

**CITY OF LAURINBURG
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 17, 2018
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, July 17, 2018 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, Mary Evans, James J. Garby, Jr., Curtis B. Leak, and Andrew G. Williamson, Jr.

Also present were Charles D. Nichols III, City Manager; Jennifer A. Tippett, City Clerk; and William P. Floyd, Jr., City Attorney.

Mayor Block called the meeting to order at 6:57 p.m.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mayor Block reviewed public comment procedures.

Ms. Verona Graham explained that she was a disabled Army veteran. She requested that Council ask local businesses to give veterans a 10% discount on purchases. She added that several businesses do so now, such as Lowe's and Waffle House.

Upon question by Councilmember Garby, Ms. Graham explained that when she lived near Fort McClellan, Alabama, a lot of the businesses gave discounts.

Upon question by Mayor Block, Ms. Graham stated that she was not active in the local Veterans Council. He suggested that her request would have a better chance of success if it came from the Veterans Council.

Councilmember Leak informed every that the Regional Commander was Ulysses Thomas. He also suggested that Ms. Graham contact the Laurinburg/Scotland County Area Chamber of Commerce.

Councilmembers Evans and Garby explained that the discount is not usually a local initiative, but is a national initiative. Councilmember Garby explained that many chain stores in Fayetteville offer a discount to veterans and military members.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Block reviewed the Consent Agenda:

- a) Consider minutes of May 22, 2018 regular meeting
- b) Consider Semi-annual Surplus Report

Councilmember Adams moved to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Evans, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Adams, Evans, Leak, Garby, Williamson

Nays: None

DELEGATION

MS. CALACIA DOUGLAS, SANDHILLS DEVELOPMENT CENTER, INC. – UPDATE AND REQUEST

Ms. Douglas was not present. The City Clerk explained that after the June 19, 2018 meeting, Ms. Douglas had requested to be on the July agenda. She added that an email was sent to Ms. Douglas last week, but no response had been received.

The City Manager explained that she was requesting that Council allow her to use a grill at the Art Garden because the agreement for the Art Garden does not allow the use of a grill at the Art Garden.

Council took no action.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

UPDATE ON TOWN HALL MEETING

Councilmember Evans explained that the purpose of the Town Hall Meeting is to have an informal public meeting around shared subjects of interest to inform citizens about emergency issues, gage community's feelings on issues, and serve as place to identify and implement solutions to a problem. She added that she had arranged for District 1 Town Hall Meeting, but anyone could attend. She requested that if there was any information the City wants to share with the community to let her know as soon as possible. She further explained that she would need assistance from the City Manager and City Clerk for the following: advertise the meeting in mid-August, mid-September and again the week of the meeting; supplies needed; and agenda. She added that the District 1 Town Hall Meeting would be held on September 27, 2018 at the

A.B. Gibson Building at 6:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. She reviewed the items that would be on the agenda.

Discussion ensued concerning the possible attendance of all Councilmembers. The City Clerk explained that a Notice of Possible Quorum would be posted with no action to be taken by Council.

AWARD BID FOR SALE OF TIMBER ON CITY PROPERTY

The City Manager explained that the City rebid for the sale of timber on the Smart Site property off Stewartsville Road. He added that Canal Wood, LLC was the only bidder and met all bid requirements.

Upon question by Mayor Block, the City Manager explained that the City was authorized to accept the bid, but was not obligated to do so.

Upon questions by Mayor Block, Mr. Harold Haywood, General Services Director, explained that the request for bids was advertised on the City's website, in *The Laurinburg Exchange* and the two (2) bidders who bid the first time were called. He explained that because the timber site is so small and there are not many local companies that clear timber, he was not surprised by the number of bidders.

Councilmember Garby added that the cost to bring necessary equipment would be cost prohibitive.

Motion was made by Councilmember Evans, seconded by Councilmember Garby, and unanimously carried to award bid for timber on City property to Canal Wood, LLC in the amount of \$78,500.00 and to authorize the City Manager to execute contract with Canal Wood, LLC for sale of timber.

CONSIDER RESOLUTION CHANGING DATE OF AUGUST 2018 REGULAR MEETING

The City Manager explained that Council discussed changing the date of the August regular meeting from August 21, 2018 to August 28, 2018 due to the ElectriCities Conference.

Councilmember Garby moved to approve Resolution No. R-2018-14 changing the date of the August 2018 regular meeting to August 28, 2018. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Adams, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Garby, Evans, Williamson, Adams, Leak

Nays: None

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

**CONSIDER ORDINANCE AMENDING FY 18-19 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS
ORDINANCE (ORDINANCE NO. O-2018-07) TO ALLOCATE \$2,700,000.00 IN THE
ELECTRIC FUND FOR ELECTRIC SUBSTATION**

The City Manager explained that this budget amendment sets up the capital project ordinance for the electric substation. He added that this type of project is not completed within one (1) fiscal year; therefore by setting up a capital project ordinance, the funds could be rolled over as needed into another fiscal year.

Upon question by Councilmember Williamson, the City Manager explained that construction of the electric substation would be completed in November 2019; however, it was anticipated that it could be the first part of 2020 since Duke Progress Energy would determine when the substation could connect to its transmission line.

Upon question by Councilmember Leak, the City Manager explained that the electric substation would be located on the City's property off Stewartsville Road at the back of the parcel.

Upon question by Councilmember Leak, Mr. Haywood explained that at the most the substation would be a couple of acres.

Councilmember Evans moved to approve Ordinance No. 2018-09 amending FY 18-19 Budget Appropriations Ordinance (Ordinance No. O-2018-07) to allocate \$2,700,000.00 in the Electric Fund for electric substation. Councilmember Williamson seconded the motion, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Evans, Williamson, Garby, Adams, Leak
Nays: None
(Ordinance No. O-2018-09 on file in City Clerk's office)

**CONSIDER RESOLUTION AMENDING THE CITY OF LAURINBURG'S
PROCUREMENT AND PURCHASING POLICY AND PROCEDURES MANUAL**

The City Manager explained that Mr. Haywood is the a Certified Purchasing Agent, and the original Procurement and Purchasing Policy and Procedures Manual was approved in 2014 with several amendments since it was approved.

Upon question by Councilmember Williamson, the City Manager explained that there were no unusual revisions.

Councilmember Williamson moved to approve Resolution No. R-2018-15 amending the City of Laurinburg's Procurement and Purchasing Policy and Procedures Manual. Councilmember Garby seconded the motion and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Williamson, Garby, Adams, Leak, Evans
Nays: None
(Resolution No. R-2018-15 on file in City Clerk's office)

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

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

- Parking Lot Project at corner of Gill and Railroad Streets
 - The property owners are aware of the proposed plans for the parking lot and discussions have been held concerning donating the lots to the City. Not all of the property owners were receptive.
 - Staff believes that the property owners should all be treated the same – either all lots donated to the City or all lots purchased by the City.
 - Staff will go back to discuss again with property owners in several weeks.

Upon question by Councilmember Garby, Mr. Mandeville explained that some property owners might not want to donate their property because it is the only piece of property they own and there would be a cost to relocate.

- November 2017 applied for Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownsfield Grant which was not funded. Beginning application process again. Volunteer consultant from Blacksburg, Virginia recently toured possible sites, particularly out in the county. The application is due in November.

Upon questions by Councilmember Williamson, Mr. Mandeville explained that there are more potential contaminated sites inside the City limits, but the consultant suggested adding more county sites to improve the application; therefore, if the grant is funded, the site might be in the county.

The City Manager explained that the City was working on the grant with the Scotland County Economic Development Corporation and Scotland County to obtain the grant in order to increase the amount of funding.

Upon question by Councilmember Williamson, the City Manager explained that the grant would pay for Phase 1 and 2 environmental assessments.

- 2020 Census has begun. He is working on providing new residential addresses since 2010.
- Meeting with Rodney's signs on the font and arrow size on the new wayfinding signs.

Upon question by Mayor Block, the City Manager explained that a meeting was held with Retail Strategies the previous week. He added that there would be monthly updates including a list of retailers contacted.

Upon question by Mayor Block, the City Manager explained that ElectriCities is promoting the City's lot at Scotland Crossing Shopping Center beside Food Lion. He added that the developer was advertising different site sketches and options.

Upon question by Councilmember Garby, the City Manager explained that he talks weekly with the developers of the former Market Furniture building and the former State Bank. He added that the architectural site plans for the former State Bank building are being finalized.

Upon question by Mayor Block, the City Manager explained that Councilmember Garby, the City Manager explained that all conversation with the developer had been positive.

Councilmember Leak suggested that a letter be sent to the developer to secure the second and third floor windows of the former State Bank building.

Upon question by Mayor Block, Mr. Mandeville explained that Hardees had submitted application for a zoning permit for locating on the former McDonald Brothers' lot on South Main Street.

The City Manager discussed progress by NC Department of Transportation on the sidewalk and pedestrian project at the intersection of West Blvd. and US 401.

CONSIDER RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ESTABLISHMENT OF FOREIGN-TRADE ZONE IN AND AROUND LAURINBURG-MAXTON AIRPORT

The City Manager explained that Senator Tom McInnis had requested that the Scotland County Board of Commissioners pass a resolution in support of establishing a Foreign-Trade Zone (FTZ) in and around Laurinburg-Maxton Airport. He added that Councilmembers Leak and Williamson requested that Council consider a resolution of support also. He further added that Laurinburg-Maxton Airport is the one of the only airports between Charlotte and Wilmington that does not have the FTZ designation.

Councilmember Evans moved to approve Resolution No. R-2018-16 supporting establishment of Foreign-Trade Zone in and around Laurinburg-Maxton Airport. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Garby, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Evans, Garby, Williamson, Adams, Leak
Nays: None
(Resolution No. R-2018-16 on file in City Clerk's office)

CONSIDER HOLDING DOWNTOWN "VISIONING" OR "SUMMIT"

Mayor Block explained that the City has a Downtown Advisory Committee (DAC), which was a requirement for the Main Street Program. He further explained that the DAC is comprised of a group of seven (7) or eight (8) citizens, downtown property owners, and individuals representing most of the major entities in the community, and that this committee meets once a month. He added that in the past, funding decisions for downtown were made by Laurinburg Downtown Revitalization (LDRC), but that now those decisions are made by Council; therefore, he believed it would be a good idea for Council to meet with the DAC to have a more effective working relationship and to share ideas between Council and the Committee. He further added that he

was not trying to micromanage, but for the Committee and Council to be on the same page with ideas for developing downtown.

Councilmember Evans stated that she did not see where such a meeting would hurt.

Councilmember Garby commented that it would be great to have a meeting.

Councilmember Williamson explained that he believed a meeting to be a good idea. He suggested that perhaps Council could start with inviting the chair of the committee, or whomever could come, to the next Council meeting to make a presentation, and then Council could determine if a meeting with the DAC was needed.

The City Manager explained that the DAC and the two (2) subcommittees have put a lot of time and work into downtown and set the framework for the Main Street program.

Councilmember Evans and Mayor Block expressed approval of Councilmember Williamson's idea of inviting the Chair or several members of the DAC to the next Council meeting.

Councilmember Leak explained that most of the meetings held by the DAC and the subcommittees are at 8:00 a.m. because most of the members are volunteers and either have stores downtown that open at 8:30 or 9:00 a.m., or the members have jobs. He added that he thought it would be best to ask someone from the DAC to come to a Council meeting first.

Mayor Block explained that his idea was supposed to be a positive idea to show the DAC that Council is interested in downtown revitalization. He added that he was fine with asking a representative of the DAC to come to the next Council meeting.

Councilmember Adams explained that staff attends the meetings.

The City Manager explained that he, Mr. Daniel Walters (Downtown Coordinator) and Mr. Michael Mandeville (Community Development Director) attend all monthly DAC meetings as well as all subcommittee meetings. He added that all of the meetings are held in the morning since most of the members are volunteers and have jobs either downtown or in the community.

Upon question by Mayor Block, the City Manager explained that he had sent an email to the Mayor and Council with the list of committee members along with the committees' plans. He added that he would resend the email.

Following a brief discussion, it was consensus of Council to invite a DAC representative to the next Council meeting.

DISCUSSION OF NOTIFICATION TO COUNCIL OF MAJOR EVENTS

Mayor Block explained that he would like for the City Manager to notify the Mayor and Council when there is a major event that occurs in the City, such as a shooting.

The City Manager explained that the notification would have to be broad and vague.

Councilmember Williamson requested that notifications include major power outages also.

The City Manager explained that he is usually notified after a major power outage because the Electric crews along with the Electric Services Director, are out working to resolve the outage.

Upon question by Mayor Block, the City Manager explained that when electricity is out after the City's normal working hours, citizens should call the 911 Center which will in turn notify the on-call Electric crew.

Councilmember Evans requested that Council be notified about ribbon cuttings for new businesses in the City.

Following discussion, the City Manager explained that he would ask the Laurinburg/Scotland County Area Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) to add the Mayor and Councilmembers to its email list so that all members would be notified of Chamber events.

APPOINTMENT

LAURINBURG HOUSING AUTHORITY

Mayor Block announced that he had reappointed Mr. Wilbur Shytle to a five-year term on the Board of Laurinburg Housing Authority. He explained that Mr. Shytle had served on the Board for approximately 10 years and was a valuable member.

COMMENTS FROM MAYOR AND/OR COUNCILMEMBERS

Councilmember Leak explained that he was receiving many complaints from residents about rental property in residential neighborhoods. He requested that staff research making the property owner accountable for its tenants' actions.

Following discussion, the City Manager explained that he would have Mr. Mac McInnis, City Planner/Code Enforcement Officer, research how other municipalities deal with problem rental property.

Councilmember Leak suggested discussing tenants' problems with the Realtors' Association.

Councilmember Leak expressed concern regarding panhandling in restaurants in the City.

Councilmember Evans discussed the Scotland County Reentry Council and the work of Mr. Christopher Mitchell. She explained that several companies were accepting job applications such as Perdue, Sanderson Farms, Smithfield and RFI Home Products. She added that the applicants must be willing to show up and pass a drug test.

Councilmember Leak expressed concern that the Reentry Program requested funding from Scotland County and the City of Laurinburg, but not from the other municipalities in the County.

Councilmember Williamson explained that he represented the City on the Parks and Recreation Committee, and that he volunteered this past weekend at the Dixie Softball Tournament. He added that he was shocked at the impact on the local economy from the tournament.

ADJOURN

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Matthew Block, MD, Mayor

Jennifer A. Tippett, City Clerk