

**CITY OF LAURINBURG
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 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, February 21, 2017 in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building at 7:00 p.m. with the Honorable Matthew Block, MD, 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 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Block gave the Invocation and then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Block discussed decorum for the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion was made by Councilmember Hammond, seconded by Councilmember Williamson, and carried unanimously to amend the agenda to remove from the Consent Agenda consideration of the draft minutes of January 10, 2017 and January 17, 2017 and to remove from the Consent Agenda and add under the City Manager's Reports consideration of Ordinance No. O-2017-02 Declaring a Road Closure for the Spring Art Festival.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mrs. Lynne Mabry, 1305 Laurin Lane, expressed concern regarding establishment of the City of Laurinburg Tree Committee. She explained that she had been a member of the Beautification Committee established during Mayor Block's previous term as Mayor, and that the Beautification Committee has performed the responsibilities described for the Tree Committee. She added that she felt it would be redundant and unnecessary. She further added that she was speaking with the Committee's approval about this issue. She added that with regard to the Laurinburg Housing Authority utility account conversion, she believed that it should be done without any further work by the City's Electric Department.

Upon question to Council from Mayor Block as to what to do with the Tree Committee, Councilmember Adams explained that formation of the Tree Committee was one of the roles of the Mayor therefore it would be his decision.

Mayor Block suggested adding discussion of the Tree Committee to the March agenda.

There was no one else to speak.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Block presented the Consent Agenda as follows:

- a) Consider minutes of November 1, 2016 special meeting/input session; November 15, 2016 regular meeting; December 13, 2016 regular meeting;
- b) Semi-Annual Surplus Property Report
- c) Set public hearing to be held on March 21, 2017 to consider a request for a Conditional Use Permit for a carnival to be held at 1671 S. Main St. from March 23 to April 2, 2017
- d) Set public hearing to be held on March 21, 2017 to consider a request to rezone from Central Business to Office/Institutional property located at 205 Fairley St.

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

Ayes: Williamson, Hammond, Willis, Leak, Adams

Nays: None

DELEGATIONS

EDWARD ROBERTS, ELECTRICITIES – UPDATE ON CITY LOGO AND CITY WEBSITE

The City Manager introduced Mr. Ed Roberts of Electricities who has been working with staff on rebranding the City as well as designing a logo.

Mr. Ed Roberts explained that he works in Corporate Communications for Electricities and tries to help Electricities members communicate the value of public power and to develop tactics that will honor the community, honor the value of owning an electric system, and to make the community better. He discussed design of a new logo as one way to attract commercial and industrial customers in order to grow jobs and expand the community. He explained that he looked at the rich history of the City, particularly Scottish history, as well as its pride and focus on trees and wanted to incorporate those into the logos and also to incorporate the Royal Stewart Tartan that is used in the community. He discussed two (2) proposed designs for the logo, and that once the logo had been selected, work could progress on the City's website.

Upon question by Councilmember Williamson, Mr. Roberts discussed that some cities phase in a rebranding and incorporation of the new logo. He explained that the City of Lexington had purchased new entrance signs prior to selecting a new logo and phased in replacing the signs. He added that usually municipalities will start with business cards and stationary, city vehicles and

continue incorporating as funds are available. He added that once Council decides on the logo, he will meet with the department heads to discuss what needs to be included on the website.

Upon question by Councilmember Hammond, Mr. Roberts explained that some communities choose not to change out the entrance signs because they are expensive. He discussed one inexpensive way to display the new logo is to hang flags on poles downtown.

Discussion ensued concerning the two (2) logo designs. Three (3) councilmembers preferred the logo with three (3) trees and two (2) councilmembers preferred the Celtic shield logo.

NANCY WALKER, LAURINBURG HOUSING AUTHORITY – UPDATE ON ELECTRIC UTILITY ACCOUNT CONVERSIONS

Mrs. Nancy Walker, Executive Director of the Laurinburg Housing Authority, provided an update on the conversion to tenant paid electric utility accounts. She explained that the conversion had been delayed by Housing and Urban Development (HUD)'s approval of the utility allowances. She further explained that the conversion date would be July 1 and that tenants had roughly two (2) years' notice of the change in order to prepare and if they had delinquent accounts with the City, to work with the City on payments. She explained that HUD calculates rent and utilities based on 30% of adjusted income and that there should be no reason for any tenant not to be able to pay the electric bill. She discussed that because there is a master meter for water, the conversion to tenant paid is only for electric. She added that LHA sent notices to residents in January about the proposed new conversion date.

Upon question by Councilmember Willis, Mrs. Walker explained that if a resident fails to pay any delinquent account with the City, LHA will try to work with them for a couple of months and keep the electric account under LHA to ensure that no one has electricity cut-off; however, if the delinquent account is not settled by September, the lease will be terminated.

Upon question by Mayor Block, Mrs. Walker explained that the tenants will be required to pay the electric deposit.

Upon question by Councilmember Adams, Mrs. Walker explained that the conversion to tenant paid electric is not required by HUD, but is encouraged in order to reduce the carbon footprint and would be easier to manage.

Upon question by Councilmember Hammond, Mrs. Walker explained that tenants were notified of the July 1, 2017 conversion date and the deposit amount required to open an electric account with the City.

Upon question by Mayor Block, Mrs. Walker explained that she had been working with City staff and that they had been great to work with.

NORAN SANFORD AND BRIAN GIBSON – CRIME AND DRUG COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Mr. Noran Sanford and Mr. Brian Gibson of the Laurinburg/Scotland County Crime and Drug Committee appeared before Council to make a recommendation. Mr. Sanford explained that at the last committee meeting, there was a lot of interest in the Leads OnLine program that provides electronic inventory from pawn shops and scrapyards. He added that the committee felt that the program would be an easy tool to save time and costs as well as to help solve property thefts. He further added that Sheriff Kersey had provided him a 2015 price of \$3,133.00 per year cost.

Mr. Brian Gibson explained how the Leads OnLine program worked as well as the benefits that could be realized. He added that the City would need to pass an ordinance concerning the Leads OnLine program and that he could provide an example. He further added that the City of Wilmington requires pawn shops and scrap yards to enter inventory acquisitions and dispositions within 24 hours.

Upon question by Mayor Block, Mr. Gibson explained that there would be no cost to the business owner. He added that there is a 10-minute telephone tutorial that is required.

Upon question by Mayor Block, Mr. Gibson explained that Robeson County has been using the Leads OnLine program for over a year and is happy with the results.

Police Chief Darwin Williams explained that Detective White is using the trial phase of the Leads OnLine program currently before purchasing.

Following further discussion, motion was made by Councilmember Willis, seconded by Councilmember Adams, and unanimously carried to consider purchasing the Leads OnLine program during budget discussions and to direct the City Manager to work with the City Attorney and appropriate personnel to provide a draft ordinance for Council to consider in 60 days or less.

Councilmember Hammond thanked the Crime and Drug Committee for bringing this idea forward to help the Police Department.

MICHAEL EDDS AND MARY EVANS – CRIME RATE PROPOSAL RESPONSE

Mr. Michael Edds, 1207 Blue Drive, explained that for the last three (3) years he and Ms. Mary Evans have expressed concerns to Council about the high crime rate in Laurinburg. He added that the Police Department is understaffed and is probably one (1) of the best in the state. He discussed the affect that crime has on the economy and enticing people to move to Laurinburg. He pleaded with Council to take action to deal with the high crime rate and gang activity. He discussed efforts undertaken by Miami and Rockingham to deal with crime and violence by helping those on drugs and bringing businesses and jobs into the community. He then asked Council what its plan was to address the high crime rate.

Councilmember Williamson explained that Council shares the concern about crime and this was one of the issues mentioned at the Citizen Input Session held on February 7, 2017. He added that this issue will be part of the upcoming budget discussions to include size of the police force. He further added that he did not have an answer for Mr. Edds at this time.

Councilmember Willis explained that the crime rate was discussed at the January Council Retreat, and that Police Chief Williams was looking into different ideas to address crime as well as doing things differently to deter crime.

Ms. Mary Evans, 401 Sugar Road, thanked Council for allowing her to come speak as a concerned citizen and taxpayer. She explained that several alternatives to deal with the high crime rate in Laurinburg have been suggested by citizens, and one (1) of those suggestions was to increase police visibility in high crime areas. She stated that she had seen the higher visibility recently. She added that another alternative was for the City to procure the Washington Park School in order to make it a full-fledged Police Station and whatever else Council wanted to house there. She further added that the Washington Park School could have been purchased by the City for only \$1.00; however she feels that Council continues to spend more money, approximately \$226,000.00, on the proposed new City Hall and Police Station for which the taxpayers would be indebted to pay \$900,000.00 per year for 15 years. She discussed the failing infrastructure of the City. She explained that she had reviewed results from the last few Citizen Input Sessions and concern about crime had been near the top of the lists. She questioned why Council chose to spend over \$266,000.00 on one (1) building instead of \$1.00 to fight crime. She also questioned what Council would do about the closing of the other two (2) schools and suggested that Council purchase one (1) or both of the schools at a low cost to help maintain and keep the City safe and reduce crime.

Councilmember Hammond explained that there are many high crime areas in the City, so if a building is placed in one area, the City would have to place a building in the other areas to be fair. She added that as far as the potential closing of two (2) schools, she did not know which schools may be closed or when they would be closed.

Mrs. Evans stated that the two (2) schools to be closed were probably going to be North Laurinburg and I. Ellis Johnson.

Upon question by Councilmember Adams, Ms. Evans explained that she would like either locating the Police Department or a substation in one of the schools. She added that either option would be better than the City spending for a new City Hall and Police Station.

Councilmember Adams asked Ms. Evans if she was speaking to let Council know that she was opposed to Council building a new City Hall and Police Station, to which Ms. Evans stated "yes".

Councilmember Adams requested that Police Chief Williams discuss the technological mobility of the Police Department.

Chief Williams explained that all of the police vehicles are equipped with laptop computers and officers can perform any function from the vehicle except print a report. He added that at one point, substations were located at McIntosh and Duncan Smith Apartments; however, the apartments were needed for leasing to tenants, so those substations ended. He further explained that an officer lives at Tara Village. He further added that law enforcement presence helps to reduce criminal activity in an area, but does not eradicate it.

Mr. Edds explained that police substations was one (1) of the suggestions made and that perhaps Council could take a look at substations because the presence of law enforcement deters crime. He added that he would like to come back to Council to hear its plans for reducing the crime rate.

Councilmember Adams explained that she believes that the City has a very competent Police Chief and Council will make recommendations to Council during the budget process.

Mr. Edds explained that the Police Department did not have body cameras until some church members provided funding to purchase the body cameras. He added that he was requesting Council to fund the Police Chief's ideas.

Councilmember Leak discussed the founding of the Laurinburg/Scotland County Crime and Drug Committee. He added that Council knows there are problems in the community which are not unlike what is happening all over the United States. He discussed the need for the entire community to work together on reducing crime.

At 8:31 p.m. Mayor Block called for a short break.

The meeting resumed at 8:37 p.m.

Councilmember Adams extended an invitation to everyone to attend an event sponsored by the Juvenile Crime Prevention Committee (JCPC) to be held on March 6, 2017 at the Laurinburg Presbyterian Church. She added that if anyone had questions, to please call Rogina Deese at 474-3079.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

CONSIDER ORDINANCE NO. O-2017-02 DECLARING A ROAD CLOSURE FOR THE SPRING ART FESTIVAL

The City Manager explained that this ordinance declaring a road closure is in coordination with the Spring Arts Festival being held April 29, 2017 downtown. He added that Main Street would be closed from Church Street to Cronly Street. He further added that vendors would be located at the James Lot and other events would be held all day.

Councilmember Leak requested that the City Manager contact the owners of the former Popes' property to determine if that lot could be used for parking.

Councilmember Hammond moved to approve Ordinance No. O-2017-02 declaring a road closure for the Spring Art Festival. Councilmember Leak seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Hammond, Leak, Willis, Adams, Williamson

Nays: None

(Ordinance No. O-2017-02 on file in City Clerks' office)

UPDATE ON PROPOSED NEW CITY HALL AND POLICE STATION

Councilmember Leak expressed concern about the white bricks on the exterior of the building and that he felt they should look more colonial.

Upon question by Councilmember Williamson, Mr. Carlisto explained that the cupola which had been removed from the design, cost approximately \$100,000.00.

A brief discussion ensued concerning the exterior of the building. Mr. Green explained that other options for the columns and quoins on the corners could be presented for consideration.

Mr. Harold Haywood, General Services Director, explained that thus far the City has spent \$208,840.57 on the proposed new City Hall and Police Station Project. He added that there are encumbrances for this project in the amount of \$27,550.00 because the contract for preconstruction services was for a total of \$40,000.00, and all of that has not yet been spent.

Upon question by Mayor Block, Mr. Haywood explained that the contract for architectural design services totaled \$540,000.00 and the contract for pre-construction services totaled \$40,000.00.

Upon question by Mayor Block, the City Manager explained that the new building will be constructed to the side of the current Municipal Building which will require that the Barrett Building be demolished and the generator relocated.

Upon question by Councilmember Adams, the City Manager explained that the nine (9) employees located in the Barrett Building would need to be relocated, possibly to mobile offices or to the Sanford Building located on Atkinson Street. He added that the plans are not finalized.

Upon question by Councilmember Hammond, Mr. Carlisto explained that the construction would be completed in approximately 13-14 months once ground was broken.

**CONSIDER ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FY 2016-2017 BUDGET
APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE (ORDINANCE NO. O-2016-05)**

The City Manager explained that Mr. Harold Haywood and Mrs. Carrie Neal, Finance Director, were going to discuss the budget amendment if Council wishes to move forward with the new City Hall and Police Station project. He added that Mr. Carlisto had explained that two-thirds (2/3rd) of the design development phase was completed and the next phase would require this budget amendment. He further added that the previous year's audit recommended that funds for the new City Hall and Police Station project be kept in one line item in order to track easier. He further explained that all of Phase I and Phase II had been funded already, and the budget amendment funds Phase III of the project.

Mrs. Neal explained that last year, Phase I and Phase II of this project were budgeted in Electric Fund Contingency and some of these expenditures have been paid out of Electric Fund Contingency. She added that when the audit was completed in October 2016, the auditor recommended moving those expenditures to the General Fund-Fund Balance as well as any other expenditures prior to establishment of a Capital Project Ordinance. She further added that if

Council wishes to proceed, expenditures for Phase III will also come from General Fund-Fund Balance. She further explained that the proposed budget amendment encompasses what has been spent already and what will be spent in the next phase of the project.

Councilmember Willis moved to approve Ordinance No. O-2017-03 Amending the FY 2016-2017 Budget Appropriations Ordinance (Ordinance No. O-2016-05) by allocating \$335,350.00 for Phase II and III of the architectural and design services for the new City Hall Project as an increase to General Fund-Fund Balance and allocating \$335,500.00 from General Fund-Fund Balance to General Fund-Building Maintenance/Improvements. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hammond, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Willis, Hammond, Adams, Williamson, Leak

Nays: None

(Ordinance No. O-2017-03 on file in City Clerk office)

Mayor Block stated that he wanted to go on record that he was “steadfast against expending money on a project of which only two (2) citizens had spoken in favor and at least 95% of the citizens were opposed.” He added that he considered such spending “a travesty and an abuse of power.” He further added that “he did not want it to be said the he presided over this abuse of the citizens’ will.”

UPDATE ON FIRE SUBSTATION

The City Manager explained that Mayor Block had requested that he provide a brief summary from the City’s standpoint regarding the Fire Substation. Highlights of the summary were as follows:

- There have been no discussions with the City since January, 2016.
- In September, 2016, the County Manager requested a meeting with City staff to see if the City’s property located behind the water tank on McColl Road, which Council had previously agreed to allow for the fire substation to be constructed was still available. Council had previously approved for the lot to be cleared and a sewer line run to the property. City staff indicated to the County Manager that the City had no other plans for the subject property, and Council had approved this property to be a potential site for a fire substation.
- In December, 2016, the County Manager requested another meeting between City and County staff, with the purpose being to review the specs and where the substation could be located on the City’s property. Items discussed included location of the entrances and exits from the property and specs including length and weight of different fire vehicles. The County Manager reported at this meeting that the County was talking with an architect because the Scotland County Board of Commissioners (Commissioners) wanted to get started on either the south or the north fire substation.
- Since December, 2016, the City Manager has had a few conversations with the County Manager about the potential of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City and County.

Councilmember Hammond explained that the City was waiting on direction from the Commissioners as to whether it wanted to use the City's land.

The City Manager explained that there had been two (2) meetings since December, 2015 and January, 2016. He added that he was attending meetings of the Scotland County Fire Commission (Fire Commission) during that time period. He further added that City staff did not want to clear the property because the growth on the property serves as a buffer to the adjoining residential neighborhood. He further explained that when use of the City's property first was discussed by Council, Councilmember Leak requested that Fire Chief Gibson check with the adjoining property owners to ensure that they would be okay with the location of a fire substation on the property.

Mayor Block explained that he wanted this item on the agenda because things have reached a breaking point with the County Commissioners, and the Commissioners are feeling a lot of pressure to act on this issue. He added that although he had not been involved in this issue from the beginning, he believed that there was some interest from the City Fire Department and from City Council to have the fire substation located within the city limits of Laurinburg.

Councilmember Willis explained that the Mayor was incorrect concerning the City Fire Department and City Council having interest in the fire substation being located within the city limits. He further explained that Council was approached about the possibility of using the City property behind the water tank on McColl Road to build the south fire substation and the City being given \$110,000.00 for construction of the fire substation. He further explained that there were questions about the architect and engineering design, so Council asked the Fire Chief to research those items. The Fire Chief reported to Council that there was concern about the stability and potential cracking of the concrete caused by the weight of the fire truck. Council then asked the City Manager to inform the County Manager or the Fire Commission that if the City's property would be used, the substation would need to be built to code and engineering standards. He further added that this has been the City's only involvement in the fire substation issue.

Councilmember Hammond stated that Council was asked if it would consent to using the City's land on McColl Road for a fire substation, and if the City would clear the land and provide sewer service. She added that it was never the intent of Council to try to put the fire substation on City property.

Councilmember Willis explained that Council was trying to be helpful because it had property where the fire substation could be location. He added that Council never intended to tell the County or the Fire Commission how much to spend or where to locate the substation.

Mayor Block explained that the County Commissioners will be considering the fire substation at its next meeting with research from the Fire Commission that construction of an \$110,000.00 building will meet its needs as well as meets the purpose of the Scotland County Fire Tax. He added that unless Council was willing to pay the difference in cost for a substation that it feels will meet the City's specifications and the \$110,000.00 allocated by the County for constructing

a fire substation, then the Commissioners will probably authorize the fire substation to be constructed outside the city limits of Laurinburg.

Councilmember Leak provided a brief history of the fire substation topic since 2013. He explained that if a fire substation is located on the City's property, the City would be responsible for maintaining it.

Councilmember Willis explained that he would not support providing additional funding for construction of a fire substation. He added that the City has no involvement with the location of the north and south substations as that is between the Commissioners and the Fire Commission.

Mayor Block requested clarification that it was Council's position that it does not want to get involved with the fire substation and is unwilling to fund the difference between the \$110,000.00 fire substation that the Fire Commission has proposed and what would be needed to meet the City's standards.

Councilmember Williamson explained that if the substation is not built in the city limits, the City should not be involved.

Councilmember Hammond explained that discussion had been held about the concrete not being thick enough to support the weight of a fire truck without cracking. She added that it was consensus of Council to have an architect present a plan.

Councilmember Willis explained that the Fire Chief looked at several fire stations in the County that are experiencing cracking of the concrete.

The City Manager explained that he had been attending Fire Commission meetings, and six (6) to eight (8) proposals for the substations had been discussed. He added that neither he nor Fire Chief Gibson felt that a 1.5 inch depth of concrete would hold the weight of a fire truck without cracking in a few years. He further added that the first request from the Fire Commission to the City was to build the substation on the City's property, the second request was for the City to clear the land and run sewer, and the final request was to give the City \$110,000.00 and for the City to build its own substation.

Councilmember Williamson explained that the key to the issue is what the Fire Commission wants and what is needed for the citizens. He added that if the County and Fire Commission wants the substation located somewhere other than on the City's property, then he would support that.

Mr. Eric Stubbs explained that he lives in Gibson, is a volunteer firefighter and was speaking on behalf of the Scotland County Fireman's Association. He explained that the construction of a fire substation would only affect insurance rates for citizens living in the County and outside of city limits. He added that he believed this was a County issue and requested that it remain so.

Upon questions by Councilmember Adams, Mr. Stubbs explained that the Scotland County Fire Commission has the task of making recommendation to the County Commissioners concerning the fire substation.

Following a brief discussion, it was consensus of Council that it would agree with what the County Commissioners and the Fire Commission recommend concerning the fire substation.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Mr. Michael Mandeville, Community Development Director, provided an update on Community Development Projects as follows:

- The Pass Through Project has begun with steel to stabilize the storefront and masonry work will be ongoing for the next three (3) weeks. When the contractor finishes, the Beautification crew will put in retaining walls for planters on each side, then stamped concrete, benches and possibly fountains and lighting. Opening of the Pass Through Project will be tied into the Spring Art Festival.
- Art Festival will be held on Saturday, April 29, 2017 and will coincide with revealing the new sculptures in the Art Garden.
- On April 4-5, 2017, a Main Street meeting will be held to conduct a visioning forum as part of the transition into the Main Street Program will be held. Invitations to between 100 to 125 people throughout the community will be invited.

Discussion ensued concerning the Art Garden and involving the UNC-Pembroke students in the Art Festival.

Upon question by Mayor Block, the City Manager explained that he was not aware of any vandalism of any of the art work at the Art Garden. He added that the area is well lit and the City just added new LED lighting downtown.

Upon question by Councilmember Williamson, Mr. Mandeville explained that the parking lot behind the Walk-Through Project is not in good shape. He added that improvements including lighting would be the next phase for downtown improvements.

Discussion ensued concerning the art sculptures and the need to negotiate so that the City has first preference of keeping any of the sculptures.

DISCUSSION CONCERNING ART GARDEN PLATFORM GUIDELINES

The City Manager explained that staff did not receive any changes to the Art Garden Platform Guidelines from Council.

Mr. Mandeville explained that staff would like to charge a small fee for using the Art Garden Platform, similar to the rental fee charged for use of the Emma Ruth McLean Memorial Library. He added that \$10.00 per hour is charged for non-profit groups and \$20.00 per hour is charged

for for-profit groups. He further added that an application will need to be submitted to Community Development in order to reserve the Art Garden Platform.

Discussion ensued concerning placing a time limit on renting the Art Garden Platform. Following discussion, Councilmember Willis moved to approve the Art Garden Platform Guidelines, set a maximum time limit of four (4) hours for usage, and set a fee of \$15.00 per hour for usage. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Williamson, and unanimously carried.

CONSIDER APPROVING DISCOVERIES, RELEASES AND ADJUSTMENTS TO THE 2016 TAX LEVY

Ms. Diana Chavis, Tax Collector, explained that the tax collector must report discoveries, adjustments and releases from the tax levy to the governing board. She requested that Council accept the following discoveries, releases and adjustments:

DISCOVERIES

NAME	RE/PP	YEAR	AMOUNT	REASON
AT & T COMMUNICATIONS	PP	2016	\$1,481.30	UTILITIES
AT & T MOBILITY LLC	PP	2016	\$1,543.58	UTILITIES
AMERICAN TOWER CORP	PP	2016	\$472.44	UTILITIES
AT & T TAX DEPT	PP	2016	\$22,879.04	UTILITIES
BUTLER HARVEY	RE	2016	\$48.60	SPLIT CITY/COUNTY
CAROLINA CRATING	PP	2016	\$89.36	UNLISTED VEHICLE
CELLO PARTNERSHIP	PP	2016	\$2,317.46	UTILITIES
CIT TECHNOLOGY FINANCING	PP	2016	\$2.28	UTILITIES
CROWN CASTLE	PP	2016	\$556.62	UTILITIES
CSX TRANSPORTATION	PP	2016	\$3,325.27	UTILITIES
DUKE ENERGY PROCESS	PP	2016	\$10,364.03	UTILITIES
DUKENET COMMUNICATIONS	PP	2016	\$2,784.06	UTILITIES
EJ POPE & SON	PP	2016	\$332.12	UTILITIES
GREYHOUND	PP	2016	\$88.22	UTILITIES
HOWARD DAVID	PP	2016	\$64.72	UNLISTED VEHICLE
JAMES MCDONALD	PP	2016	\$63.60	UNLISTED VEHICLE
JERRY MARTIN	PP	2016	\$32.08	UNLISTED VEHICLE
JERRY MARTIN	PP	2016	\$8.52	UNLISTED VEHICLE
JERRY MARTIN	PP	2016	\$40.60	UNLISTED VEHICLE
LAURINBURG & SOUTHERN	PP	2016	\$1,324.22	UTILITIES

LEVEL 3 COMMUNICATIONS	PP	2016	\$45.33	UTILITIES
LUGNETTA PATE	RE	2016	\$366.36	TRANSFER FROM HABITAT
LUMBEE RIVER	PP	2016	\$486.76	UTILITIES
MCI COMMUNICATIONS	PP	2016	\$7.36	UTILITIES
NARNARAYAN HOSPITALITY	PP	2016	\$944.49	PURCHASED IN 2015
NICHOLAS OLIVER	PP	2016	\$186.40	BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY
PATEN ORLANDO	PP	2016	\$59.52	UNLISTED VEHICLE
PIEDMONT NATURAL GAS	PP	2016	\$13,241.10	UTILITIES
SOUTHEASTERN FARM	PP	2016	\$14.16	UTILITIES
SPOK INC	PP	2016	\$42.19	UTILITIES
SPRINT WIRELESS	PP	2016	\$627.93	UTILITIES
T MOBILE	PP	2016	\$209.37	UTILITIES
TIME WARNER BUSINESS	PP	2016	\$637.44	UTILITIES
TWC DIGITAL PHONE	PP	2016	\$1,073.31	UTILITIES

ADJUSTMENTS

NAME	RE/PP	YEAR	AMOUNT	REASON/ PER COUNTY
IBM CREDIT CORPORATION	PP	2016	-\$39.05	NEW VALUE/ PER COUNTY
101 PARK AVE. PARTNERS	PP	2016	\$70.04	ADDED EQUIPMENT VALUE/ PC
COINMACH CORP.	PP	2016	\$7.98	ADDED VALUE/ PC
IBM CREDIT CORPORATION	PP	2016	\$27.56	ADDED PROPERTY/ PC
PREMIER CHOICE INVEST	PP	2016	\$607.76	CORRECTED DEED/ PC

RELEASES

NAME	RE/PP	YEAR	AMOUNT	REASON / PER COUNTY
AIR SERV	PP	2016	\$9.05	NO ASSETS TO REPORT/ PC
BEVERLY PALMER & ASSOC.	PP	2016	\$1.69	BUSINESS CLOSED IN 2015 / PC
BLANCHE JACKSON	RE	2004	\$49.57	FORECLOSED / COUNTY OWNS/ PC
BLANCHE JACKSON	RE	2004	\$2.99	FORECLOSED / COUNTY OWNS/ PC
BLANCHE JACKSON	RE	2005	\$149.57	FORECLOSED / COUNTY OWNS/ PC
BLANCHE JACKSON	RE	2006	\$157.44	FORECLOSED / COUNTY OWNS/ PC

BLANCHE JACKSON	RE	2007	\$157.44	FORECLOSED / COUNTY OWNS/ PC
BLANCHE JACKSON	RE	2008	\$165.31	FORECLOSED / COUNTY OWNS/ PC
BLANCHE JACKSON	RE	2009	\$165.31	FORECLOSED / COUNTY OWNS/ PC
BLANCHE JACKSON	RE	2010	\$165.31	FORECLOSED / COUNTY OWNS/ PC
BLANCHE JACKSON	RE	2011	\$162.20	FORECLOSED / COUNTY OWNS/ PC
BLANCHE JACKSON	RE	2012	\$162.20	FORECLOSED / COUNTY OWNS/ PC
BLANCHE JACKSON	RE	2013	\$162.20	FORECLOSED / COUNTY OWNS/ PC
BLANCHE JACKSON	RE	2014	\$162.20	FORECLOSED / COUNTY OWNS/ PC
CIRCLE S IRRIGATION	PP	2016	\$357.03	NOT IN CITY /PC
CITI FINANCE LLC	PP	2016	\$19.88	BILLED IN ERROR / PC
CPI IMAGES LLC	PP	2014	\$10.86	BUSINESS CLOSED IN 2013 / PC
CPI IMAGES LLC	PP	2015	\$10.00	BUSINESS CLOSED IN 2013 / PC
CPI IMAGES LLC	PP	2016	\$9.70	BUSINESS CLOSED IN 2013 / PC
ELIZABETH HARRIS	RE	2011	\$10.00	LISTED IN ERROR/ PC
ELIZABETH HARRIS	RE	2012	\$10.00	LISTED IN ERROR/ PC
ELIZABETH HARRIS	RE	2013	\$10.00	LISTED IN ERROR/ PC
ELIZABETH HARRIS	RE	2014	\$10.00	LISTED IN ERROR/ PC
ELIZABETH HARRIS	RE	2015	\$10.00	LISTED IN ERROR/ PC
ELIZABETH HARRIS	RE	2016	\$10.00	LISTED IN ERROR/ PC
J & W BUSINESS CENTER	PP	2013	\$33.44	BUSINESS CLOSED IN 2012 / PC
J & W BUSINESS CENTER	PP	2014	\$28.10	BUSINESS CLOSED IN 2012 / PC
J & W BUSINESS CENTER	PP	2015	\$22.16	BUSINESS CLOSED IN 2012 / PC
J & W BUSINESS CENTER	PP	2016	\$17.65	BUSINESS CLOSED IN 2012 / PC
JAMESON PROPERTY	PP	2016	\$944.49	PROPERTY SOLD / PC
KENNETH STONE	PP	2007	\$2.60	BILLED IN ERROR / PC
KENNETH STONE	PP	2008	\$2.65	BILLED IN ERROR / PC
KENNETH STONE	PP	2009	\$2.60	BILLED IN ERROR / PC
KENNETH STONE	PP	2010	\$2.52	BILLED IN ERROR / PC
KENNETH STONE	PP	2011	\$4.60	BILLED IN ERROR / PC
KENNETH STONE	PP	2012	\$2.30	BILLED IN ERROR / PC
KENNETH STONE	PP	2013	\$2.20	BILLED IN ERROR / PC
KENNETH STONE	PP	2014	\$2.00	BILLED IN ERROR / PC
KENNETH STONE	PP	2015	\$1.92	BILLED IN ERROR / PC

KENNETH STONE	PP	2016	\$1.92	BILLED IN ERROR / PC
LAZARUS DAVID	RE	2002	\$12.38	FORECLOSED / COUNTY OWNS/ PC
LAZARUS DAVID	RE	2003	\$10.45	FORECLOSED / COUNTY OWNS/ PC
LAZARUS DAVID	RE	2004	\$10.45	FORECLOSED / COUNTY OWNS/ PC
LAZARUS DAVID	RE	2005	\$10.45	FORECLOSED / COUNTY OWNS/ PC
LAZARUS DAVID	RE	2006	\$11.00	FORECLOSED / COUNTY OWNS/ PC
LAZARUS DAVID	RE	2007	\$11.00	FORECLOSED / COUNTY OWNS/ PC
LAZARUS DAVID	RE	2008	\$11.55	FORECLOSED / COUNTY OWNS/ PC
LAZARUS DAVID	RE	2009	\$11.55	FORECLOSED / COUNTY OWNS/ PC
LAZARUS DAVID	RE	2010	\$11.55	FORECLOSED / COUNTY OWNS/ PC
LAZARUS DAVID	RE	2011	\$12.00	FORECLOSED / COUNTY OWNS/ PC
LAZARUS DAVID	RE	2012	\$12.00	FORECLOSED / COUNTY OWNS/ PC
LAZARUS DAVID	RE	2013	\$12.00	FORECLOSED / COUNTY OWNS/ PC
LAZARUS DAVID	RE	2014	\$12.00	FORECLOSED / COUNTY OWNS/ PC
LEO BOGAN	RE	2004	\$24.62	FORECLOSED CITY & COUNTY OWN / PC
LEO BOGAN	RE	2005	\$24.62	FORECLOSED CITY & COUNTY OWN / PC
LEO BOGAN	RE	2006	\$25.92	FORECLOSED CITY & COUNTY OWN / PC
LEO BOGAN	RE	2007	\$25.92	FORECLOSED CITY & COUNTY OWN / PC
LEO BOGAN	RE	2008	\$27.22	FORECLOSED CITY & COUNTY OWN / PC
LEO BOGAN	RE	2009	\$27.22	FORECLOSED CITY & COUNTY OWN / PC
LEO BOGAN	RE	2010	\$27.22	FORECLOSED CITY & COUNTY OWN / PC
LEO BOGAN	RE	2011	\$29.04	FORECLOSED CITY & COUNTY OWN / PC
LEO BOGAN	RE	2012	\$29.04	FORECLOSED CITY & COUNTY OWN / PC
LEO BOGAN	RE	2013	\$29.04	FORECLOSED CITY & COUNTY OWN / PC
LEO BOGAN	RE	2014	\$29.04	FORECLOSED CITY & COUNTY OWN / PC

LEO BOGAN	RE	2015	\$29.04	FORECLOSED CITY & COUNTY OWN / PC
LULA NERISSA MCCOY	RE	2004	\$153.71	FORECLOSED / COUNTY OWNS/ PC
LULA NERISSA MCCOY	RE	2005	\$153.71	FORECLOSED / COUNTY OWNS/ PC
LULA NERISSA MCCOY	RE	2006	\$161.80	FORECLOSED / COUNTY OWNS/ PC
LULA NERISSA MCCOY	RE	2007	\$161.80	FORECLOSED / COUNTY OWNS/ PC
LULA NERISSA MCCOY	RE	2008	\$169.89	FORECLOSED / COUNTY OWNS/ PC
LULA NERISSA MCCOY	RE	2009	\$169.89	FORECLOSED / COUNTY OWNS/ PC
LULA NERISSA MCCOY	RE	2010	\$169.89	FORECLOSED / COUNTY OWNS/ PC
LULA NERISSA MCCOY	RE	2011	\$155.84	FORECLOSED / COUNTY OWNS/ PC
LULA NERISSA MCCOY	RE	2012	\$155.84	FORECLOSED / COUNTY OWNS/ PC
LULA NERISSA MCCOY	RE	2013	\$8.48	FORECLOSED / COUNTY OWNS/ PC
LULA NERISSA MCCOY	RE	2013	\$155.84	FORECLOSED / COUNTY OWNS/ PC
LULA NERISSA MCCOY	RE	2014	\$8.48	FORECLOSED / COUNTY OWNS/ PC
LULA NERISSA MCCOY	RE	2014	\$155.84	FORECLOSED / COUNTY OWNS/ PC
LULA NERISSA MCCOY	RE	2015	\$8.48	FORECLOSED / COUNTY OWNS/ PC
LULA NERISSA MCCOY	RE	2015	\$8.48	FORECLOSED / COUNTY OWNS/ PC
MARY LEE BRUNSON EST	RE	2007	\$11.76	FORECLOSED / PC
MARY LEE BRUNSON EST	RE	2008	\$12.35	FORECLOSED / PC
MARY LEE BRUNSON EST	RE	2009	\$12.35	FORECLOSED / PC
MARY LEE BRUNSON EST	RE	2010	\$12.35	FORECLOSED / PC
MARY LEE BRUNSON EST	RE	2011	\$12.84	FORECLOSED / PC
MARY LEE BRUNSON EST	RE	2012	\$12.84	FORECLOSED / PC
MARY LEE BRUNSON EST	RE	2013	\$12.84	FORECLOSED / PC
MARY LEE BRUNSON EST	RE	2014	\$12.84	FORECLOSED / PC
MARY LEE BRUNSON EST	RE	2015	\$12.84	FORECLOSED / PC

MARY LEE BRUNSON EST	RE	2016	\$12.84	FORECLOSED / PC
PROGRESSIVE MISSIONARY	RE	2016	\$894.20	CHURCH EXEMPTION / PC
ROBERT HAUX	RE	2016	\$180.00	DISABLED VET / PC
ROSA & THOMAS ROGERS	RE	2016	\$79.16	SENIOR DISCOUNT / PC
SCOTLAND CO & CITY FOREC	RE	2016	\$156.36	FORECLOSURE / CITY & COUNTY OWN
STANELY CONVERGENT	PP	2016	\$89.80	FILED IN ERROR / PC
CITY OF LAURINBURG	RE	2016	\$44.08	CITY OWNS / PC
WALLACE SCOTT	RE	2008	\$81.27	FORECLOSED / COUNTY OWNS/PC
WALLACE SCOTT	RE	2009	\$81.27	FORECLOSED / COUNTY OWNS/PC
WALLACE SCOTT	RE	2010	\$81.27	FORECLOSED / COUNTY OWNS/PC
WALLACE SCOTT	RE	2011	\$53.20	FORECLOSED / COUNTY OWNS/PC
WALLACE SCOTT	RE	2012	\$52.30	FORECLOSED / COUNTY OWNS/PC
WALLACE SCOTT	RE	2013	\$53.20	FORECLOSED / COUNTY OWNS/PC
WALLACE SCOTT	RE	2014	\$53.20	FORECLOSED / COUNTY OWNS/PC

Motion was made by Councilmember Leak, seconded by Councilmember Willis, and unanimously approved to accept the Discoveries, Adjustments and Releases as presented by the Tax Collector.

AUTHORIZE THE TAX COLLECTOR TO ADVERTISE TAX LIENS THE WEEK OF MARCH 6-10, 2017

Ms. Diana Chavis, Tax Collector, explained that of this date, February 21, 2017, \$280,632.23 is the total of unpaid 2016 property taxes. She requested to advertise tax liens the week of March 6-10, 2017.

Motion was made by Councilmember Hammond, seconded by Councilmember Adams, and unanimously carried to authorize the tax collector to advertise tax liens the week of March 6-10, 2017.

CONSIDER AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE UTILITY AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE CITY OF LAURINBURG FOR UTILITY RELOCATION

The City Manager explained that the North Carolina Department of Transportation is requesting the City of Laurinburg enter into a utility agreement to relocate a 12” waterline on Dixie Guano Road at an estimated cost of \$29,975.64 to the City, which is 25% of the total cost. He further added that this will be added to the FY 2017-2018 Budget.

Councilmember Hammond moved to authorize the City Manager and City Clerk to execute Utility Agreement between the North Carolina Department of Transportation and the City of Laurinburg for Utility Relocation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Williamson, and carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF POWELL BILL FUNDS

Mayor Block explained that the City receives over \$500,000.00 per year for local road maintenance and he wanted an overview on how those funds are spent.

Mr. Stacey McQuage, Public Utilities Director, explained that the Powell Bill Funds are used in the Streets Department and the Storm Drainage Department. He added that the budget for these two (2) departments is over \$1 million, and of that, \$800,000.00 of the expenses are eligible for Powell Bill Funds. He further added that some of the funds this year were spent on a new street sweeper and other equipment, labor costs, and mowing the highway rights-of-way.

CONSIDER SUBMITTING REQUEST TO NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION THAT ALL DOT SIGNS BE STRAIGHTENED

The City Manager explained that Mayor Block requested that staff contact North Carolina Department of Transportation (DOT) to have signs being straightened.

Mr. McQuage explained that he had spoken with a DOT representative from Carthage and was advised that DOT straightens signs on a complaint basis.

Councilmember Adams suggested that if she was provided details, she could present the information to DOT at a Transportation Advisory Committee meeting. The Committee meets quarterly and DOT personnel attend.

Following discussion, it was consensus of Council for concerns to be provided to Mr. McQuage with the location of the sign(s) so that he can report the concerns to DOT.

Councilmember Williamson expressed concern about the sign clutter and outdated signs that are still located along highways.

The City Manager explained that staff had removed some signs that were outdated. He added that on DOT-maintained highways, the City cannot remove or touch the signs.

REVIEW OF ETHICS POLICY BY CITY ATTORNEY

The City Attorney explained that he had not completed the review of the City’s Ethics Policy and

requested that this item be moved to the March agenda.

DIRECTION CONCERNING “ON THE ROAD WITH CECIL” SERIES PARTICIPATION

The City Manager explained that staff needed guidance regarding the “On the Road With Cecil” series for the current series and for the remainder of the current fiscal year. He added that the City has participated in three (3) of the four (4) series, and the Chamber is requesting that the City participate in the current series at a cost of \$3,467.00. He further added that if Council wanted to continue participating in this marketing, for funds to be added in the budget rather than having to ask for funds each quarter.

Following discussion, it was consensus of Council to fund the remaining two (2) series of the “On the Road with Cecil” series for this fiscal year and for staff to present a budget amendment in March.

CONSIDER AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE THE AMENDED AND RESTATED RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH THE NORTH CAROLINA EASTERN MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY

The City Manager explained that the previous Renewable Energy Development and Service (REPSS) Agreement dated July 30, 1981 was terminated as of July 31, 2015 simultaneously with the termination of the Supplemental Power Sales Agreement (due to the asset sale to Duke Progress Energy). Therefore, the North Carolina Eastern Municipal Power Agency (NCEMPA) and the City want NCEMPA to continue to develop, coordinate and administer the REPSS Compliance Program on behalf of the City, and an amended and restated agreement is needed.

Motion was made by Councilmember Adams, seconded by Councilmember Leak, and unanimously carried to authorize the City Manager and City Clerk to execute the Amended and Restated Renewable Energy Development and Service Agreement with the North Carolina Eastern Municipal Power Agency.

APPLICANTS NEEDED TO TREE COMMITTEE

The City Manager explained that no applications had been submitted to the City Clerk for the City Tree Committee.

Councilmember Williamson explained that in light of the questions and concerns expressed earlier in the meeting, he questioned whether the mission of the City Tree Committee was already being handled by the Beautification Committee.

Councilmember Hammond explained that the Mayor can create the City Tree Committee.

The City Manager explained that the Beautification Committee was meeting the next morning.

There was no further discussion and no guidance provided concerning this matter.

APPOINTMENT

CRIME AND DRUG COMMITTEE

Motion was made by Councilmember Adams, seconded by Councilmember Williamson, and unanimously carried to appoint Mr. Stephen Cole to the Laurinburg/Scotland County Crime and Drug Committee.

COMMENTS FROM MAYOR AND/OR COUNCILMEMBERS

Councilmember Hammond explained that a member of the Laurinburg/Scotland County Area Chamber of Commerce Green Committee requested that she ask Council if the governing board members were interested in scheduling a day during Litter Sweep the week of April 4-8 to collectively pick up litter. She requested to be notified of a date and time if members wished to participate, and to notify the City Clerk so that she could post of Notice of Possible Quorum.

Councilmember Adams requested that since the Beautification Committee which would be meeting on February 22, 2017, if the Committee could provide Council with input on the proposed new City logo.

Councilmember Adams requested that Mayor Block notify Council if he is not going to attend an event such as the recent Scotia Village ribbon cutting so that one of the members could fill in for him.

Mayor Block explained that the 35% increase in water rates by the City has been felt hard by City and County residents. He added that the County Commissioners felt that a 35% increase in one (1) year was too extreme, so it chose to increase its water rates over a two (2) year period. He further added that currently the City's Water Fund stands at close to \$3 to \$4 million and is in excess of what the City needs. He further explained that he believed that a 20% reduction of water rates was in order, but he was not asking for a response at this time.

A discussion ensued concerning the agreement between the City and Scotland County whereby the City handles billing and all maintenance for the County water system.

CLOSED SESSION

At 10:20 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 and pursuant to NC General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6) for the purpose of considering the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hammond, and carried unanimously.

At 11:05 p.m., motion was made by Councilmember Adams to adjourn the closed session and resume the regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Williamson, and carried unanimously.

Councilmember Adams requested that the City Attorney research to determine if there was any action Council should or could take regarding Mayor Block discussing personnel in the newspaper.

APPROVAL OF EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT WITH CITY MANAGER

Motion was made by Councilmember Hammond, seconded by Councilmember Willis, and unanimously carried to approve new employment agreement with the City Manager, and to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute employment agreement with the City Manager for five (5) years with an initial salary of \$113,526.00.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:07 p.m.

Matthew Block, MD, Mayor

Jennifer A. Tippet, City Clerk