

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

**Minutes**

The City Council of the City of Laurinburg held its regular monthly meeting November 20, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the council room of the Municipal Building with the Honorable Matthew Block, Mayor, presiding. The following Councilmembers were present: Rembert DeBerry, Amanda B. Faulk, 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.

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

**SWEARING IN OF COUNCILMEMBER CURTIS B. LEAK**

The City Clerk administered the oath of office to re-elected Councilmember Leak.

**APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR PRO TEMPORE**

Motion was made by Councilmember Parker, seconded by Councilmember Leak, and unanimously carried to appoint Councilmember DeBerry as Mayor Pro Tempore.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by Councilmember Leak, seconded by Councilmember Faulk, and unanimously carried to approve the proposed minutes from the special meeting held October 3, 2007, the regular meeting held October 16, 2007, and the recessed meeting of October 16, 2007 held on October 17, 2007.

**US CENSUS DRESS REHEARSAL**

Ms. Laura S. McLettie appeared before Council to provide an update on the 2008 Census Dress Rehearsal. She stated that the Census Bureau is hiring census workers from the community.

Upon question by Councilmember Leak, Ms. McLettie explained that there were no advertising funds for the Dress Rehearsal; however, there are funds available for advertising the 2010 Census.

**US CENSUS DRESS REHEARSAL COMPLETE COUNTY COMMITTEE**

Ms. Ann Kurtzman appeared before Council and explained that she was Chairperson of the Complete Count Committee for the 2008 Census Dress Rehearsal. The Complete Count Committee is comprised of a diverse group of 25 people from the community who will go out into the community promoting the Census.

Upon question by Councilmember Leak, Ms. Kurtzman explained that members are being recruited for the Committee. Ms. Kurtzman stated that she will provide a list of the Committee members to the City Clerk.

Upon question by Councilmember Leak, the City Manager stated that, if any Councilmembers want to serve on the Committee, they should contact Ms. Kurtzman.

**CONSIDER UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE AMENDMENT**

The City Manager explained that a public hearing needed to be set to consider a request by Cobb Sign Company, Inc. on behalf of Golden Corral Restaurant to amend Section 281 (d) Sign Illumination and Signs Containing Lights of the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO). At its November 13, 2007 meeting, the Laurinburg Planning Board recommended by a 5-1 vote that this amendment be recommended to Council for approval. A public hearing needs to be set on Tuesday, December 18, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the upstairs council room of the Municipal Building on the proposed amendment to the UDO.

Upon question by Councilmember Leak, the City Manager stated that adjoining businesses would be notified of this proposed amendment.

Motion was made by Councilmember DeBerry, seconded by Councilmember Leak, and unanimously carried to set a public hearing on Tuesday, December 18, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the upstairs council room of the Municipal Building to consider a request for amendment of Section 281 (d) Sign Illuminations and Signs Containing Lights of the Unified Development Ordinance.

**CERTIFICATION OF FIREFIGHTERS**

The City Manager explained that the certification list of firefighters determines eligibility for the \$50,000.00 line-of-duty death benefit as well as eligibility for Pension Fund credit. Failure to report this information is a violation of GS 58-86-25 and will automatically result in a loss or reduction of benefits. The Mayor needs to be authorized to execute the document certifying firefighters.

The Fire Chief recommends the following individuals be certified:

Barnhill, Michael	Evans, Michael	McIntyre, Hampton	Weaver, James
Bowen, Doug	Garrigus, Brian	Medlin, James	Wepley, Melissa
Brown, Walter	Gibson, Randall	Sessoms, Christopher	Wright, Chad
Byrd, Rodney	Jackson, Christopher	Smith, Harold	
Chavis, Randy	Johnson, John	Smith, Neill	
Dial, Benjamin	Laviner, David	Spear, Brian	
Donaldson, Chadwick	Laviner, Jamie	Spruill, Alonzo	
Drennan, Chuck	Lewis, Robert	Sweet, James	
Evans, David	Locklear, Jr. Donald	Tippett, Todd	
Evans, Johnny	Locklear, Sr. Donald	Tunstall, Larry	

Motion was made by Councilmember Parker, seconded by Councilmember Leak, and unanimously carried to authorize the Mayor to execute the Annual Certification of Firefighters.

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FUNDING FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENTS AT THE INTERSECTION OF US 15-401 BYPASS, WEST BOULEVARD AND WESTWOOD WAY**

The City Manager explained that Resolution No. R-2007-22 supports the North Carolina Department of Transportation funds to support road improvements at the intersection of US 15-401 Bypass, West Boulevard and Westwood Way.

At Council's September meeting, Council approved a motion to send a letter to DOT Board representative G. R. Kindley to request help in funding the traffic improvements required by the new location of Staples off West

Boulevard. The resolution was also requested because of the new development at the Wal-Mart site for an additional 24,000 square feet of retail development. The total cost of the needed upgrades is between \$600,000.00 and \$700,000.00.

Senator Bill Purcell and Representatives Garland Pierce and Doug Yongue have also been contacted and need a resolution passed by the City to request discretionary traffic dollars that the Senate Pro-Tem and Speaker of the House control. In order to possibly obtain this funding, this resolution requesting these funds must be approved.

Councilmember Parker moved for the adoption of Resolution No. R-2007-22, which supports the allocation of North Carolina Department of Transportation funds to support road improvements at the intersection of US 15-401 Bypass, West Boulevard and Westwood Way. Councilmember DeBerry seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Parker, DeBerry, Leak, Faulk

Nays: None

(Resolution No. R-2007-22 on file in the City Clerk's Office)

### **AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION BY GOVERNING BODY OF THE APPLICANT**

The City Manager explained that Council needs to consider approval of Resolution No. R-2007-23 which authorizes the Mayor and City Manager to execute and file application on behalf of the City for a grant from the North Carolina Rural Center for the Clean Water Partners Infrastructure Program.

The North Carolina General Assembly in the 2007 Session approved \$100 million dollars to be given to the North Carolina Rural Center for the Clean Water Partners Infrastructure Program. The program will provide grants for projects that address a documented public health or environmental problem in rural counties. About \$10 million is being reserved to help resolve drinking water crisis, including shortages caused by the ongoing drought. The maximum grant award is \$500,000.00, with a projected match from the City of \$135,000.00.

The City would like to apply for a grant to upgrade existing decaying sewer lines to deal with existing infiltration and influx problems off McKay Street. Thirty-seven hundred feet of sewer lines would be replaced. The total cost of the project is projected to be \$135,000.00. Staff requests that Council approve the application for \$500,000.00 from this grant source.

City Manager Craig Honeycutt reported that on November 14, 2007, he attended a workshop seminar titled "Getting to Success with Your Consulting Engineer" with NCRCAP and the NC Rural Center. The seminar provided insightful information regarding conflict resolution, contract negotiations, coordination with consultants, financial planning and a detailed review of procurement guidelines for selection of engineering consultants. He summarized the information provided and distributed an outline for Council. He also reported that on October 30, 2007 he attended the "How to Apply" class as conducted by the NC Rural Center and obtained the guidelines and application documents for the Clean Water Partners' Infrastructure Program. (see attached).

Councilmember Parker moved for the adoption of Resolution No. R-2007-23, which authorizes the Mayor and City Manager to execute and file a grant application with the North Carolina Rural Center for Clean Water Partners Infrastructure Program for \$500,000.00 with a match of \$135,000.00 in order to upgrade existing decaying sewer lines. Councilmember DeBerry seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Parker, DeBerry, Leak, Faulk

Nays: None

(Resolution No. R-2007-23 on file in the City Clerk's Office)

### **RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A GOAL FOR PARTICIPATION OF MINORITY BUSINESS IN BUILDING CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS**

The City Manager requested that Council consider Resolution No. R-2007-24 which establishes a goal for participation of minority business in building construction contracts.

The consideration and adoption of this resolution is necessary for the support of the City of Laurinburg's application to the North Carolina Rural Center for Supplemental Grant funds for the sewer improvements to the City's system. This resolution fulfills the public goals established by the State.

Councilmember Parker moved for the adoption of Resolution No. R-2007-24, which establishes a goal for participation of minority business in building construction contracts. Councilmember Leak seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Parker, Faulk, Leak, DeBerry

Nays: None

(Resolution No. R-2007-24 on file in the City Clerk's Office)

### **DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED BY-LAWS OF SCOTLAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

The City Manager explained that the draft by-laws of Scotland Development Corporation have been worked on and reviewed by both the Laurinburg City Council and the Scotland County Board of Commissioners. The County approved the proposed by-laws contingent upon them being approved by the Scotland Development Corporation Board.

If approved by the City Council, the motion would need to be contingent upon final approval of the Scotland Development Corporation Board and any questions concerning IRS status. Currently Scotland Development Corporation is a 501(3)(c) corporation and there has been discussion with the corporation's accountant that the proposed changes to the by-laws may make the corporation a 501(c)(6) corporation. Status as a 501(c)(6) corporation would not allow for the corporation to apply for some grants that a 501(3)(c) corporation can apply for.

Motion was made by Councilmember Parker, seconded by Councilmember DeBerry, and unanimously carried to approve the proposed by-laws of Scotland Development Corporation contingent upon approval of the by-laws by the Scotland Development Corporation Board and any questions concerning IRS status.

### **DISCUSSION ON FUNDING FOR THE SCOTLAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AND THE LAURINBURG/SCOTLAND COUNTY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

The City Manager explained that with changes within Scotland County on the direction of economic development and how is to be pursued, the City needs to consider assisting the County in its efforts (possibly through Scotland Development Corporation (SDC)). However, the City has also been requested by the Chamber to continue funding the City's 2007-2008 budget commitment at least through June 30, 2008.

In discussions with the Scotland County Manager, he has stated that the County would be supportive of the City beginning its economic development funding as of July 1, 2008 with a commitment of \$35,000.00.

The issue before the City Council is its 2007-2008 funding, and what if any commitment does the City Council foresee for the 2008-2009 FY and beyond with respect to the Chamber. As of January 1, 2008, the City has a \$17,500.00 payment due the Chamber.

If the City were a regular Chamber member, the City's dues based upon 171 employees would be \$1,911.00 for the 2008 year (January-December, 2008).

Following a discussion regarding the need for additional information including a detailed list from the Chamber of what the Chamber intends to accomplish and information from the City Manager and City Attorney as to what constitutes a public purpose, there was consensus among Council to discuss this matter at a meeting to be held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 18, 2007 in the council chambers of the Municipal Building.

## **NOMINATION AND APPOINTMENT OF SCOTLAND DEVELOPMENT (SDC) MEMBERS**

Mayor Block explained that if the proposed by-laws of Scotland Development Corporation are approved by the corporation, the City will have control of two of the five voting seats of the newly formed Scotland Development Corporation board of directors. These are City Council appointments. The Council would also need to designate which appointee shall serve as the Vice-Chair of the board.

Councilmembers Parker and Leak expressed interest in serving on the Scotland Development Corporation Board.

The Assistant City Attorney explained that according to the existing by-laws of Scotland Development Corporation, two (2) members of the board are elected from nominations submitted by the sitting Mayor of the City of Laurinburg. If the proposed changes to the by-laws are approved by the Scotland Development Corporation Board, two (2) persons appointed by the Laurinburg City Council will serve on the board.

Following further discussion, motion was made by Councilmember DeBerry, seconded by Councilmember Faulk, and unanimously approved to appoint Councilmember Parker and Councilmember Leak to the Scotland Development Corporation board contingent upon approval of the proposed changes to the by-laws of Scotland Development Corporation Board.

Motion was made by Councilmember DeBerry, seconded by Councilmember Leak, and unanimously carried to appoint Councilmember Parker as Vice-Chairman of Scotland Development Corporation Board contingent upon approval of the proposed changes to the by-laws of Scotland Development Corporation.

## **APPOINTMENT TO THE LUMBER RIVER RURAL TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Mayor Block explained that the seat of former Mayor Ann Slaughter to the Lumber River Rural Transportation Organization Transportation Advisory Council needs to be appointed. The seat must be filled by an elected official.

Following discussion, motion was made by Councilmember Parker, seconded by Councilmember DeBerry, and unanimously carried to appoint Mayor Block to the Lumber River Rural Transportation Organization Transportation Advisory Council and to appoint Councilmember Leak as an alternate member to the Council.

Upon question by Councilmember Parker, the City Manager explained that if neither Mayor Block nor Councilmember Leak could attend a meeting of the Transportation Advisory Council, as long as an elected official represents the City, there should not be a problem. He stated that if the designated voting official could not attend, then the City would not have a vote at that particular meeting but that someone else could attend.

## **APPOINT ALTERNATE MEMBER TO THE NORTH CAROLINA MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY**

Mayor Block explained that the seat of the former Mayor Ann Slaughter to the North Carolina Municipal Power Agency needs to be appointed. The City Manager currently serves as the Commissioner to the NCEMPA Board with former Mayor Slaughter as the alternate. Before Mayor Slaughter was appointed, the Electrical Division Department Head served as the alternate.

Motion was made by Councilmember Parker, seconded by Councilmember DeBerry, and unanimously carried to appoint Mayor Block as the alternate member to the North Carolina Municipal Power Agency.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

---

Matthew Block, Mayor

---

Dolores A. Hammond, City Clerk