

**CITY OF LAURINBURG
COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 21, 2006
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
7:00 P.M.**

Minutes

The City Council of the City of Laurinburg held its regular monthly meeting February 21, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the council room of the Municipal Building with the Honorable Ann B. Slaughter, Mayor, presiding. The following Councilmembers were present: Rembert DeBerry, Lisa D. Griswold, Curtis B. Leak, Herbert M. Rainer, Jr. and Thomas W. Parker, III.

Also present were: Craig F. Honeycutt, City Manager, Dolores A. Hammond, City Clerk, and Charles L. Hicks, Jr., Assistant City Attorney.

Councilmember Parker gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Councilmember Leak, seconded by Councilmember Griswold, and unanimously carried to approve the proposed minutes from the mini retreat held January 6, 2006; the City/County joint meeting held January 12, 2006; and the regular meeting held January 17, 2006.

PUBLIC HEARING ON REQUEST TO REZONE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 14961 REA MAGNET ROAD

Mayor Slaughter explained that Mr. Roland C. Bowyer, III is requesting that property located at 14961 Rea Magnet Rd. be rezoned from Residential-20 to General Business-Conditional Use District. Mr. Bowyer's hobby of building racing engines has grown into a full-scale business, and he wishes to continue the operation at its present location. The Laurinburg Planning Board heard this request at its January 10, 2006 regular meeting and unanimously recommends approval of this request.

Mr. Bill Peele, Planning and Zoning Officer, being duly sworn, stated that Mr. Roland C. Bowyer, III has requested that the property located at 14961 Rea Magnet Road be rezoned from R-20 to the General Business-Conditional Use District. This zoning change would allow Mr. Bowyer to continue operation of RC's Performance which is a very specialized facility that builds race engines for motorcycles. Mr. Bowyer's application was reviewed by the City's Planning staff with the findings of the review being:

- The property located at 14961 Rea Magnet Road is within the planning jurisdiction of the City of Laurinburg
- The application submitted by Mr. Bowyer is complete
- The proposed facility described in the application is in substantial compliance with the regulatory provisions of the UDO

The Laurinburg Planning Board considered the petition at its January 10, 2006 meeting and unanimously concurs with the findings of the Planning staff. It is Planning Board's recommendation that the property located at 14961 Rea Magnet Road be rezoned from R-20 to General Business-Conditional Use District to allow the operation of RC's Performance as described in Mr. Bowyer's request.

Mr. Roland C. Bowyer, III, being duly sworn, appeared before City Council and requested that his property be rezoned for commercial use as general business. He explained that he has spoken with his neighbors and none has a problem with his request. He added that his business should create no problems because it will be very low key since most of his customers are from out of town and out of state.

There was no one to speak against this request.

Councilmember Parker moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. O-2006-01 which rezones from Residential-20 to General Business-Conditional Use District property located at 14961 Rea Magnet Rd. Councilmember Leak seconded the motion and it was adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: Parker, Leak, Griswold, Rainer, DeBerry

Nays: None

(Ordinance No. O-2006-01 on file in the City Clerk's Office)

SCATTERED SITE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROJECT IN SCOTLAND COUNTY – ADRIAN LOWERY

Mayor Slaughter explained that Adrian Lowery, Housing Specialist with the Lumber River Council of Government (COG), is present to update the City Council on the Scattered Site Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program being conducted in Scotland County.

Mr. Adrian Lowery appeared before City Council to provide an update on the CDBG program and to provide a background of the program including how a CDBG program is administered. Mr. Lowery explained that every three (3) years, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development Agency provides to the State of North Carolina between forty-five and fifty million dollars to address housing conditions throughout the state. He then explained that the Division of Community Assistance which is in the Department of Commerce administers this program. He stated there are many different programs that fall under the CDBG guidelines and one of those programs is the Scattered Site Housing Program. He further explained that under that program each county in the state receives \$400,000.00 on a three (3) year cycle to providing housing assistance to low income individuals.

Mr. Lowery explained that Scotland County's first cycle was in 2003 and that that project cycle has been completed. He stated that originally there were ten (10) homes which Scotland County approved and that out of those ten (10) homes, it was anticipated that five (5) to ten (10) homes would be considered for rehabilitation or demolition. Homes would be given priority based upon the condition of the home with those in the worst condition being given higher priority. Most of the homes were in bad shape and had to be demolished and replaced. He then explained that the County chose to replace the homes with modular units and that five (5) homes had been replaced. He stated that, of the ten (10) homes originally considered by the County, three (3) homes were located within the City of Laurinburg. The homes inside the City included one on Perk Street, one on McGirts Bridge Road, and one on Produce Market Road. The McGirts Bridge Road and the Produce Market Road homes were low on the priority list, and those homes were not able to be addressed during the 2003 cycle due to an insufficiency of funds. He then stated that the county had stipulated that, if all ten (10) homes originally identified could not be addressed in the 2003 cycle, those not addressed would be included and have priority in the next cycle. He further stated that Scotland County is a 2005 recipient for funds.

He then explained that the number one priority house on the 2003 list was a house located on Perk Street. He stated, however, that there is a requirement that a letter be sent to the State Historical Society for each unit in the program. He stated that, with respect to the house on Perk Street, the State Historical Society had stipulated that the house had historical significance and had to be kept close to its original appearance and in keeping with the appearance as the homes around it. He stated that after replacing the other homes on the list there was insufficient funds left to address the home on Perk Street. He further explained that when the proposed repairs to the Perk Street house were bid out, because of the requirements imposed by the State Historical Society, it was a very costly project, and there simply were insufficient funds to repair this house as part of the last cycle. Therefore, all the houses that were addressed turned out to be outside the city limits of Laurinburg. He stated that in the 2005 project, the COG will submit to the County a list of homes for approval during the new project cycle. He then stated that the three (3) homes in Laurinburg mentioned above which were included in but not addressed as part of the last project cycle would have priority and should be addressed in the new project cycle.

Mr. Lowery stated that the Lumber River Council of Governments administers the program for Scotland County and

that the homes are selected on a point system based on the severity of the need (which considers the financial status of the owner as well as the condition of the home). He then stated that the list is then submitted to the State for approval. He concluded by restating that the County has determined that any homes included in but not addressed in the 2003 project because of the limited funding would be included and have priority in the 2005 project provided that State approval is received for those homes.

Mr. Lowery explained that he has informed the City Manager of another grant available for municipalities and that is a Concentrated Needs Grant. The Concentrated Needs Grant provides for a maximum of \$700,000.00 in funding. This type grant focuses on one (1) concentrated area, and the expenditures must include infrastructure. The next cycle for this grant will be in the fall of this year. He added that he has offered his assistance with the application process.

Councilmember Leak expressed concern that no money from the CDBG program was spent during the last cycle in the City Limits, and he requested that Mr. Lowery convey that concern to Jim Perry, Executive Director of the Lumber River Council of Governments.

Upon further discussion, Councilmember Parker requested that at the next Council meeting, the Finance Director provide the amount of the dues the City pays annually to the COG.

REQUEST FOR REMOVAL OF CONCRETE MEDIAN ON US 15/401 BY-PASS SOUTH-JOE MENDOLA

Mayor Slaughter explained that Mr. Joe Mendola would like to request City Council's support for the removal of the concrete median on US 15/401 across from Scotsdale subdivision. He feels that the removal would allow better access to US 15/401 for the residents of the subdivision. She explained that Mr. Mendola had brought this issue to the Chamber Transportation Committee which has agreed to support the request. She further explained that along with this requested removal, the Committee has indicated that it would like to see some sort of signalization at this intersection if possible. She explained that, if Council likewise agreed, the City would need to send a letter to the North Carolina Department of Transportation (DOT) with its support for the removal of the concrete median.

Mr. Joe Mendola appeared before City Council and stated that he represents Tri-City, Incorporated, developers of the Lowe's, Winn Dixie, and Golden Corral shopping center. He added that the company is considering possible development of the 11.5-acre tract located in front of the Scotsdale Subdivision. The company has determined that the best use of the property would require rezoning the property. He stated that the intersection of West Boulevard and US 15/401 is extremely crowded and that a further outlet from the area to both north and southbound lanes of US 15/401 would be very helpful. Mr. Mendola also stated that he has spoken with Tri-Core, the owner of the Wal-Mart property, about petitioning DOT to allow a right turn in from and right turn onto US 15/401 at the Murphy Oil location.

A discussion ensued concerning DOT's practices with regard to highway access.

The City Manager stated that the Chamber's Transportation Committee, of which he is a member, had met with Mr. Mendola and that the Committee supports this request.

Motion was made by Councilmember Griswold, seconded by Councilmember DeBerry, and unanimously carried to send a letter of support to the North Carolina Department of Transportation requesting the removal of the concrete median on US 15/401 South across from the Scotsdale Subdivision.

CONSUMER BILLING CHARGES – GREG BAINES

Mayor Slaughter explained that Mr. Greg Baines, on behalf of Downtown Properties, Inc. would like to request relief from two months of extremely high water bills which resulted from water leakage from property located on Main Street (Old Wachovia Building) during the months of July and August 2005. The total relief sought is \$3,935.96.

Mr. Greg Baines appeared before Council and requested a refund of utility payments. He explained that during the repair by the City of a water leak at Church and Main Streets in July 2005, the City had turned the water off in the

downtown area and the water had drained from the State Bank building. When the water was thereafter turned back on, for some reason, the toilets on the fourth floor of the State Bank building ran without stopping. He further explained that the fourth floor of that building is vacant; therefore, it was not discovered that the commodes were constantly running until almost two (2) months later. Although the meter for the building was read on August 1, the bill was not sent out and received until September. The owners did, in fact, discover the problem in the intervening period and immediately had it repaired. Due to the one (1) month lag between meter reading date and billing date, Mr. Baines argued that the owner should not be penalized for the additional month of water overuse for which the company was billed. The City's policy allows for refund of only one (1) month per year of utility payment when there is a water leak. Because of the unique circumstances, Mr. Baines argued that the policy was unfair to his company.

Councilmember Parker stated that he has a financial interest in this matter in that he is a shareholder in the company that owns the building and requested to be excused from the vote on this issue.

Motion was made by Councilmember Griswold, seconded by Councilmember Leak, and unanimously carried to allow Councilmember Parker to be excused from voting on this issue.

A lengthy discussion ensued concerning this situation, the City's refund policy, and the meter reading schedule.

Councilmember Leak expressed concern about deviating from the refund policy since it had been in effect for so long.

Councilmember Rainer expressed concern that the City's policy be enforced consistently.

Because of the unusual circumstances, motion was made by Councilmember Griswold, seconded by Councilmember DeBerry, and unanimously carried to authorize refund of \$3,935.96 to Downtown Properties, Inc. for the inadvertent water use during July and August 2005. Councilmember Parker did not vote on the motion inasmuch as he had been excused.

The City Manager stated that staff is investigating the possibility of electronic meter reading which would allow faster meter reading and would also flag special or unusual circumstances and conditions.

TAXATION

Ms. Tammy R. Little, City Tax Collector, explained that as required by G.S. 105-369(a), on the second Monday in February of each year, the municipal tax collector must report to the governing board the total of unpaid taxes for the current fiscal year which are liens on real property. Ms. Little stated that there is \$216,110.30 in outstanding taxes that are liens on real property. G.S. 105-369(a) further states that the governing body shall thereupon order the tax collector to advertise liens. Ms. Little respectfully requested the order to advertise for March 3, 2006.

Motion was made by Councilmember Griswold, seconded by Councilmember Parker, and unanimously carried that the City Tax Collector be authorized to advertise the list of delinquent taxpayers on March 3, 2004.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE 2005 TAX LEVY

Ms. Tammy R. Little, City Tax Collector, requested that the following adjustments be made to the 2005 tax levy:

Release of the following taxes:

NAME	PARCEL#	VAL	YEAR	RATE	TAXES	REASON
Brenda C. Brazelton	633		2005	.38	\$69.35	Elderly Exempt
James P. Burroughs	206-3-4	9,960	2005	.38	\$37.85	Elderly Exempt
Charles P. Bethea	64-3-27		2005	.38	\$9.50	Elderly Exempt
James Glen Hatcher	74-8-5		2005	.38	\$7.60	Elderly Exempt
Jo Ann Breeden Boyd	597		2005	.38	\$7.60	Elderly Exempt

Moses Lee Campbell	64-3-25	20,000	2005	.38	\$76.00	Elderly Exempt
Sadie J. Faulk	75-2-19		2005	.38	\$5.28	Elderly Exempt

Discovery of the following accounts:

NAME	PARCEL#	VAL	YEAR	RATE	TAXES	REASON
Fastenal Company	Per Prop	166,660	2005	.38	\$633.31	Additional Tax
Kimberly E. Pressley	Mobile Home	2,000	2005	.38	\$7.60	Not listed
RAB Investments	Per Prop	14,184	2005	.38	\$53.90	Per County
Scotland Urology	Per Prop	76,931	2005	.38	\$292.34	Per County
State Farm Mutual	Per Prop	1,471	2005	.38	\$5.59	Per County

Motion was made by Councilmember Parker, seconded by Councilmember Griswold, and unanimously carried to adjust the 2005 tax levy as recommended by the tax collector.

REQUEST TO REZONE FROM RESIDENTIAL-6 TO OFFICE INSTITUTIONAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 114 JOHN ST.

The City Manager explained that Mr. Neil Smith of MilCo, LLC is requesting that property located at 114 John St. be rezoned from Residential-6 to Office Institutional. He stated that Mr. Smith has indicated that MilCo, LLC plans to renovate the property and that some type of office would occupy the building. The City Manager further stated that the Laurinburg Planning Board heard this request at its regular meeting held February 14, 2006. The Board unanimously recommends approval of this request.

Motion was made by Councilmember Griswold, seconded by Councilmember Parker, and unanimously carried to set a public hearing for Tuesday, March 21, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers of the Municipal Building to consider a request to rezone from Residential-6 to General Business property located at 114 John St.

REQUEST FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO OPERATE A CHILDREN'S DAYCARE FACILITY AT 14941 PHILLIPS DR.

The City Manager explained that Ms. Jacqueline Morris is requesting a conditional use permit to operate a children's daycare facility at 14961 Phillips Dr. He further explained that the Laurinburg Planning Board heard this request at its regular meeting held February 14, 2006 and unanimously recommends approval of this request.

Motion was made by Councilmember Griswold, seconded by Councilmember Parker, and unanimously carried to set a public hearing for Tuesday, March 21, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers of the Municipal Building to consider a request for a conditional use permit to operate a children's daycare facility at 14941 Phillips Dr.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF LAURINBURG AND BUXTON COMPANY

The City Manager explained that at the National League of Cities meeting in Charlotte, Councilmember Leak initially met with Buxton Company, a retail recruitment company, to look at retail recruitment for the City. He further explained that at the Joint City-County Meeting on January 12, 2006 the idea was initially discussed as a joint economic development project with the County. He stated that at that time the County tentatively agreed to support one-half the cost of the project. The bid from Buxton for the provision of retail recruitment services is for a total of \$30,000.00. The money would need to be allocated by the City.

The City Manager then explained that a meeting with Buxton had previously been held which included Mayor Slaughter, Councilmember Leak, Mr. Jim Frank Henderson, Mr. Drew Williamson, Assistant County Manager Kevin Patterson, and staff members, who were all impressed at the possibilities for the community.

The City Manager then stated that prior to the council meeting Councilmember Rainer had requested that staff make contact with the two (2) cities in the state, Morganton and Conover, which had used Buxton's services. The City offices in Conover were closed and no information was available. Dolores Hammond, City Clerk, talked with Sharon Jablonski, the Mainstreet Coordinator in Morganton. Ms. Jablonski told Ms. Hammond that the City of Morganton was extremely pleased with the work done by Buxton. She told Ms. Hammond that the Buxton Company responded quickly to any concerns or requests from Morganton and delivered everything promised. Morganton is in the beginning stage of meeting with the retail companies Buxton recommended. The City Manager added that he had spoken with Ed Burchins, City Manager in Newton, which is close to Conover. He stated that the City of Newton is also looking at contracting with Buxton. Upon question by Councilmember DeBerry, the City Manager stated that the County did tentatively agree to participate in this project but wanted the City to approve the project first before finally committing.

Councilmember Parker expressed concern that this project was not a good way to spend the City's money. He discussed the demographics of Laurinburg and what companies look for when deciding to locate in an area. He explained that the Chamber should be relied upon to recruit industry to the area in order to provide more jobs and higher incomes.

Councilmember Griswold explained that she felt both industrial and retail recruitment should be conducted.

Councilmember Rainer discussed the loss of industry in the area as well as the gains in retail business such as Lowe's. He explained that if money is going to be spent on recruiting, then it should be spent on recruiting new industry. He stated that since money is already given to the Chamber for recruiting, the Chamber should do retail recruiting in addition to industrial recruiting.

A discussion ensued concerning economic development and retail and industrial recruitment.

Councilmember Parker stated that he felt the \$15,000.00 would be better spent on the Base Realignment and Closure effort. He stated that there will be an influx of people to this area, and they should be encouraged to live in Laurinburg. This will increase our population and improve our demographics.

Councilmember Griswold explained that she felt there was no reason the City could not work with Buxton on retail recruitment and work on encouraging people affected by the Base Realignment and Closure effort to relocate in Laurinburg.

The City Manager stated that the Chamber is aware that more retail recruiting needs to be done. The Chamber has formed a committee for retail recruiting, and the City Manager is on that committee.

The Assistant City Attorney stated a correction needed to be made in the proposed Agreement. On page 7, of the Agreement, in the last paragraph, it should state "State of North Carolina", not "State of Texas".

Motion was made by Councilmember Griswold and seconded by Councilmember Leak to authorize the City Manager to execute an agreement with the Buxton Company for a total of \$30,000.00 contingent upon approval by Scotland County Board of Commissioners to support one-half (1/2) the remaining cost of \$15,000.00.

The motion was carried with Councilmembers Griswold, Leak, and DeBerry voting in favor of the motion, and Councilmembers Parker and Rainer voted against the motion.

Upon question by Councilmember DeBerry, the City Manager stated that the Buxton Company contract would be for a two-year period. He added that the City could thereafter contract with Buxton Company for an update if one is needed.

RESOLUTION FROM THE CITY OF LAURINBURG AND SCOTLAND COUNTY TO THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

The City Manager stated that at the joint City Council/County Commissioners meeting on January 12, 2006 part of the discussion was to look at jointly supporting a resolution to the North Carolina Department of Transportation in support of pedestrian access from US 15/401 By-Pass South to the Scotland County Governmental Complex. He explained that the Scotland County Board of Commissioners approved the proposed joint resolution on February 6, 2006. He added that there were some minor word changes to the resolution that needed to be made but that the changes would not affect the meaning of the resolution.

Councilmember Parker moved for the adoption of Resolution No. R-2006-04 (as amended upon suggestion of the Assistant City Attorney) which requests a pedestrian connection between US 15/401 By-Pass South to the Scotland County Governmental Complex. Councilmember Griswold seconded the motion, and it was adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: Parker, Griswold, Leak, DeBerry, Rainer

Nays: None

(Resolution No. R-2006-04 on file in the City Clerk's Office)

RESOLUTION FROM THE CITY OF LAURINBURG AND SCOTLAND COUNTY TO THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

The City Manager explained that also discussed at the joint City Council/County Commissioners meeting on January 12 was to look at jointly supporting a resolution to the North Carolina Department Of Transportation in support of reducing the speed limit on West Blvd./X-Way Road from US 15/401 By-Pass South to the John Blue House and the installation of crosswalk between the John Blue House and the Scotland County Museum. He further explained that the Scotland County Board of Commissioners approved the proposed joint resolution on February 6, 2006. He added that there were several minor word changes that needed to be made to the proposed resolution but the changes would not affect the meaning of the resolution.

Councilmember Parker moved for the adoption of Resolution No. R-2006-05 (as amended upon suggestion of the Assistant City Attorney) which supports reducing the speed limit on West Boulevard/X-Way Road from US 15/401 By-Pass South to the John Blue House and beyond to Blue's Farm Road and the installation of a crosswalk between the John Blue House and the Scotland County Museum. Councilmember Griswold seconded the motion and it was adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: Parker, Griswold, Leak, DeBerry, Rainer

Nays: None

(Resolution No. R-2006-05 on file in the City Clerk's Office)

RESOLUTION AMENDING THE CITY OF LAURINBURG'S PERSONNEL POLICY

The City Manager explained that the City had discovered that the current standard of pay for City Fire Department personnel was not in accord with the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). He stated that the City currently charges employees for meals and breaks, which is a violation of FLSA. He then stated that the result is the addition of 2.75 hours added to each work shift (13.5 hours to 16.25 hours).

He then explained that staff has gone back the past two years to adjust salaries based on the underpayment. He further explained that staff has also adjusted hourly rates, as the City used to base salary on 212 hours which is the maximum number of hours under FLSA for a 28-day cycle before overtime is paid. He further stated that now, in defining the work shift, a 28-day period, as far as hours worked, will be 195 hours.

The City Manager then stated that, due to these changes, the personnel policy needs to be amended to reflect the changes of work schedule and vacation/sick time accrual.

Councilmember Griswold moved for the adoption of Resolution No. R-2006-06 which amends the City of Laurinburg Personnel Policy, Article V, Section 1 Work Schedule, Article VII, Section 7, Vacation Leave, and Article VII, Section 13, Sick Leave; Accrual Rate and Accumulation Councilmember Parker seconded the motion and it was adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: Griswold, Rainer, Parker, DeBerry, Leak

Nays: None

(Resolution No. R-2006-05 on file in the City Clerk's Office)

The City Manager requested that a motion also be made to approve the base pay adjustments.

Motion was made by Councilmember Griswold, seconded by Councilmember Parker, and unanimously approved to approve the base pay adjustments for the Fire Department personnel as recommended by the City Manager.

JOINT USE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF LAURINBURG AND THE LAURINBURG FARMER'S MARKET

The City Manager explained that the City has been approached by Laurinburg Downtown Revitalization Commission and the Coalition of Farmer's Markets about the possibility of locating a farmer's market at City owned A.B. Gibson parking lot on South Main Street. He explained that Council needs to authorize the City Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding between the City and the Laurinburg Farmer's Market Association. He added that the project has been endorsed by Scotland Memorial Hospital, the Scotland County Agricultural Extension office, the Scotland County Health Department and the Scotland County School system.

Motion was made by Councilmember Griswold, seconded by Councilmember Parker, and unanimously carried to authorize the City Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding between the City and the Laurinburg Farmer's Market Association.

AWARD OF CONTRACT – COLLEGE PARK OUTFALL IMPROVEMENTS PHASE I PROJECT

The City Manager explained that in dealing with the City's infiltration and influx problem, the Bridge Creek Sewer Project was identified as a priority project. This project is currently in the City's 2005-2006 budget. The project was bid out on January 12, with bid opening on February 17.

The City received five (5) bids for the project, with a range of \$233,513.00 to a high bid of \$287,710.00. The low bid by Frank Horne Construction out of Fair Bluff has been reviewed and is recommended by Hobbs Upchurch for acceptance.

The City budgeted \$375,000 for the project within the 2005-2006 budget.

Motion was made by Councilmember Parker, seconded by Councilmember Rainer, and unanimously carried to award to Frank Horne Construction in the amount of \$233,513.00 the contract for the College Park Outfall Improvements Phase I Project.

RECREATIONAL TRAILS GRANT APPLICATION

The City Manager stated that as part of the City's discussions with the County during the recent joint meeting, the City Council made a commitment to begin looking at how the City can work jointly in helping fund facility needs. In

working with the Scotland County Recreation Department, Washington Park and Lincoln Park were identified as having a need for walking/biking trails at both parks.

A possible funding source from the NC 2006 Recreational Trail Program (RTP) has been identified that could help with this construction. The grant would be in the \$30,000.00 range, with a 20% match of either cash or in-kind work provided by the City. If agreeable, the City would approve of the submittal of the grant under Scotland County's Park and Recreation Department, with the City committing the matching part of the grant.

A discussion ensued concerning the safety of having one trail serve both walkers and bikers.

The City Manager stated that he would discuss this issue with Shannon Newton, Scotland County Parks and Recreation Director.

Motion was made by Councilmember Parker, seconded by Councilmember Griswold, and unanimously carried to authorize the submission of a Recreational Trails Grant for walking/biking trails in Lincoln and Washington Parks.

AWARD CONTRACT FOR A LEASE-PURCHASE OF A LIGHT DUTY RESCUE APPARATUS (TRUCK)

The City Manager stated that as part of the City's current 05/06 FY Budget, the City has budgeted \$35,500.00 (with \$17,775.00 to come from the City and \$17,775.00 to come from the County) to partially pay for the cost of replacing Rescue 2. He stated that the City recently received five (5) bids for a replacement unit, with \$132,061.00 being the low bid.

He stated that staff recommends that Council award the contract to the low bidder of Rescue Vehicles of Iowa in the amount of \$132,061.00 and approve a financing lease purchase agreement with Baystone Financial Group for five (5) years at an interest rate of 4.45%. By doing this, the City will be obligated to four (4) additional years of payments at \$28,945.23 (\$14,472.61 to come from the City and \$14,472.61 to come from the County). He further stated that Council was provided a copy of a letter from Scotland County stating that the County's portion of the lease amount will be included in the County's budget.

Motion was made by Councilmember Parker, seconded by Councilmember Griswold, and unanimously carried to award to Rescue Vehicles of Iowa in the amount of \$132,061.00 the contract to purchase the rescue vehicle and to approve the financing lease purchase agreement with Baystone Financial Group.

FIRE DEPARTMENT ISO RATING

The City Manager stated that the City has recently been working with the North Carolina Department of Insurance to rate the Fire Department for insurance purposes. Currently the Fire Department maintains a Class 5 rating within the City and County Fire District. Ratings are based on a 1 to 10 with 1 being best and 10 being poorest. The last rating review that occurred in the City was approximately 15 years ago. The City has been informed at this time that our rating will at least be maintained at a 5, with a possibility that it could be lowered. He added that the City will be notified within 45 days of its rating.

The City Manager also stated that the City has received a letter from the Office of the State Fire Marshall stating that the Fire Department met the minimum requirements to be a certified fire department. He thanked Harold Smith, Interim Fire Chief, and all of the firefighters for the work done to accomplish this.

GIS CONSOLIDATION

The City Manager explained that during the joint meeting on January 12, 2006 both the City Council and the Scotland County Board of Commissioners directed their respective staffs to begin looking at the possibility of GIS consolidation to be housed by the City. The first meeting with County staff was held on January 18, 2006 to discuss issues that needed to be addressed in the consolidation effort. He added that he and the County Manager are working on the draft

agreements, and both staffs are working on the technical issues of the information transfer and procedures for it to occur. The technical staff of both agencies met with Withers and Ravenel on February 15, 2006 to talk specifics, and the consolidation is continually moving forward. He further added that in 60-90 days a plan for the transfer should be completed and that City Council and the Scotland County Commissioners should at that time have a proposed agreement to consider.

OLD HOSPITAL UPDATE

The City Manager explained that Bill Riemer, Director of Planning and Administration, would update the City Council on the progress with the State and Federal Government with respect to the old hospital demolition.

Mr. Bill Riemer explained that because of the receipt of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development grant, an environmental review had to be conducted which resulted in a finding from the State Historic Preservation Officer that the former Scotland Memorial Hospital structures had potential for significance on the national registry of historic places. Mr. Riemer then explained the photography work that had been done and sent to the State Historic Preservation Officer. He added that he had just been told that the photographs also had to be sent to the federal government and that would be accomplished soon. He explained the waiting periods necessary for this process. He concluded by stating that he had contacted Congressman Hayes' office and it will try to help expedite the process.

BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE (BRAC)

The City Manager stated that BRAC is setting up a committee with one county representative and one municipal representative to serve on the local committee. He added that Council needed to nominate a representative to serve on the BRAC committee and that the nomination would be sent to the Scotland County Board of Commissioners for consideration.

Motion was made by Councilmember Leak, seconded by Councilmember DeBerry, and unanimously carried to nominate Councilmember Parker as the City of Laurinburg's representative to serve on the BRAC committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Councilmember DeBerry, seconded by Councilmember Parker, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Ann B. Slaughter, Mayor

Dolores A. Hammond, CMC