

**CITY OF LAURINBURG
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 27, 2006
COUNCIL ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING
303 WEST CHURCH STREET
5:30 P.M.**

Minutes

The City Council of the City of Laurinburg held a special meeting Tuesday, June 27, 2006. The meeting was held in the upstairs council room of the Municipal Building beginning at 5:30 p.m. with the Honorable Ann B. Slaughter, Mayor, presiding. The following Councilmembers were present: Rembert DeBerry, Lisa D. Griswold, Curtis B. Leak, Thomas W. Parker, III, and Herbert M. Rainer, Jr.

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

Mayor Slaughter called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Councilmember DeBerry gave the invocation.

RESOLUTION WHICH SUPPORTS THE DECISION OF THE SCOTLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON THE PROPOSED LANDFILL

Mayor Slaughter stated that the purpose of this meeting is consider Resolution R-2006-21 which supports the decision of the Scotland County Board of Commissioners on the proposed landfill.

The City Manager then read the proposed Resolution.

Councilmember Leak stated that he had received several inquiries and letters regarding the proposed landfill. He explained that he felt that the citizens should have a voice in this decision and would hope that the Scotland County Commissioners would elect to review the possibility of putting the issue on the ballot in the November election for citizens to vote for or against the proposed landfill.

Councilmember Griswold stated that the City is the largest contributor to the landfill in terms of tipping fees for the City of Laurinburg residents. She then expressed her opinion that all citizens do have a voice in this issue because they placed their trust in those that they elected to serve as county commissioners. She then stated that she is in full support of what the county commission does so long as it take steps necessary to educate themselves and make an informed decision. She explained that she personally does not know about the environmental impact of the landfill on this area. She then stated that her personal opinion is if it is environmentally safe and safeguards can be put in place to ensure the safety of the citizens, then it would be very irresponsible to discard the notion of having a landfill in this county based on the financial benefit that could come to the county.

Councilmember Rainer stated that he agreed with Councilmember Griswold's assessment. He stated that the days of industry coming to Scotland County are very slim so every advantage needs to be taken of businesses and industries that express an interest in locating in Scotland County. He then stated that, while a landfill may not be the most desirable type of facility for our community, our county is presently taking its garbage to another county and we now need to consider taking care of ourselves. He continued by stating that if the possible effects on the environment are known and that those effects will not hurt the county in the long run, especially the water, he could support the decision of the county commissioners if they choose to locate such a landfill in our community.

Councilmember Parker stated that he concurred with both Councilmembers. He stated that he would not want to do anything that is unsafe for the citizens but thought that the current state of technology is such that a landfill could be operated in an environmentally safe manner.

Councilmember DeBerry stated that he had talked with Chairman J. D. Willis and asked a number of questions. He then asked Chairman Willis, Scotland County Board of Commissioners, who was in the audience, whether the proposed landfill is for the surrounding counties or a larger landfill.

Chairman Willis informed council that Thursday, June 29, 2006, the Scotland County Board of Commissioners would have a meeting to receive information regarding the financial impact of a regional landfill versus a larger landfill. He stated that the Commissioners had visited the issue and entertained the thought of running a landfill for Scotland County specifically. He then stated that the conclusion was that it is not economically feasible for the County. He also stated that there was discussion about a regional landfill with Hoke, Moore, Richmond, and Scotland Counties. He explained that if Scotland County developed a regional landfill, then there would be competition with other private companies, companies that have been in business for a long time, and they could undercut the County. The investment for the County as well as the risk would be extremely high. The Board of Commissioners will consider all factors at its meeting tomorrow. He concluded by stating that at this point and time it does not seem economically feasible to develop a regional landfill.

Upon question by Councilmember Leak, Chairman Willis stated that the present landfill has about a seven-year life for construction and demolition. He then stated that the proposed landfill is a MSW (Municipal Solid Waste) facility. He explained that Scotland County has been transferring its solid waste since 1994-1995 when the unlined landfill had to be closed.

Upon another question by Councilmember Leak, Chairman Willis stated that the State of North Carolina is considering a moratorium on landfills and that whether or not it is approved, it will not affect Scotland County.

The Assistant City Attorney stated that there are two places in the proposed Resolution that refer to "regional landfill" and he suggests that if there is a motion to approve the proposed Resolution, Council may want to consider amending it by deleting the reference to "regional" and just referring to it as "landfill".

The Assistant City Attorney also pointed out that the Resolution refers to the resolution being passed with the Mayor's consent and that, if there is a motion to adopt the resolution, the Mayor should voice her consent to the resolution.

Mayor Slaughter then stated that the City has been urged to work with the County Commissioners and they have studied the issue and have visited other landfills. She then stated that the City has not studied the issue because it is a County project and the only thing the City can do is to offer support for whatever decision they decide to make. She indicated her consent to the proposed resolution.

Councilmember Parker moved to adopt Resolution No. R-2006-21 which supports the Scotland County Board of Commissioners in its decision on the proposed landfill with amendments as suggested by the Assistant City Attorney. Councilmember Griswold seconded the motion and it was adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: Parker, Rainer, Griswold DeBerry

Nays: Leak

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, motion was made by Councilmember DeBerry, seconded by Councilmember Griswold, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

Ann B. Slaughter, Mayor

Dolores A. Hammond, City Clerk