

**CITY OF LAURINBURG
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 21, 2017
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
303 WEST CHURCH ST.
7:00 p.m.**

Minutes

The City Council of the City of Laurinburg held its regular meeting on Tuesday, March 21, 2017 in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building at 7:00 p.m. with the Honorable Matthew Block, 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 Block called the meeting to order at 6:57 p.m.

Councilmember Hammond gave the Invocation and then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The City Manager explained that the agenda needed to be amended by removing Item e) Consider Ordinance No. O-2017-06 Amending the FY 2016-2017 Budget Appropriations Ordinance (O-2016-05) by Creating a Receivables Account for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) with \$259,152.39 for General Fund FEMA Expenditures, \$125,113.38 for Electric Fund FEMA Expenditures, \$684,559.40 for Water/Sewer Fund FEMA Expenditures, and \$200,357.88 for Solid Waste Fund FEMA Expenditures from the Consent Agenda and be presented first in the City Manager's Reports, and to add prior original #14 Consideration Resolution of Intent to Reimburse.

Councilmember Willis requested that the Comments from Mayor/Council be moved to after the Public Comment Period.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mayor Block briefly reviewed procedures and decorum for the Public Comment Period and for the meeting.

Mr. Michael Edds, 1207 Blue Drive, explained that he had addressed Council for three (3) years about the high crime rate in the City. He stated that he would like a response from Council on how it plans to address the crime rate and when he would hear from Council.

Ms. Mary Evans, 411 Sugar Road, expressed concern about one (1) of the sculptures at the Art Garden and its similarity to a tank. She also explained that, like Mr. Edds, she would like a response from Council on a plan for dealing with the high crime in the community.

There was no one else to speak during the Public Comment Period.

Councilmember Williamson explained that the crime issue is a big issue with budget implications. He added that plans to address the crime rate would be addressed during the budget process.

Councilmember Hammond explained that Council would hear the Police Chief's ideas that will affect the budget, so this matter will be discussed during budget discussions.

The City Manager explained that one (1) of the art pieces from the Art Garden was needed by the student artist for a show, so it was removed and replaced with the piece discussed by Ms. Evans.

Mr. Michael Mandeville, Community Development Director, explained that the replacement piece was designed and built by Professor Adams Walls.

Councilmember Williamson explained that he did not want to get into a position of being the art critique police and having Council judge the appropriateness of each piece. He suggested that Mr. Mandeville speak with Professor Walls.

Mayor Block suggested that the opinion of the Arts Council be solicited on this sculpture.

Councilmember Adams expressed concern about censoring the art work done by the students and the professor.

Councilmember Hammond suggested that Mr. Mandeville discuss the piece with Professor Walls. She added that there could be different opinions as to what the sculpture represents. She further added that she felt that the sculpture was not meant to be offensive.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL

Councilmember Willis explained that at the December 13, 2016 council meeting, he indicated that he would be addressing items when the information was not correct. He then addressed the following:

- He explained that he understood that Mayor Block had told a group of people that JD Willis was probably not going to run for re-election because he was selling his business and probably move out of town. Councilmember Willis explained that he had not owned The Highlands for five (5) years, and that he had no intention of moving out of town, so that information was incorrect.
- Councilmember Willis explained that he took issue with Mayor Block's criticism of Dr. Purcell, former Mayor of Laurinburg. He explained that Dr. Purcell had done more for

Laurinburg and Scotland County than Mayor Block and JD Willis could ever do. He added that the Mayor's comments about Dr. Purcell were very inappropriate.

- Councilmember Willis explained that he had been told that Mayor Block had said that Council refuses to consider to allow citizens to vote on consolidating the Laurinburg Police Department with the Scotland County Sheriff's Department. He added that he had been told that Mayor Block told some people that if such consolidation occurred, that two (2) police officers could be turned over to the Sheriff's Department, assuming two (2) for the day shift, and two (2) for the night shift, and that these officers would be on patrol. He added that this was difficult to understand when the crime rate is discussed and citizens have asked Council to hire 10 more police officers.
- Councilmember Willis explained that Mayor Block has said that Council increased water/sewer rates by 35% to stash money to build the new City Hall. He explained that the reason for the water/sewer rate increase had been discussed several times, and that the Mayor's comment was untrue and incorrect.
- Councilmember Willis discussed Mayor Block's discussion of the firing of a volunteer firefighter. He added that he did not understand how Mayor Block could discuss that the individual could sue the City. He further added that Mayor Block is not a legal authority.
- Councilmember Willis explained that Mayor Block had discussed the City not living up to its plan with the Scotland County Fire Association. He added that the City agreed to let the fire substation be built on its property and clear the property prior to construction. He further added that this was the extent of the involvement of the City.
- Councilmember Willis explained that Mayor Block continues to discuss citizens moving to Laurinburg and that Laurinburg is dying. He added that Moore County is where Mayor Block pays his taxes. He further added that he did not understand how Mayor Block can try to tell County Commissioners and School Board members what to do when Mayor Block has not paid his Scotland County taxes.

Councilmember Hammond reminded everyone about the Litter Sweep the week of April 3rd. She added that if Council wants to pick up litter to check with Mr. Rodney Byrd, Beautification Supervisor. She added that if Council wanted to do as a group, April 4th before 5:00 p.m. would be a good date and time for her.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Block presented the Consent Agenda as follows:

- a) Consider minutes of January 10, 2017 special meeting/retreat; January 17, 2017 regular meeting; and February 7, 2017 special meeting/Citizen Input Session
- b) Set public hearing to be held April 18, 2017 to consider a request to rezone from Industrial to Office/Institutional an 11-acre tract of land located on Commonwealth Avenue and identified as Parcel ID 01005307081
- c) Consider Ordinance No. O-2017-04 Amending the FY 2016-2017 Budget Appropriation Ordinance (Ordinance No. O-2016-05) by allocating \$152,000 to increase General Fund-Fund Balance and allocating \$152,000 to Streets & Highways Improvements
- d) Consider Ordinance No. O-2017-05 Amending the FY 2016-2017 Budget

Appropriations Ordinance (O-2016-05) by allocating \$10,000 to increase General Fund-Fund Balance and allocating \$10,000 to Community Development Misc. (On the Road with Cecil Series)

e) Consider Resolution No. R-2017-07 Amending the City's Purchasing Policy

f) Consider Authorizing the City Manager to Execute NC Department of Transportation Construction Agreement for the Pedestrian Improvement Project at US 401 Bypass and West Blvd.

Councilmember Willis moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilmember Adams seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Willis, Adams, Williamson, Hammond

Nays: None

PUBLIC HEARINGS

CONSIDER REQUEST FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO OPERATE A CARNIVAL TO BE HELD AT 1671 S. MAIN ST. FROM MARCH 23, 2017-APRIL 2, 2017

Mayor Block opened the public hearing on a request for a Conditional Use Permit to operate a carnival to be held at 1671 South Main Street from March 23, 2017-April 2, 2017.

Mr. Mac McInnis, City Planner/Zoning Officer, upon being first duly sworn, explained that Mr. Robert E. Lee, on behalf of Michael's Amusements, has requested at Conditional Use Permit to operate a carnival at 1671 South Main Street from March 23, 2017 to April 2, 2017. He added that this carnival has been operating in Laurinburg for the last 11-12 years and there have been no issues. He further added that the application is complete, Planning Board unanimously recommended approval of the Conditional Use Permit, and that staff has no reason not to recommend approval of the request.

Upon question by Mayor Block, Mr. McInnis explained that the carnival would be located on the former McDonald's Brother's property.

Mr. Robert Lee, being first duly sworn, apologized to Council for not getting the request for a Conditional Use Permit in sooner. He explained that Michael's Amusements always cleans up after it operates a carnival, and had already been cleaning up at the proposed site.

Upon question by Councilmember Williamson, Mr. Lee explained that some parking could occur on the property and that there was parking available in the shopping center across the street.

Further discussion ensued concerning parking.

Upon question by Mayor Block, Mr. Lee explained that the hours of operation on school nights would be from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 or 10:15 p.m. He added that on weekends the hours of

operation would be from 12:00 p.m. until 11:00 or 11:30 p.m. He further added that the Police Department would be on site during evening hours, just as in the past.

Upon question by Councilmember Adams, Mr. Lee discussed the \$10 million liability insurance held by Michael's Amusements, and that everything was being done to make the property safe for visitors.

Mr. Steve Tooker, being first duly affirmed, explained that he was representing the residents of The Colony who were concerned about the elderly residents living in The Colony, and the foot traffic that could be created by the carnival.

Upon question by Councilmember Willis, Mr. Lee explained that normally there would be two (2) to three (3) police officers working each night. He added that he hoped the officers would be walking the perimeter of the carnival.

Police Chief Darwin Williams explained that he would instruct the on-duty police officers to ride through The Colony neighborhood while the carnival is operating.

Mr. Lee requested that if any of the residents in The Colony have a problems to contact him so that they can be addressed.

Mr. Steven Nemeth, being first duly sworn, explained that he managed Golden Corral for 11 years and worked with Mr. Lee when the carnival was held in the former Winn Dixie parking lot at 900 US 401 Bypass. He added that Mr. Lee always cleaned up after the carnival and handled any problems quickly.

Mayor Block closed the public hearing.

Councilmember Hammond moved to approve a Conditional Use Permit to operate a carnival to be held at 1671 S. Main Street from March 23, 2017 to April 2, 2017 based upon the following facts:

- 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.

The motion was seconded by Councilmember Willis, and carried unanimously.

CONSIDER REQUEST TO REZONE FROM CENTRAL BUSINESS TO OFFICE/INSTITUTIONAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 205 FAIRLEY ST.

Mr. Mac McInnis, City Planner/Zoning Officer, explained that Mr. Brian Brewington had purchased the property at 205 Fairley Street and that he was requesting to rezone the property from Central Business to Office/Institutional in order for a church to be operated on the property. He added that Planning Board heard the request and unanimously recommended approval of the request and that staff had no reason not to recommend approval.

Mayor Block opened the public hearing.

Mr. Brian Brewington explained that Premier Choice Investments purchased the property at 205 Fairley Street approximately two (2) months ago and began trying to find a good business for that location. He added that when a church approached him about locating in the building, he was excited. He further added that there was adequate parking, some changes would be made to the interior to meet the needs of the church, there would be new landscaping added and the parking lot would be paved.

Upon question by Councilmember Williamson, Mr. McInnis explained that if the church moved, it would not be difficult to rezone back to Central Business if required.

There being no one present to speak in opposition to the request, Mayor Block closed the public hearing.

Councilmember Willis moved to approve Ordinance No. O-2017-07 rezoning from Central Business to Office/Institutional property located at 205 Fairley Street based upon the following as read by the City Attorney:

The rezoning of 205 Fairley Street (Scotland County Land Parcel Number 0100106008) from Central Business to Office/Institutional is consistent with an adopted comprehensive plan and any other officially adopted plan that is applicable because:

1. Promotes public health, safety and welfare.
2. The Office and Institutional district is established to encourage land uses which serve as an adequate buffer between intensive non-residential uses and residential uses; provide aesthetic controls and dimensional requirements to ensure compatible office and service development with surrounding residential uses; and encourage a mixture of medium density residential uses with offices and services.
3. The Comprehensive Use Plan 2035 Land Use Map indicates the development of mixed uses in and around the Central Business District, which is where this parcel is located.
4. There are already a number of Office and Institution zoned properties along with Residential and Central Business zonings in the area. The rezoning of this parcel will allow Institutional and residential uses as well as office and service uses on the property as a permitted use.

Reasonableness

1. The rezoning to OI will allow uses consistent with other existing uses;
2. The rezoning to OI will help maintain the present character of the City of Laurinburg while promoting diversity and future growth.
3. The rezoning to OI will have no detrimental impact to the property values of the surrounding land owners; and
4. The rezoning to OI will require no infrastructure improvements by the City of Laurinburg.

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

Ayes: Willis, Williamson, Adams, Hammond

Nays: None

(Ordinance No. O-2017-07 on file in City Clerk's office)

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

The City Manager reminded everyone that on April 4, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. at the A.B. Gibson Center, a visioning forum for the Main Street Program would be held. He added that it was important for as many people as possible to attend, and he requested that those interested in attending to RSVP to Michael Mandeville.

CONSIDER ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FY 2016-2017 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE

The City Manager explained that a budget amendment was necessary due to Hurricane Matthew and the need to create a Receivable for funds from the federal government. He added that the numbers are fluctuating, but now stand at \$1.3 million for the City to be reimbursed.

Councilmember Williamson moved to approve Ordinance No. O-2017-06 amending the FY 2016-2017 Budget Appropriations Ordinance (Ordinance No. O-2016-05) by increasing General Fund Hurricane Federal Revenue by \$240,176.45, by increasing Electric Fund Hurricane Federal Revenue by \$125,113.38, by increasing Water/Sewer Fund Hurricane Federal Revenue by \$684,559.40, by increasing Solid Waste Fund Hurricane Federal Revenue by \$200,357.88 and allocating \$240,176.45 to various line items in the General Fund, allocating \$125,113.38 to various line items in the Electric Fund, allocating \$684,559.40 to various line items in the Water/Sewer Fund, and allocating \$200,357.88 to various line items in the Solid Waste Fund. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Adams, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Williamson, Adams, Hammond, Willis

Nays: None

(Ordinance No. 2017-06 on file in City Clerk's office)

UPDATE ON LITTER

Mr. Michael Mandeville, Community Development Director explained that he and staff had researched litter issues, what the City had tried in the past and a proposal presented by former Community Development Director Brandi Deese. He explained that Mrs. Deese had presented three (3) options dealing with Beautification in 2013 which were:

- Option 1: Low Option: Keep as Grounds Maintenance at the current budgeted amount of approximately \$231,000.00
- Option 2: Medium Option. Function as Beautification which would require a director or supervisor. Projects would include: complete tree inventory, tree giveaway program, right-of-way plantings, improve entrance signs at a cost of approximately \$327,000.00
- Option 3: High Option. Everything that is included in the Medium Option and include an edging crew, litter awareness program and study for the McDuffie Building at an estimated cost of \$708,000.00

Mr. Mandeville explained that Council chose to include the “medium” beautification program for the FY 2013-2014 budget year, and that is what had been operating since that time. He added that Jason Locklear was designated as the Litter crew member and had been working with the Beautification crew to pick up litter. He further added that he would like to refresh the Adopt-A-Spot program and get new groups and reactivate others. He further explained that using inmates was not reliable based upon several issues such as having adequate numbers of inmates, quality of work and motivation. He added that staff could look into adding another employee to pick up litter with the current position, or possibly using temporary workers.

Councilmember Willis explained that he had been thinking about the possibility of considering contracting out litter pick up along the main corridors.

Councilmember Williamson suggested that staff research how other communities handle the litter problem since the problem is widespread so that Council could consider during budget discussions.

Councilmember Adams suggested adding an education component also.

Mr. Mandeville discussed creating a partnership with the Laurinburg/Scotland County Area Chamber of Commerce, Scotland County and the Scotland County School System to work together to tackle the litter problem county-wide.

Councilmember Hammond suggested that the court system be asked to require a person fined for littering to be given community service work and pick up litter.

Further discussion ensued concerning the litter problem, the need for education and the problem of motivating people to keep the community clean and pick up litter.

UPDATE ON CODE ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

Mr. Mac McInnis discussed Code Enforcement activities dealing with substandard housing. He explained that since August of 2012, through various methods, 53 substandard housing units had

been demolished and that three (3) more will be demolished soon. He explained that in an effort to save costs, he has been working closely with the property owners to either demolish the structures themselves or to allow the property to be used for live fire training for the Fire Department.

Further discussion ensued concerning the demolition of substandard housing and the costs involved.

DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION ON CITY LOGO

The City Manager explained that Councilmember Adams wanted to discuss the new City logo.

Councilmember Adams explained that at the February 21, 2017 meeting, several options for a new City logo were presented and that no vote was taken to choose the new logo. She added that the City Manager informed her that the official City seal would not change, and that she believed the new logo should be a fresher version and not one of the proposed logos with the oak trees.

Councilmember Williamson explained that his recollection of the previous meeting was that he and Councilmember Adams preferred one logo, Councilmembers Leak and Hammond preferred the other, and Councilmember Willis had no preference. He added that he did not feel that the proposed new logo with the trees was not necessarily unique.

Councilmember Willis discussed combining the design of the two proposed logos.

Councilmember Hammond explained that the proposed logos were discussed last month and that the citizens in attendance at the meeting chose the logo with the trees. She added that the proposed designs were also taken to the Beautification Committee.

Councilmember Adams explained that she attended the Beautification Committee meeting and not all of the members were in attendance. She added that one member did not like either design and another member liked the design with the trees. She then moved for the City to adopt the new City logo with the Celtic look.

Councilmember Williamson expressed concern about voting with Councilmember Leak absent.

Discussion ensued concerning that the choice of a logo impacts many of the projects in Community Development.

Further discussion ensued, and Councilmember Adams' motion died for lack of a second.

Mayor Block explained that this matter would be considered at the next Council meeting.

CONSIDER AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE OPEN ACCESS FIBER BACKBONE AGREEMENT WITH ECC TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

The City Manager explained that he was requesting authorization to execute the Open Access Fiber Backbone Agreement with ECC Technologies, Inc. for assistance in finding a partner for the City to further develop its existing fiber optics. He added that the contract was for up to \$4,000.00 and there were funds available in the Fiber budget.

Motion was made by Councilmember Williamson, seconded by Councilmember Willis, and unanimously carried to authorize the City Manager to execute Open Access Fiber Backbone Agreement with ECC Technologies, Inc.

UPDATE ON TECHNOLOGY USE/BETTER MEETING EXPERIENCE

The City Manager explained that Mr. Josh Coble, Network Administrator, would provide an update on technology use/better meeting experience as discussed in the January 12, 2017 Council retreat. He added that new microphones and sound board for the Council Chambers were included in the current budget and would be moved to the new City Hall and Police Station.

Mr. Coble explained that one (1) idea he explored would be to put two 50-inch flat screen televisions on each side of the Council Chambers, with one (1) facing the audience and one (1) facing Council on each side of the room. He added that he had contacted the company that installed the projector to discuss this matter so that the projector would be switched to see what the televisions saw.

Upon question by Councilmember Hammond, Mr. Coble explained that live streaming of meetings could happen now as the security camera on the ceiling is internet ready. He added that he thought the City wanted to keep the relationship with St. Andrews to allow them to continue broadcasting the meetings on cable access.

The City Manager explained that the camera on the ceiling in the back of the Council Chambers was installed for security purposes.

A discussion ensued concerning the audio and picture quality on cable. Mr. Coble explained that the issue is with Time Warner not replacing a copper cable at St. Andrews.

CONSIDER RESOLUTION ADOPTING REVISED MEETING SCHEDULE TO CHANGE MEETING TIME

The City Manager explained that the City Clerk had researched the requirements for changing the regular meeting time and had prepared the resolution adopting a revised meeting schedule to change the meeting time from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. for the remainder of the year.

Councilmember Williamson explained that he had mentioned changing the meeting time at the February meeting; however, he was not expecting a vote on this matter.

Following discussion, Councilmember Hammond suggested that this matter should be discussed at the next retreat.

There was no action taken.

REVIEW OF ETHICS POLICY BY CITY ATTORNEY

The City Attorney explained that as discussed at the January 10, 2017 retreat, he and the City Clerk had reviewed the City's Ethics Policy which was adopted in December, 2010, and several other ethics policies. He further explained that according to the North Carolina General Statutes, the policy must address a minimum of five (5) areas: 1) obeying all applicable laws, 2) uphold the integrity in the independence of the board member's elected office, 3) to avoid impropriety in the exercise of the board member's official duties, 4) to faithfully perform the duties of elected office, and 5) to conduct the affairs of the governing board in open and public manner. He added that the City's Ethics Policy addresses all five (5) areas. He further added the City's Ethics Policy also has some provisions dealing with specific conflict of interest issues and inappropriate political activity. He explained that the City's Ethics Policy also contains a provision in the event of violation of the Ethics Policy for a resolution of censure may be issued, which is the only remedy the governing board has for a violation of the Ethics Policy. He further explained that violation of the Ethics Policy could subject a member to criminal prosecution.

The City Attorney explained that after reviewing Ethics Policies from three (3) other municipalities, he believed that the City's was the best. He added that in one (1) of the policies, there was a provision for dealing with the whistleblower issue which would protect an employee from retaliatory action. He suggested that the City should look at a whistleblower policy and add to the Personnel Policy.

Councilmember Hammond explained that the Ethics Policy was adopted in 2010 and she requested a review so that the members of Council could review to ensure that all members agreed on what needed to be in the policy.

DISCUSSION OF TREE COMMITTEE

The City Manager explained that to date, no applications had been submitted for membership on the Tree Committee.

Mayor Block requested that this item not be included on future agendas.

CONSIDER RESOLUTION DECLARING INTENT TO REIMBURSE FOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURES INCURRED IN CONNECTION WITH RENOVATION OF THE SANFORD BUILDING

The City Manager explained that the bond counsel wanted to ensure that if Council chose to approve renovation of the Sanford Building or lease of mobile units during construction of the City Hall and Police Station, that the costs incurred would be reimbursable. He added that the bond counsel recommended and prepared this reimbursement resolution. He further explained that at the March 16, 2017 meeting, Council directed staff to look at options for relocating the nine (9) staff members currently in the Barrett Building during construction of the City Hall and

Police Station. He added that the Sanford Building is located in historic downtown and the cost to renovate it are less than leasing mobile units during construction.

Upon question by Councilmember Williamson, the City Manager explained that the Sanford Building could be marketed once the City Hall and Police Station are completed if Council wanted to do so.

Upon question by Mayor Block, the City Manager explained that because staff had such a short time frame to determine exact renovation costs for the Sanford Building, an estimate of up to \$200,000.00 was determined to be adequate.

Councilmember Adams moved to approve Resolution No. R-2017-09 declaring the intent of the City of Laurinburg to reimburse itself for capital expenditures incurred in connection with the renovation of a City building from proceeds of tax exempt obligation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Williamson, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Adams, Williamson, Hammond, Willis

Nays: None

(Resolution No. R-2017-09 on file in City Clerk's office)

CONSIDER BUDGET AMENDMENT ALLOCATING FUNDS FOR MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR TO SANFORD BUILDING

The City Manager explained that the proposed budget amendment is necessary to allocate funds for improvements at the Sanford Building.

Councilmember Hammond moved to approve Ordinance No. O-2017-08 amending the FY 2016-2017 Budget Appropriations Ordinance (O-2016-05) to increase General Fund-Fund Balance by \$200,000 and allocated \$200,000 to General Fund-Building Maintenance and Improvements for renovation of the Sanford Building located at 203 Atkinson Street. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Willis, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Hammond, Willis, Williamson, Adams

Nays: None

(Ordinance No. O-2017-08 on file in City Clerk's office)

PICTURES FOR WEBSITE

The City Manager explained that Quinyen DeBerry of MQSC Digital had agreed to provide pictures for the City's new website, including pictures of the Mayor and Councilmembers. He added that the Mayor and Councilmembers can go by MQSC on Mondays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or can call to schedule an appointment.

MAYOR'S REPORT

SCOTLAND COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mayor Block explained that the Scotland County Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee held a long discussion at the last committee meeting concerning a recreation center. He added that the committee's next step is to form a sub-committee to determine the interested parties in building a recreation center.

CLOSED SESSION

At 8:59 p.m. motion was made by Councilmember Adams to go into closed session pursuant to NC 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 Hammond, and carried unanimously.

At 9:02 p.m., motion was made by Councilmember Adams to adjourn the closed session and resume the regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hammond, and carried unanimously.

SET RAW WATER RATE FOR FCC (NORTH CAROLINA), LLC

Motion was made by Councilmember Williamson to reduce the raw water rate for FCC(North Carolina, LLC from \$3.67 per gallon to \$2.57 per gallon. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Willis, and unanimously carried.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Matthew Block, MD, Mayor

Jennifer A. Tippet, City Clerk