

**CITY OF LAURINBURG  
COUNCIL MEETING  
JULY 15, 2008  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
303 WEST CHURCH ST.  
LAURINBURG, NC  
6:30 P.M.**

**Minutes**

The City Council of the City of Laurinburg held an agenda workshop July 15, 2008 at 6:30 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, Herbert M. Rainer, Jr., and Thomas W. Parker, III.

Also present were Craig F. Honeycutt, City Manager, Dolores A. Hammond, City Clerk, and John Evans, Laurinburg's Police Chief.

Mayor Block called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem DeBerry gave the invocation.

**NORTH MAIN STREET OPTIONS**

Mayor Block explained that Kevin Hedrick, North Carolina Department of Transportation, had been asked to come to the meeting in order to talk about and to get information from Councilmembers about improvements to the area.

Mr. Kevin Hedrick stated the he is the District Engineer for the North Carolina Department of Transportation (DOT) which includes Scotland County, Montgomery County, and Richmond County. He asked Council if they would clarify what areas of North Main Street are of interest to them.

Mayor Pro Tem DeBerry stated that the area of interest to him is Aberdeen Road from the by-pass interchange to North Main Street. He explained that there has been an increase in foot traffic as well as vehicle traffic to and from the Northside Square Shopping Center and the new dialysis center. He stated that there are other parcels of land that may be developed in the near future.

Councilmember Leak explained that his interest is also the Aberdeen Road area. He stated that he would like to see sidewalks along the area because the North side of town is becoming the future area for development. He then stated that widening the road would be a tremendous benefit to the area.

Councilmember Rainer stated that reflectors on Highway 401 Business (North Main St. to the intersection of North Main St. and Produce Market Rd.) should be replaced or put down. He also stated that the area on Highway 74 Business towards Maxton also needs reflectors. He explained that when it rains those roads are very dark. He then stated that the lines along Highway 74 Business also need to be repainted preferably with reflective paint. He then stated that the median on Highway 74 Business has high grass and needs to be cut.

Mr. Hedrick explained the mowing process of DOT. He stated that DOT mows each area about four or five times per year and that policy is statewide. He then explained that the area along US 401 By-pass, north to south, is usually cut a few more times than the four or five times per year.

Councilmember Parker mentioned Plaza Rd. and that it needs to be striped for better traffic control. The City Manager stated that he would contact the City's public works department to investigate the possibility of striping the road because it is a City road.

Mr. Hedrick then explained DOT's criteria for resurfacing. He stated that there are a number of areas in the City has have been designated for resurfacing.

Upon question by Councilmember Leak, Mr. Hedrick stated that he would provide a list of roads that are to be resurfaced. He also suggested that the City Manager issue a press release as to what roads would be resurfaced.

Upon question by Councilmember DeBerry, Mr. Hedrick stated that in urban areas with curb and gutter DOT usually does not mow. He explained that most of the time such areas are maintained by the municipality or property owners.

The City Manager stated areas beyond the sidewalk and on private property are not maintained by the City. He then stated that he would contact the City's public works department to determine if the City is responsible for maintaining the area on North Main St. across from Bright Hopewell Baptist Church.

Upon question by Mayor Block, Mr. Hedrick stated that he would look at the area along Aberdeen Rd. and Northside Shopping Center to evaluate if it could be widened and when DOT has plans to resurface the road.

A discussion ensued concerning the possibility of including a turning lane on Aberdeen Rd. coming out of the Northside Square Shopping Center. Mr. Hedrick explained the process of determining the installation of turning lanes. He stated that DOT would evaluate the area for the requests by Council.

There was also discussion of installing sidewalks from Aberdeen Rd. at the Northside Shopping Center to the intersection of North Main St.

Mr. Hedrick explained that curb and gutter is usually required in order to install sidewalks, which then includes storm drainage, which is very costly.

A discussion then ensued about the traffic along Highway 401 South By-Pass in the Wal-Mart area.

Mr. Hedrick explained that Wal-Mart developers have met all requirements imposed by DOT and the City about the entrance to the shopping center.

Further discussion ensued about the traffic congestion along the Wal-Mart area, and at this time, there are no plans for additional entrances or exits.

Mr. Hedrick stated that he would ask DOT's traffic department to look at the area and relay the suggestion that an exit be installed for southbound traffic. He also stated that he would contact other DOT departments with Council's requests.

Mr. Hedrick informed Council that if there are any maintenance concerns about State roads to call him or the Wagram, North Carolina DOT office.

Mr. Hedrick stated that the landscaping project has been funded but could not begin until water restrictions had been lifted. He explained that the water restrictions have been lifted, but there is a backlog, and the project will begin as soon as possible.

## **NOISE ORDINANCE**

Councilmember Parker explained that he has had a number of telephone calls concerning vehicles that have loud music and mufflers. He would like information on what could be done about this issue.

Chief Evans explained the process and procedures that the City police deal with regarding vehicles with loud music and mufflers.

Following further discussion, the City Manager was asked to request information from the Manager's listserve to see how other municipalities are dealing with this issue.

Chief Evans was requested to research the cost of equipment that measures noise levels, the cost of training an officer

to use the equipment, and other costs associated with the use of such equipment.

Councilmember Leak stated that there is a lot of foot traffic in neighborhoods that seem to be from out of town.

Upon discussion about foot traffic in neighborhoods and the apparent problem of juvenile crime, Chief Evans was asked to explore a curfew policy for sixteen year-olds and under. The City Manager was asked to draft and send a letter to local state representatives and judges about Council's concern about juvenile crime and to inquire if there is anything that can be done including the possibility of passing stricter laws for juveniles.

### **AGENDA REVIEW – REGULAR JULY 22, 2008 COUNCIL MEETING**

The City Manager reviewed the upcoming agenda for the July 22, 2008 regular meeting.

Upon review of the proposed agenda, the following requests were made:

1. Consider including a size limitation on American flags allowed in City cemeteries in the proposed amendment of the cemetery ordinance;
2. Provide council with more information on the proposed truck to replace the truck that burned;
3. City Manager to research "no smoking" policy in city vehicles;
4. Look for a garbage truck "one arm bandit" that is considered as a demonstrator;
5. Continue to include fish market pickup in the amendment to the solid waste policy; and
6. Push the load management program while increasing electric rates.

Mayor Block stated that he feels that, because the greatest issue of solid waste collection is yard waste, there may not be a need to have a solid waste committee.

The City Manager stated that Harold Haywood, General Services Director, has researched options on the costs and collection of yard waste. He stated that a special called meeting could be held to discuss those options, have citizens attend for input, and then determine the best option for yard waste pick up.

Councilmember Leak suggested that the committee should still be formed in order to review the entire solid waste policy and in order to have citizen input and recommendations before Council makes a decision on the solid waste policy.

There was consensus among Councilmembers that the committee should be formed.

The City Manager stated that he and the Mayor have had a conversation on the foreclosure of property when money is owed the City for back taxes, etc. He informed Council that there is not a set policy as to when a foreclosure should take place. There was a consensus among Councilmembers that the City Manager research the legalities of the procedure and draft a policy for Council to review at the August meeting.

Councilmember Rainer discussed the collection of back availability utility fees (water, sewer) and stated that he wants to be certain that all citizens subject to them have been notified.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Matthew Block, Mayor

Dolores A. Hammond, City Clerk