

**CITY OF LAURINBURG
COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 19, 2007
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
7:00 P.M.**

Minutes

The City Council of the City of Laurinburg held its regular monthly meeting June 19, 2007 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 (Blalock), 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 Charles L. Hicks, Jr., Assistant City Attorney.

Mayor Slaughter called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Councilmember Rainer gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Councilmember Leak, seconded by Councilmember DeBerry, and unanimously carried to approve the proposed minutes from the special meeting (budget workshop) held May 14, 2007.

PROPOSED 2007-2008 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE

Mayor Slaughter explained that this public hearing is for citizen input on the budget appropriation ordinance which approves the proposed 2007-2008 budget for the operation of the City of Laurinburg government.

She then declared the hearing open.

There was no one to speak for or against the proposed budget.

Mayor Slaughter then closed the public hearing.

Motion by Councilmember Parker, seconded by Councilmember Rainer, was unanimously carried to postpone action on the proposed budget appropriation ordinance until Wednesday, June 27, 2007 beginning at 12:00 noon in the upstairs council room of the Municipal Building.

DANGEROUS DOG ISSUE

Ms. Nancy Williams, Pelham Drive, Laurinburg, North Carolina, addressed Council about her concerns of dangerous dogs. She informed Council that on April 3, 2007 there was a fire in her neighborhood and the residents vacated the property and left three pit bull dogs unattended. She explained that the dogs had gotten out of their kennel and on May 10, 2007 the dogs attacked her dogs. She stated that of her dogs one was killed and the other badly mauled. She explained that she had contacted the City's animal control officer, the Scotland County Board of Health and the City Manager about the dogs. She then explained that upon investigation by the animal control officer the dogs were declared as dangerous dogs and that the owner would be required to construct a pen in accordance with the North Carolina General Statutes and the City's Animal Control Ordinance. The dogs were removed from the premises until the owners could construct such a pen and were fined \$100.00. Ms. Williams informed Council that the owners of the property were not the owners of the dogs.

She then stated that she felt that these type animals should not be allowed to reside on property where the property owners do not own the dogs. She also stated that she would like to see in place a provision for someone to inspect kennels and make sure they are safe for the animals as well as the community residents.

A discussion ensued concerning the General Statutes regarding animals and the City's animal control ordinance. There was consensus among Councilmembers that staff research what other municipalities have in place for animal control and to draft a more stringent ordinance dealing with dangerous animals especially those being left on property after a fire and dogs being left unattended on uninhabited property.

LAURINBURG-MAXTON AIRPORT COMMISSION 2006-2007 BUDGET AMENDMENT

Paul Davis, Interim Executive Director of the LMA, explained the current situation at the Laurinburg-Maxton Airport regarding sludge removal. He stated that this request is to amend the 2006-2007 budget in order to appropriate money from the fund balance to cover the expenses with the cleanup of sludge as ordered by the N. C. Division of Water Quality. He also explained that by creating a line item for sludge cleanup it will allow the Commission to track the expenses for the sludge cleanup. He further explained that the proposed amendment would allow \$175,000.00 to be allocated to sludge cleanup and would also increase the line item of sludge disposal by \$25,000.00.

Upon question by Councilmember Parker, Mr. Davis explained the sludge removal process. He stated that there is about 300,000 gallons of sludge mixture that will need to be pumped from the old plant. He then explained that once that the pumping has been completed the State will be contacted to investigate the site.

Mr. Davis also stated that he will need to appear before Council at a later date in order to further amend the Commission's current budget with respect to the cost of the sludge cleanup.

Following further discussion, motion was made by Councilmember Blalock, seconded by Councilmember Leak, and unanimously carried to approve the amendment to the 2006-2007 Budget of the Laurinburg-Maxton Airport Commission.

MINORITY HIRING GUIDELINES

The City Manager explained that the proposed Minority Hiring Guidelines will enhance what the City is already doing in efforts to provide a diverse work environment for City employees and to make certain that City employees better represent the makeup of the community. The proposed guidelines will set guidelines for recruitment of minorities and for stating the City's affirmation to provide equal employment and advancement opportunity for all.

A discussion ensued concerning the City's personnel policy. Because there was consensus that the City is already an equal opportunity employer, there was no action taken on the proposal.

ORDINANCE WHICH AMENDS THE 2006-2007 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE BY ALLOCATING FUNDS TO THE ELECTRIC FUND, THE GENERAL FUND, AND THE WATER/SEWER FUND

The City Manager explained that the proposed budget amendment is for the City's 2006-2007 fiscal year which ends on June 30. He then explained that the amendment moves \$250,000 in revenue from the Electric Fund to cover any overages for power purchases, \$35,000 to cover the new server that crashed (\$17,500 coming from Electrical; \$17,500 coming from Water/Sewer); and increases expenditures in the Fire Department by \$35,000 (equipment for ladder truck/turnout gear/and fuel expenses) with revenue coming from the City's streets department.

A discussion ensued concerning the expenditures in the Fire Department. There was consensus among Councilmembers that, in the future, before any non-budgeted money is expended, it would be better to let Council know prior to the expenditure of funds. There was also consensus that staff should provide a breakdown of the \$35,000.00 expenditure.

Councilmember Rainer asked what caused the server in Utility Billing to crash.

Cindy Carpenter, Finance Director, explained that an electrical surge associated with a power outage that occurred over the weekend coupled with the age of the server caused it.

Councilmember Blalock moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. O-2007-12 which amends the 2006-2007 Budget Appropriation Ordinance in order to allocate funds to the Electric Fund, the General Fund, and the Water/Sewer Fund. Councilmember Parker seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Blalock, Rainer, Parker, DeBerry, Leak

Nays: None

(Ordinance No. O-2007-12 is on file in the City Clerk's Office)

JOB CLASSIFICATION AND PAY COMPENSATION PLAN FOR THE CITY OF LAURINBURG

The City Manager explained that the City hired Condrey and Associates in November 2006 to update the City's pay and classification structure. He stated that the Study recommends a 1.95% adjustment (\$112,043) to the City's current base salaries as adjustments are made to some pay grades. He further stated that the pay and classification structure has not been

updated since 2001, and it has been the general policy of the City to complete and update it every 4-5 years.

Councilmember Parker stated that he would like to discuss this item at the meeting to be held Wednesday, June 27, 2007. He suggested that if other Councilmembers have concerns or questions about the job classification and pay compensation plan for the City of Laurinburg they let the City Manager know prior to the meeting.

Mayor Slaughter asked for a roll call vote.

Councilmember Parker moved that this item be tabled until the meeting which will be held Wednesday, June 27, 2007 at 12 Noon. Councilmember Blalock seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilmember Leak asked that Dr. Steve Condrey or someone from his office be in attendance at the meeting.

Ayes: Blalock, Leak, DeBerry, Parker, Rainer

Nays: None

(Ordinance No. O-2007-12 is on file in the City Clerk's Office)

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 22, ARTICLE III, TELEPHONE ALARM SYSTEM, SECTION 22 FALSE ALARMS (A)(B)(C) OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LAURINBURG

The City Manager explained that staff would like to recommend that the City's Code of Ordinances Chapter 22, Article II, Telephone Alarm System, Section 22 False Alarms (a) (b) and (c) be amended to read as follows:

(a) A service fee shall be imposed upon the user for each false fire alarm in excess of two (2) per calendar year. The service fee shall be as set forth in the fee schedule adopted by City Council.

(b) A service fee shall be imposed upon the user for each false burglary and robbery alarm in excess of five (5) per calendar year. The service fee shall be as set forth in the fee schedule adopted by City Council.

(c) The fifth false fire alarm in a calendar year may, in the discretion of the fire chief, result in the alarm user being notified by the fire chief that the alarm shall be deactivated and any monitoring and response to signals from the alarm system shall cease until service is reinstated in accordance with this section.

Upon question by Councilmember Rainer, the Assistant City Attorney explained that the existing ordinance provides that, after the fifth false alarm, the device will be deactivated and that the proposed amendment is less restrictive in that it gives the fire chief discretion as to whether it should be deactivated.

The City Manager stated that the Fire Department responds to any fire alarm and/or telephone call about fires, but these regulations would encourage the appropriate steps to be taken to repair alarms that continually are set off by some other means.

Councilmember Parker moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. O-2007-13 which amends Chapter 22, Article III, Telephone Alarms Systems of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Laurinburg. Councilmember Blalock seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Parker, Rainer, Blalock, Leak, DeBerry

Nays: None

(Ordinance No. O-2007-13 is on file in the City Clerk's Office)

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 18, ARTICLE II, FIRE PREVENTION CODE OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LAURINBURG

The City Manager explained that staff would like to recommend amending part of Chapter 18, Article II, Fire Prevention Code section entitled "Charges for special testing, inspection and other services."

He explained that this would authorize the fire department to charge for special testing, inspection and other services provided in accordance with the provisions of the chapter. The charges for such services shall be as set forth in the fee schedule adopted by City Council.

Councilmember Parker moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. O-2007-14 which amends Chapter 18, Article II, Fire

Prevention Code of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Laurinburg. Councilmember Blalock seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Parker, Rainer, Blalock, Leak, DeBerry

Nays: None

(Ordinance No. O-2007-14 is on file in the City Clerk's Office)

2007-2008 CITY OF LAURINBURG SCHEDULE OF FEES

The City Manager explained that as part of our budget recommendation for the City's 2007-2008 fiscal year, a 10% increase in water and sewer fees has been recommended for residential and commercial users along with a 10% increase in solid waste fees for residential and commercial users.

He also explained that the fees for the Fire Department for re-inspection, false alarms, permits and other services are part of the proposed change to the fee schedule.

Motion was made by Councilmember Blalock, seconded by Councilmember Parker, and unanimously carried to table this item until the meeting to be held Wednesday, June 27, 2007 at 12:00 Noon.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Mayor Slaughter explained that she was asked to find members and to also contact suggested members for the Historic Preservation Commission. She informed Council that the following citizens have agreed to serve on the commission:

Reg McVicker

Pam Kelley

Kimmie Johnson

Bo Butler

Betty Myers

Motion was made by Councilmember Blalock, seconded by Councilmember DeBerry and unanimously carried to appoint the aforementioned citizens to the Historic Preservation Commission.

The Assistant City Attorney reminded Council that the ordinance states that the terms of the members would be four-year staggered terms and that the motion did not indicate the terms.

Councilmember Blalock moved to appoint Reg McVicker and Pam Kelley to two-year terms in order to stagger the terms and to consider their re-appointment when the terms expire and to appoint Kimmie Johnson, Bo Butler, and Betty Myers to four-year terms.

The motion died due to lack of a second.

Following further discussion, motion was made by Councilmember Blalock, seconded by Councilmember DeBerry, and unanimously carried to appoint Reg McVicker and Bo Butler to two-year terms expiring June 30, 2009 and to appoint Pam Kelley, Kimmie Johnson, and Betty Myers to four-year terms expiring June 30, 2011.

CITY OF LAURINBURG PLANNING BOARD

Mayor Slaughter informed Council that the terms of James Graham and Kathy Williamson on the Laurinburg Planning Board will expire June 30, 2007. She stated that Mr. Graham and Mrs. Williamson have expressed their willingness to serve once again. She explained that if they are reappointed the terms will expire June 30, 2010.

Motion was made by Councilmember Parker, seconded by Councilmember Blalock, and unanimously carried to reappoint James Graham and Kathy Williamson to the Laurinburg Planning Board with terms to expire June 30, 2010.

SCOTLAND COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Mayor Slaughter informed Council that Councilmember Rainer wishes to resign from the Scotland County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

Motion was made by Councilmember Leak, seconded by Councilmember DeBerry, and unanimously carried to appoint Councilmember Blalock to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

Councilmember DeBerry stated that he had been asked about the basketball goals that had been taken down from Jaycee Park. He informed Council that the Parks and Recreation Department is planning on putting in a double court and replacing the basketball goals.

LAURINBURG-MAXTON AIRPORT COMMISSION

Mayor Slaughter informed Council that the term of Ms. Ella Morris on the Laurinburg-Maxton Airport Commission expires June 30, 2007. She stated that Ms. Morris has expressed a willingness to serve on this commission once again. The term will expire June 30, 2010.

Upon motion by Councilmember Blalock, seconded by Councilmember Leak, and unanimously carried Ms. Morris was reappointed to the Laurinburg-Maxton Airport Commission with a term to expire June 30, 2010.

LUMBER RIVER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Mayor Slaughter stated that at last month's Council meeting Councilmember Parker expressed an interest in appointing an alternate member to the Lumber River Council of Governments.

Councilmember Parker explained that the meetings are held the third Thursday of the month.

Councilmember Blalock moved to appoint Councilmember Rainer as an alternate member to the Lumber River Council of Governments. Councilmember DeBerry seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There was no one present to speak during the public comment period.

RECESS

Motion was made by Councilmember DeBerry, seconded by Councilmember Leak, and unanimously carried to recess the meeting until Wednesday, June 27, 2007 at 12:00 Noon to be held in the upstairs council room of the Municipal Building.

The meeting was recessed at 8:14 p.m.

Ann B. Slaughter, Mayor

Dolores A. Hammond, City Clerk