapter 40 Utilities of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Laurinburg. Councilmember Willis seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Leak, Willis, Adams, Williamson

Nays: None

(Ordinance No. O-2015-11 on file in City Clerk's office)

CONSIDER RESOLUTION REQUESTING DESIGNATION AS NORTH CAROLINA CERTIFIED RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

The City Manager explained that this resolution requests designation for Laurinburg/Scotland County as a NC Certified Retirement Community. He added that the resolution is necessary for the application and that the Scotland County Tourism Development Authority (TDA) is preparing. He further added that the TDA is paying the application fee.

Councilmember Williamson motioned to approve Resolution No. R-2015-12 requesting that Laurinburg/Scotland County be named a North Carolina Certified Retirement Community. Councilmember Adams seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Williamson, Adams, Leak, Willis
Nays: None
(Resolution No. R-2015-12 on file in City Clerk's office)

CITY HALL UPDATE

The City Manager explained that the Selection Committee conducted interviews on June 29, 2015 and selected Creech & Associates to be the design firm for the new city hall. He added that contract negotiations are ongoing. He further added that he will keep Council informed.

DOT WEST BLVD. SIGNAGE UPDATE

The City Manager explained that he had discussed with NC Department of Transportation (DOT) the possibility of the City making pedestrian signs and placing them at the intersection of West Blvd. and US Highway 401 (Wal-Mart intersection). He further explained that DOT would not allow pedestrian signs because DOT does not want to indicate that DOT approves pedestrians at this intersection. He added that DOT also told him that the area is still being reviewed and studied.

Upon question by Councilmember Williamson, the City Manager explained that signage is not allowed unless there are sidewalks. He added that the Community Development Director had applied for grants to fund sidewalks.

COMMENTS BY MAYOR OR COUNCILMEMBERS

Mayor Parker reminded Council that there is a special meeting of the Scotland County Economic Development Corporation Friday, July 24, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. and it is an open meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Thomas W. Parker III, Mayor

Jennifer A. Tippett, City Clerk