

**CITY OF LAURINBURG
JOINT MEETING
OCTOBER 17, 2007
SCOTLAND COUNTY GOVERNMENT OFFICES
507 WEST COVINGTON STREET
5:30 P.M.**

Minutes

The City Council of the City of Laurinburg reconvened its recessed meeting of October 16, 2007 on October 17, 2007, in the conference room of the Scotland County Government Offices with the Honorable Ann B. Slaughter, Mayor, presiding. The following Councilmembers were present: Rembert DeBerry, Curtis B. Leak, and Thomas W. Parker, III. The following Councilmembers were not present: Amanda B. Faulk and Herbert M. Rainer, Jr. Also present were: Craig F. Honeycutt, City Manager, and Jennifer A. Tippet, Deputy City Clerk. This was a joint meeting with the Scotland County Commissioners.

Scotland County Board of Commissioners present were: Chairman J. D. Willis, Vice Chairman, Betty B. Gholston, Commissioners John T. Alford, Leon Butler, Guy McCook, Clarence McPhatter, and Joyce McDow. Also present were Kevin Patterson, Interim County Manager/Finance Director, and Ann B. Kurtzman, Clerk to the Board.

Mayor Slaughter reconvened the meeting of October 16, 2007 at 5:35 p.m.

Chairman Willis explained that the County Commissioners and the City Council had met previously to discuss forming a partnership between the City and County relating to the hiring of an Economic Developer. He stated that it had been agreed upon to form a committee to review the by-laws of Scotland Development Corporation (SDC). He explained that the City has expressed concerns about retail recruitment and wanted to be sure that this area of recruitment would be included. Following the formation of the committee and upon the committee meeting, Councilmember Leak recommended development of a mission statement for the organization. The Interim County Manager presented the following proposed amendments to the Scotland Development Corporation by-laws:

1. Addition of a mission statement stating that the mission is to promote the growth of the economy of Scotland County and the City of Laurinburg through jobs creation, the investment in business property and development and investment in infrastructure to facilitate economic growth and to promote the general welfare of all citizens of Scotland County.
2. The Board will be comprised of five (5) voting directors and three (3) nonvoting directors. Three (3) voting directors will be appointed by the Chairman of Scotland County Board of Commissioners and two (2) voting directors will be appointed by the Mayor. The County Manager and City Manager shall serve as Ex-Officio members. The third nonvoting member will be appointed by the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Laurinburg/Scotland County Area Chamber of Commerce. The members appointed by the City must reside within the City and the members appointed by the County must reside within the County.
Directors would be removed by the appointing authority. Any vacancy will be filled by appointment of the original appointing authority.
3. The Chairman of SDC will be appointed by the Chairman of the Scotland County Board of Commissioners and the Vice-Chairman shall be appointed by the Mayor of the City of Laurinburg.
4. Meetings shall be held at the discretion of the Board with at least three days notice.
5. The President of the Corporation will be the Economic Developer. The Vice President will be either the City or County Manager. The Secretary would be either the City or County Clerk. The Treasurer will be the County Finance Officer. The Economic Developer would be paid through the County payroll.

6. The fiscal year of the corporation will be changed to comply with the County's and the City's fiscal year.
7. Any further by-law changes must be approved by the Scotland County Board of Commissioners and the Laurinburg City Council.

A discussion ensued concerning the appointment of the Chairman of the Board and the Directors of the Corporation. Chairman Willis explained that the appointment followed the structure of the original Scotland Development Corporation.

The City Manager explained that since the County will be the major funding source, the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners would appoint the SDC Chairman.

Mayor Slaughter explained that she was concerned about the board receiving compensation. She was on the board of the original Scotland Development Corporation and received no compensation.

Chairman Willis said that anything that addresses compensation will be removed, but reimbursement for travel would remain.

The City Manager explained that the City Attorney is comfortable with the framework of the by-laws; however, the City Attorney needs to make grammatical corrections to the document.

Commissioner McCook stated that the Board of Commissioners and the City Council do not have the authority to change the by-laws. The proposed changes have to be adopted by the existing Directors of the Scotland Development Corporation.

Motion was made by Councilmember Parker, seconded by Councilmember Leak, and unanimously carried to approve the framework of the proposed by-laws of the Scotland Development Corporation.

The City Manager discussed the Memorandum of Understanding. The City's contribution for economic development beginning in 2008 will be \$35,000.00 annually, the same amount contributed annually to the Chamber of Commerce for economic development. He also explained that it is suggested that the City's contribution should be increased annually by the Cost of Living Adjustment provided to the City of Laurinburg employees but not less than 3% nor more than 5% in any year. The Memorandum of Understanding will be reviewed by the City and County Attorneys.

Councilmembers discussed whether a cost of living floor should be included and tied to the cost of living of City Employees.

Councilmember Parker suggested that there should not be a cost of living floor and that the Economic Development position should not be treated differently from City Employees.

Councilmember Leak said that the cost of living increase range is in line with annual increases requested by the Chamber of Commerce.

Following further discussion, it was consensus to discuss the Memorandum of Understanding further at the retreat on Saturday, October 20, 2007, and at budget time.

RECESS

Motion was made by Councilmember DeBerry, seconded by Councilmember Parker, and unanimously carried to recess the meeting until October 20, 2007 at 8:00 a.m. in the council chambers of the Municipal Building located at 303 West Church Street.

The meeting was recessed at 5:56 p.m.

Matthew Block, Mayor

Jennifer A. Tippett, Deputy City Clerk