

**CITY OF LAURINBURG  
COUNCIL MEETING  
MARCH 20, 2007  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
7:00 P.M.**

**Minutes**

The City Council of the City of Laurinburg held its regular monthly meeting March 20, 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, Curtis B. Leak, and Thomas W. Parker, III. Councilmember Herbert M. Rainer, Jr. was absent.

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

Councilmember Griswold gave the invocation.

Mayor Slaughter presented an Advanced Law Enforcement Certification to Officer Chris Strickland and read the following letter from the North Carolina Criminal Justice Standards Division:

The Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission recently met in regular session. Among other transactions, the Commission accepted nominations of those candidates qualified to receive the Law Enforcement Officers' and the Criminal Justice Officers' Advanced Certificate.

After examination of your credentials, the Commission unanimously approved issuance of the Advanced Certificate to you.

May I be the first to offer you congratulations on the attainment of this most significant award. Your dedication to your chosen profession is evidenced in the fact that you are one of a very select group of officers to receive this honor.

Sincerely,

/S/ Wayne Woodard  
Director

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by Councilmember Leak, seconded by Councilmember Griswold, and unanimously carried to approve the proposed minutes from the regular meeting held February 20, 2007.

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO OPERATE A SPORTS BAR/NIGHTCLUB  
LOCATED AT 1660 SOUTH MAIN STREET**

Mayor Slaughter explained that the public hearing is for a proposed conditional use permit to operate a sports bar/nightclub at 1660 South Main Street.

She then declared the hearing open.

Brandi Deese, City Planner/Zoning Officer, first being duly affirmed, appeared before Council and stated that Mr. Sammy J. Bailey, Ms. Tammy J. Bullard and Mr. Dennis W. Woods have requested that a conditional use permit be granted for the operation of a private membership nightclub at 1660 South Main Street. The site is the unused 38,000

square foot portion of the former K-Mart store at Holly Square Shopping Center.

The application for a conditional use permit was reviewed by staff where it was determined that:

- the subject property is located within the planning jurisdiction of the City of Laurinburg
- the application is complete
- the proposed development is in substantial compliance with the regulatory provisions of the Unified Development Ordinance.

Planning Board concurred with these findings at its February 13, 2007 meeting and by a 5-1 vote recommended that a conditional use permit be granted in this matter.

Mr. Ron Riggins, first duly sworn, stated that he is not present to argue for or against the proposed permit. He informed Council that he has been in business for a long time in the community and has significant experience in the sale of alcohol. He explained that he has been asked a number of questions from citizens in the community about the proposed permit. He then stated that the only information he has seen or heard about the request is what the media has produced which suggests that it is for the operation of a private club. He then stated that what he has heard of this particular company's record is less than stellar. He then explained to Council what he has read that the club would offer.

Mr. Riggins testified that from all information he has regarding private clubs is that they are short lived. He explained that they are generally open one day a week and do not have to comply with the regulation of serving a certain amount of food to be open. He stated that private clubs usually open up with high standards and high cover charges but eventually these drop off. He then stated that after the club is open for a while that the club will allow guests of the members into the club with no limit on how many guests are allowed. He also stated that parking lot activity is a concern during the hours of operation. Mr. Riggins then stated that, after being in the business for twenty years, he still struggles in his restaurant business while also trying to provide entertainment, and his business not a private club.

Mr. Riggins concluded his testimony by stating that based upon what he has read about private clubs and the reputation of the club that these owners have in Florence, South Carolina that this would not be a positive venture for the community.

Upon question from Councilmember Griswold, Ms. Deese stated that during the Planning Board meeting Mr. Dennis Woods, one of the owners of the club, stated that there had been no problems at the facility that he owns and operates in Florence, SC.

Upon further question from Councilmember Griswold, Ms. Deese stated that the following day after the Planning Board meeting information from the Florence Law Enforcement was obtained with respect to the existence of problems at the Florence location.

Councilmember Griswold asked that the incident report received from the Florence Law Enforcement be submitted as an exhibit as evidence that Council could consider with respect to its consideration of the request. A copy of the incident report is attached hereto and incorporated herein as a part of these minutes.

Upon further discussion, Ms. Deese testified that located near this proposed establishment are residential settings, Scotland Memorial Hospital, and St. Andrews Presbyterian College, and they had been notified of this public hearing.

Mr. Richard Bryant, first duly sworn, appeared before Council in opposition of the proposed request. Mr. Bryant testified that he is with Bryant Restaurants which owns and operated the Wendy's franchise in Laurinburg. He stated that they are building a brand new facility on property located in front of the proposed establishment. Mr. Bryant explained that Wendy's is a family style restaurant and that most of the business is Friday's, Saturday's, and Sundays. He also stated that a nightclub near the restaurant would not be a good drawing card for the family style restaurant. Mr. Bryant then stated, in response to questions by Council that if this proposed nightclub had predated his securing the property for the location of the new restaurant that another location would have been chosen.

Upon question by Councilmember Leak, Mr. Bryant further stated that another reason that he would not have chosen a location for his restaurant close to the proposed club would be the parking lot activity and the lack of parking for the facility. He then stated that based on the number of proposed members of the nightclub parking would spill over into other business establishments and would create parking difficulties for those businesses' customers.

Mr. Glenn Batten, first duly sworn, serving as St. Andrews as Vice-President for Enrollment and Student Services and as Dean of Students, appeared before Council to oppose the request. Mr. Batten testified that he has had the opportunity to travel the eastern seaboard promoting St. Andrews Presbyterian College and Laurinburg. He explained St. Andrews' attributes as well as those of the City that are used to recruit young people to come to St. Andrews and to Laurinburg. He stated that when open houses are held at St. Andrews some of the questions asked from mothers are about the residence halls, the food, if a hospital is nearby, and about the security of St. Andrews. He further stated that he did not want to be in a position to have to answer questions about a nightclub and especially about a nightclub whose operators have a reputation that is questionable. He then explained that St. Andrews is committed to the community, to being a good citizen, and to having its students participate and volunteer in community activities.

He concluded by stating that St. Andrews wants to see Laurinburg grow but that, by allowing this proposed nightclub, he does not see it as a way of achieving unified goals in the community.

Ms. Diane Ballard, first duly sworn and being the Scotland Associates Retail Property Manager, also appeared before Council to oppose this request.

Ms. Ballard testified that her company owns one-half of the shopping center where the proposed facility is to be located. She stated that most of the tenants close at 9:00 p.m. She explained that some of the tenants' employees have to make bank deposits after closing, there are also some employees that work late doing inventory for their establishments, and there is a safety concern if this type establishment is located in the shopping center. She then stated that another concern is that there will be a problem with litter. The parking lot is kept clean and with the nightclub's hours, the next morning the parking lot would likely have litter throughout and the other tenants would have to contend with this problem. She also stated that the parking lot would also need repairs due to the increase of traffic through the shopping center. She further explained that another concern is with possible break-ins if people have had too much to drink as well as the breaking of light fixtures and possible destruction of the landscaping. She stated that her company would like to continue providing a safe environment for their tenants as well as the tenants' customers and would prefer that this establishment not be located in the shopping center.

Upon question by Councilmember Griswold, Ms. Ballard testified that she has been with this shopping center for two years and has been in the business for twenty years. She also stated that in her opinion the establishment and the possible effect upon the value of the businesses that are currently in the shopping center would not be a positive one. She continued by stating that the location of this establishment would not bring customers in to shop at the current businesses. She explained that another concern is the fact that if the current tenants feel that this establishment is not the right fit for the shopping center that they may choose not to renew their leases.

Ms. Ballard stated that she manages 17 different properties from the mountains to the coast and they are all considered neighborhood centers. She then stated that none of them has a private nightclub within them because they are not conducive to shopping centers.

Upon further question by Councilmember Griswold, Ms. Ballard testified that in her opinion a private nightclub would not be in harmony with those other businesses in the area.

Mr. Robert Currie, first being duly sworn, appeared before Council in opposition to this request. He stated that his main concern regarding private clubs is that one member may be able to bring in many guests on any given night. He then stated that where alcohol is served eventually someone could be injured. He concluded by stating that if this establishment is allowed that there be a stipulation that the private club not be allowed to escape or avoid provisions that other businesses have to follow with respect to the sale of alcohol.

Mr. Tim Branch, first being duly sworn, Manager of Fred's Store in the shopping center, stated that his business is located beside this proposed establishment. He expressed concern about the noise and that events may be held not only at night, but also during the day. He stated that this would not be good for his business. He also expressed concern about fights and possible break-ins of nearby businesses.

Mayor Slaughter declared the public hearing closed.

Councilmember Griswold moved that the request be denied with the following findings of fact:

- The development is within the planning jurisdiction of the City of Laurinburg;
- The application is complete;
- The development is in substantial compliance with the regulatory provisions of the Unified Development Ordinance;

however; that, the request based upon confident material and substantial evidence presented at the public hearing:

- Will materially endanger the public, health or safety
- Will substantially injure the value of adjoining or abutting property
- And will not be in harmony with the area in which it is to be located

for the following reasons:

- the apparent material misrepresentations made by the proposed owners who are not present at this hearing, who have not presented testimony at this hearing
- the actual incidents that occurred at their establishment in Florence based upon the report from the Florence Police Department
- the serving of alcohol
- the classification of the club as a private club
- parking lot safety and activity and cleanliness
- the negative financial impact upon neighboring businesses
- possible criminal activity
- noise; and
- the close proximity to St. Andrews Presbyterian College, Scotland Memorial Hospital, and the neighboring residential areas

Councilmember Parker seconded the motion.

Mayor Slaughter asked for a roll call vote.

Those voting to deny the request were as follows:

Councilmembers Griswold, Parker, DeBerry, Leak

Those voting to approve the request were as follows:

None

## **PUBLIC HEARING FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO OPERATE A SALVAGE YARD ON A 9.451 ACRE SITE LOCATED ALONG DIXIE GUANO ROAD**

Mayor Slaughter explained that the public hearing is for a conditional use permit to operate a salvage yard located

along Dixie Guano Road.

She then declared the hearing open.

Bill Peele, City Planner/Zoning Officer, being first duly sworn, stated that Mr. Kenneth Martin, representing Cheraw Iron and Metal, Inc., has requested that a conditional use permit be granted for the development of a salvage yard and metal recycling facility at a 9.451-acre site on Dixie Guano Road. The property is located adjacent to the Piedmont Communication operation and directly across from the Redi-Mix Concrete plant.

The application for a conditional use permit was reviewed by staff where it was determined that:

- the subject property is located within the planning jurisdiction of the City of Laurinburg
- the application is complete
- the proposed development is in substantial compliance with the regulatory provisions of the Unified Development Ordinance.

Planning Board concurred with these findings at its February 13, 2007 meeting and by a 4-2 vote recommended that a conditional use permit be granted in this matter.

Mr. Kenneth Martin, first being duly sworn, appeared before Council and explained his company is applying for a conditional use permit to operate a salvage yard and recycling center on Dixie Guano Road. He discussed the economic benefits that would result from the salvage yard, citing that the Cheraw plant purchased over \$8,000,000.00 in scrap metal last year. He added that the salvage yard would employ 15-25 people. Mr. Martin stated that there were environmental concerns expressed at the hearing several months for his company's similar request for property on Barnes Bridge Road. The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control recommended the engineering firm of Davis & Brown to address environmental concerns. Davis & Brown prepared a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan for the Cheraw plant. He added that this type plan would have to be prepared for the Laurinburg site before operations could begin. Mr. Martin presented Council with a letter from Davis & Brown citing some of the things that would need to be done at the Laurinburg site. Mr. Martin stated that some of the local businesses had expressed concern about security since there would be increased traffic in the area. He explained that it was decided that it would be best to have a night watchman and cameras at the site. Mr. Martin further explained that the proposed site is in a more commercial area than the Barnes Bridge Road site, and there should not be the same concerns as with the previous request. He concluded his comments by stating that noise should not be a problem since the company uses hydraulic machinery.

Upon question by Councilmember Griswold, Mr. Martin stated that he would close his law practice (he is a South Carolina attorney) to manage the salvage yard if the request is approved.

Upon question by Councilmember Griswold, Mr. Martin explained that the buffer shown on the site plan prepared by J. F. Wampler Engineering, Inc. was a requirement of the City.

Councilmember Griswold explained that she wanted to ensure that all the buffering shown on the site plan prepared by J. F. Wampler Engineering, Inc. which included a proposed six-foot fence, the buffer to be Type A as per City of Laurinburg requirements of thick evergreen or Leyland Cypress with 1 ½ inch caliper and at 6 inches above ground and a minimum of 20 feet in mature height, are all conditions that will be included in the conditional use permit if granted

Upon question by Councilmember Griswold, Mr. Martin explained that although not required, a slag base material would be used on the site.

Upon question by Councilmember Griswold, Mr. Martin explained that according to the aforementioned letter from Davis & Brown, the creek near the subject property could receive wastewater discharges. He added that the salvage yard operation was not going to be located near the creek.

Councilmember Griswold then asked that the letter from Davis & Brown be submitted as part of the evidence provided during the public hearing. A copy of this letter is attached hereto and incorporated herein as a part of these minutes.

Mr. Mark Martin, first being duly sworn, appeared before Council and stated that he was available to answer any questions. He explained that Davis & Brown had looked at the site and indicated that it looked like a good site for the operation. He added that a slag base is not required, but since there could be runoff, the company would add a slag base. He explained that a slag base is like a rock base that when compressed is like concrete.

Mrs. Brenda Grubbs, first being duly sworn, appeared before Council to speak in favor of the request. She explained that the business would be a plus for the community and would provide jobs. She added that she had visited the neighbors and there was no opposition expressed. The closest neighbor would probably be Mr. Smith who is present to speak in favor of the request.

Mr. Robert Currie, first being duly sworn, appeared before Council and expressed support for the request.

Mr. Joffrey Smith, first being duly sworn, appeared before Council and explained that he lives next door to the subject property, and he is in favor of the request.

There was no one present to speak in opposition to the request.

Councilmember Griswold moved to approve the request for a conditional use permit to operate a salvage yard subject to the conditions of the City of Laurinburg with respect to the buffer and the intention set forth in the letter dated March 15, 2007 to add a slag base material and makes the following findings of fact:

- The development is within the planning jurisdiction of the City of Laurinburg;
- The application is complete;
- The development is in substantial compliance with the regulatory provisions of the Unified Development Ordinance; and

The request will not materially endanger the public health or safety; and

- Will not substantially injure the value of the adjoining or abutting property;
- Will be in harmony with the area in which it is to be located; and
- Will be in general conformity with the Land Use Plan, Thoroughfare Plan or other plan officially adopted by Council.

The motion was seconded by Councilmember Parker and unanimously carried.

## **PRESENTATION TO HAROLD W. SMITH, RETIRED PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR**

Mayor Slaughter presented a certificate to Harold W. Smith, retired Public Works Director, and thanked him for his service to the City of Laurinburg.

## **2008 CENSUS DRESS REHEARSAL**

Ms. Elise Smith, Assistant Recruiter and Examiner for the Census Bureau in Scotland County, appeared before Council and explained that California and North Carolina were chosen for the 2008 Census Dress Rehearsal; and in North Carolina, the City of Fayetteville and nine (9) surrounding counties were chosen because the area contains a perfect mix of urban, suburban and rural areas as well as two (2) large military installations. She further explained that the Fayetteville Census Bureau office would hire 3,000 temporary workers in the nine (9) county areas. She concluded her comments by explaining that she was promoting Census jobs, finding applicants for the jobs, and conducting employment testing.

## **LETTER OF SUPPORT OF THE SCOTLAND WARRIORS ACHIEVING TRIUMPH (SWAT) BASKETBALL TEAM**

Mayor Slaughter explained that Gilbert Abraham, coach and founder of the Scotland Warriors Achieving Triumph AAU basketball team, is requesting a letter of support for the team.

Motion was made by Councilmember Griswold, seconded by Councilmember Leak, and unanimously carried to authorize the Mayor to send a letter of support for the Scotland Warriors Achieving Triumph AAU basketball team.

## **MARKET FURNITURE BUILDING**

Ms. Lenora Dawson, MPA student at UNC-Pembroke who is interning with the City, appeared before Council to present her research findings on options for the Market Furniture building. She explained that she and the City Manager had met with Dean Ruedrich of Preservation North Carolina and Jeff Adolphgen of the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources State Historic Preservation Office to discuss redevelopment of the building at the least cost to the City. After visiting the site, Mr. Ruedrich requested that the acoustical tile ceiling, trash and debris be removed by the City if possible to provide better access to the building.

Ms. Dawson explained that the building is eligible for tax credits because it is listed in the National Register Historic District. Hypothetically, at this time, if a developer rehabilitated the building at a cost of \$1.8 million, he would receive a total of \$720,000.00 in tax credits, \$360,000.00 from the State and \$360,000.00 from federal governments. If Preservation North Carolina markets the building for the City, the roof will need to be replaced to make the building more marketable. Ms. Dawson stated that the cost of a new roof is approximately \$100,000.00. Therefore, if Preservation North Carolina markets the building at \$110,000.00, the City would recoup its \$100,000.00 with the \$10,000.00 going to Preservation North Carolina to cover administrative costs. Ms. Dawson added that Mr. Ruedrich and Mr. Adolphgen would like to be able to have better access to the building before marketing it. She further added that Mr. Ruedrich feels it plausible that the building will sell, but it may take a little time.

The City Manager thanked Ms. Dawson for her work and stated that it had been a pleasure working with her. He stated that the best bet for the City would be to have Preservation North Carolina market the building with a new roof and for the City to provide some in-kind work. The City Manager explained that the \$100,000.00 may be something to consider for the budget next year. He added that the City is close to getting clear title to the building, so the City has not yet accepted ownership. He concluded by stating that the cost will be included in the upcoming proposed budget to be further discussed by Council.

## **RESOLUTION WHICH DIRECTS THE CITY CLERK TO INVESTIGATE THE SUFFICIENCY OF A VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION**

The City Manager explained that Mr. and Mrs. G. Brooks Baines submitted a petition on February 13, 2007 to annex a 1.27 tract of land along North Turnpike Road that is contiguous with the existing City Limit line. The proposed resolution will direct the City Clerk to investigate the sufficiency of the petition.

Councilmember Griswold moved for the adoption of Resolution No. R-2007-03, which directs the City Clerk to investigate the sufficiency of a voluntary annexation. Councilmember Leak seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Griswold, Leak, DeBerry Parker

Nays: None

(Resolution No. R-2007-03 on file in the City Clerk's Office)

## **REQUEST TO REZONE FROM RESIDENTIAL-15 TO RESIDENTIAL-20 PROPERTY LOCATED BETWEEN GUM SWAMP CREEK AND COUNTRY CLUB ESTATES**

The City Manager explained that Francesco and Marie Buto are requesting to rezone a 77.07-acre tract of land located

between Gum Swamp Creek and Country Club Estates from Residential-15 to Residential-20 in order to develop a vineyard on this site.

Motion was made by Councilmember DeBerry, seconded by Councilmember Leak, and unanimously carried to set a public hearing for Tuesday, March April 17, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the council room of the Municipal Building to consider a request to rezone from Residential-15 to Residential-20 property located between Gum Swamp Creek and Country Club Estates.

**RESOLUTION WHICH AMENDS THE CITY OF LAURINBURG PERSONNEL POLICY TO INCLUDE SECTION 12. SPECIAL SEPARATION ALLOWANCE FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS**

The City Manager explained that the Assistant City Attorney had expressed some concerns regarding this policy, therefore the matter needed to be tabled to allow further discussion.

Motion was made by Councilmember Griswold, seconded by Councilmember Parker, and unanimously carried to table Resolution No. R-2007-04 which amends the City of Laurinburg Personnel Policy to include Section 12. Special Separation Allowance for Law Enforcement Officers.

**RESOLUTION WHICH STATES THAT THE GOVERNING BODY ACCEPTS THE TERMS OF THE APPLICATION FILED FOR THE NORTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR'S HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAM**

The City Manager explained that during the North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program's annual summit, the Laurinburg Police Department was awarded a \$10,000.00 -100% grant. He stated that Sgt. Fred McQueen was the winner of a drawing that was held. He then explained that to be eligible for the drawing the Department had to have participated and reported all traffic enforcement activities during several safety programs.

He further explained that the application is for four (4) laptop computers to replace damaged or outdated ones. There are no matching funds required for this grant.

Councilmember Griswold moved for the adoption of Resolution No. R-2007-05 which states that the Governing Body accepts the terms of the application filed for the North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program. Councilmember Parker seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Griswold, Parker, DeBerry, Leak

Nays: None

(Resolution No. R-2007-05 on file in the City Clerk's Office)

**ORDINANCE WHICH AMENDS THE 2006-2007 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TO RECEIVE AND EXPEND FUNDS**

The City Manager explained that the proposed ordinance would allow funds to be received and expended for the \$10,000.00 grant that the Laurinburg Police Department received for four (4) laptop computers. He stated that it also provides for the grant which Council approved at its June 29, 2006 meeting for a traffic officer, vehicle, and equipment for the vehicle. He then stated that the grant was for \$105,458.00. He concluded by stating that the City's match is \$14,152.00 which will be expended from the current salary line item.

Councilmember Griswold moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. O-2007-03 which amends the 2006-2007 Budget Appropriation Ordinance in order to receive and expend funds provided by a grant. Councilmember Parker seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Griswold, Parker, DeBerry, Leak

Nays: None

(Ordinance No. O-2007-03 is on file in the City Clerk's Office)

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF LAURINBURG AND BUXTON**

The City Manager explained that this agreement needed to be tabled because as a requirement of the Economic Development Agency (EDA) grant, the services need to be bid out. The contract will be on the agenda next month once it has been bid out. He added that the Mayor needs to be authorized to make application for the EDA grant.

Motion was made by Councilmember Griswold, seconded by Councilmember Parker, and unanimously carried to table the agreement between the City of Laurinburg and Buxton.

Motion was then made by Councilmember Griswold, seconded by Councilmember Parker, and unanimously carried to submit an application for an Economic Development Agency grant and to authorize the Mayor to execute the grant application.

### **ORDINANCE WHICH AMENDS THE 2006-2007 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TO RECEIVE AND EXPEND FUNDS**

The City Manager explained that this budget amendment needed to be tabled since it involved the agreement with Buxton.

Motion was made by Councilmember Griswold, seconded by Councilmember Leak, and unanimously carried to table the ordinance which amends the 2006-2007 Budget Appropriation Ordinance to receive and expend funds.

### **AWARD OF BID FOR THE EMERGENCY POWER SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENTS (GENERATOR) TO THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT**

The City Manager explained that bids were received on October 10, 2006 for the Water Treatment Plant Emergency Power System Improvements (Generator). He then explained that the original bid quote was \$551,664.00 without value engineering. He stated that the adjusted and recommended cost after value engineering is \$450,000.00. He then stated that the recommendation from staff and from the City's engineering consultant is to award to M-W Electric, Inc. of Red Springs, NC the bid for the emergency generator in the amount of \$450,000.00.

He further explained that the budgeted amount was \$420,000.00. He stated that even though the bid exceeded the budgeted amount, the feeling is that it is in the best interest of the City to proceed with this project to avoid future increases in cost.

Upon question by Councilmember Parker, Robert Ellis, Water/Wastewater Superintendent, explained that bids were let for generators for both the Water Treatment Plant and the Wastewater Treatment Plant, but the recommended bid is only for the generator for the Water Treatment Plant.

Motion was made by Councilmember Griswold, seconded by Councilmember Leak, and unanimously carried to award to M-W Electric, Inc. of Red Springs, North Carolina the contract for the emergency power systems improvements (Generator) to the Water Treatment Plant in the amount of \$450,000.00.

### **REQUEST FOR MEMBERSHIP TO THE LUMBER RIVER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

The City Manager explained that as required under the by-laws of the Lumber River Council of Governments, when a new governmental agency requests membership, it must be approved by the membership. The Town of McDonald in Robeson County has requested membership.

Motion was made by Councilmember Parker, seconded by Councilmember Griswold, and unanimously carried to accept the Town of McDonald as a member of the Lumber River Council of Governments.

### **SCOTLAND COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM AND THE COMMUNITY ACCESS CHANNEL**

The City Manager stated that at the Community Access Channel Committee meeting on March 6, 2007, the Committee

discussed asking the Scotland County School system to help fund the operational costs of running the channel, which is a PEG channel (*Public, Educational and Governmental*). He then stated that the Committee felt that if they were sharing in the operational costs, they would use the channel more, and we could possibly look at additional upgrades to the equipment and programming. He further stated that currently the channel operates on a \$10,000 budget (\$5000 City/\$5000 County), but if equipment is upgraded from VHS to digital, there may be some additional costs. He added that this would involve changes to the by-laws to give the School System representation.

It was consensus among Council to ask the Scotland County School system to help fund the operational costs of running the Community Access Channel.

### **X-WAY ROAD BRIDGE PROJECT**

The City Manager stated that the Mayor requested that the X-Way Bridge Project be placed on the agenda.

Mayor Slaughter stated that the project was a hot topic in the community and she wondered if the Council wanted to take a position on this project. This area was once used for recreation.

Councilmember Griswold stated that the site, except for the bridge, is private property; therefore, no action was taken on the issue.

### **CITY OF LAURINBURG PAY AND CLASSIFICATION PLAN STUDY**

The City Manager explained that Dr. Steve Condrey was unavailable for the proposed April 9, 2007 date to discuss the Pay and Classification Plan Study and that the next dates recommended are March 28 and April 12, 2007.

Following a brief discussion, it was consensus among Council to meet with Dr. Condrey at 5:30 p.m. on April 17, 2007, before the regular Council meeting.

### **LAURINBURG BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT**

Mayor Slaughter explained that Joyce Jewell has agreed to accept the position on the Board of Adjustment which was held by her husband prior to his death. Mayor Slaughter then appointed Ms. Jewell to fill the unexpired term that ends December 31, 2008.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Councilmember Parker expressed concern about loud vehicles in the downtown area.

Police Lt. Tommy Wright stated that the City has a noise ordinance to address loud noises.

A discussion ensued concerning the possible effects of new state legislation regarding landfills. The City Manager stated that Jim Blackwell informed the City that the Transfer Station will increase its fees by \$1.00 per ton and that the fee for construction and demolition waste would increase by \$2.00 per ton, an 11 to 12% increase in fees. He added that solid waste fees will need to be discussed during budget discussions.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

---

Ann B. Slaughter, Mayor

---

Dolores A. Hammond, City Clerk