

**CITY OF LAURINBURG  
JOINT MEETING  
AUGUST 8, 2008  
LAURINBURG/MAXTON AIRPORT  
7:00 P.M.**

**Minutes**

The City Council of the City of Laurinburg held a joint meeting with the Town of Maxton Board of Commissioners and the Laurinburg/Maxton Airport Board of Commissioners on August 8, 2008, at the Laurinburg/Maxton Airport with the Honorable Matthew Block, Mayor, presiding. The following Council Members were present: Rembert DeBerry, Amanda B. Faulk, Curtis B. Leak, Thomas W. Parker, III., and Herbert M. Rainer, Jr. Also present were: Craig F. Honeycutt, City Manager, and Dolores A. Hammond, City Clerk.

Those present from the Town of Maxton Board of Commissioners were: Mayor Gladys Dean, Commissioners Sally McLean, Vivian Brown Morrison, Chip Morton, and Ray Oxendine. Also present were Katrina Tatum, Town Manager, and Traci McLean, Town Clerk.

Those present from the Laurinburg/Maxton Airport Board of Commissioners were: Chairperson Wayne Morris, Ella Morris, Lucile Bridgman, Ann B. Slaughter, and Gladys Dean. Also present were Paul Davis, Interim Director, Dave Raley, Engineer, JoAnn Gentry, Administrative Officer, and Terry Garner, Laurinburg/Maxton Airport Commission Attorney.

Following dinner, Mayor Block called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

**UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING SLUDGE ISSUES**

Mr. Davis discussed and presented a history of events regarding the unauthorized sludge disposal. Upon further discussion, Mr. Davis stated that the Wastewater Operator has admitted the unauthorized discharge was solely his decision. The investigation by the State Bureau of Investigations (SBI) is ongoing, and at this point, no charges have been filed. Mr. Davis explained that the Commission has done everything required by the Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources (DEHNR) except an Infiltration and Influx Study on the system. This study will be included in the 2009-2010 budget.

A lengthy discussion ensued concerning the unauthorized sludge disposal and efforts to clean it up.

**UPDATE ON TOXICITY ISSUE**

Mr. Davis discussed the toxicity issue the wastewater plant has experienced over the last

two (2) years. DEHNR recommended that the Commission hire a consulting firm experienced with toxicity issues. Mr. Davis explained that the Commission hired a consulting firm and is working with the firm to determine what the problem is. Further discussion ensued concerning the toxicity issue and the potential effects on water customers downstream on the Lumber River.

### **UPDATE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ISSUES**

Mr. Davis provided an update on the possible location of SAIC at the Airport. Mr. Davis explained that two (2) years ago the Airport was approached by Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) about locating at the Airport. Discussion has been ongoing with the company, and discussions in the last few months have been more frequent. There is no announcement to make but things are looking positive.

Upon question, Mr. Davis stated that the East Coast Timing Association continues to come to the Airport about five (5) times a year.

A discussion then ensued concerning the shell building. The City Manager explained that there has been some interest shown in the shell building, but nothing substantial has developed.

### **BACK PAY ISSUE**

Mr. Davis explained that he had made a mistake at the Laurinburg City Council meeting when he stated that the Airport employees had not received a salary increase in three (3) years.

Councilmember Rainer expressed concern about the misstatement and requested that Mr. Davis provide the monetary value of his error.

Further discussion ensued concerning salary increases for Airport employees. He explained that with the loss of revenue, the Commission had to make several difficult decisions. The first year after Charles Craft closed, the employees received no salary increase. In addition, the Commission has not made any contributions on behalf of employees to their individual 401K plans in the last three (3) years.

### **UPDATE ON RUNWAY FUNDING**

Mr. Davis explained that he has been diligently working with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (DOT) Aviation to obtain funding for repairing or replacing the main runway. Thus far DOT has committed \$200,000.00 to use to repair the secondary runway so that during the period the main runway is being repaired or replaced the fixed base operator will still be able to operate. DOT Aviation has indicated there may be an additional \$100,000.00 for the necessary repairs to the secondary runway. Mr. Davis expressed his concern that the amount of funding that DOT Aviation has discussed for repair/replacement of the primary runway will not be sufficient to allow

large planes like C-130's to continue to land at the Airport. Mr. Davis explained that he is trying to arrange a meeting with Fort Bragg officials and DOT Aviation in order to obtain additional funding.

A discussion ensued concerning lobbying efforts on behalf of the Airport. The City Manager explained that there had been discussion with Mayor Block about the possibility of hiring a professional lobbyist short-term to assist with the funding efforts.

Mr. Dave Raley, Airport Engineer, stated that DOT Aviation wanted to meet with the Airport Commission, the City Council of Laurinburg and the Town Council of Maxton at some point.

A discussion ensued concerning a joint meeting with DOT Aviation. Mr. Davis will contact DOT Aviation and work with the City Managers to arrange the meeting.

Councilmember Leak expressed concern that positive news from LMA is needed because there has been too much negative publicity in the last few years.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

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Matthew Block, Mayor

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Dolores A. Hammond, City Clerk