

**CITY OF LAURINBURG
COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 17, 2008
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
303 WEST CHURCH ST.
LAURINBURG, NC
7:00 P.M.**

Minutes

The City Council of the City of Laurinburg held its regular monthly meeting June 17, 2008 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 and Herbert M. Rainer, Jr.

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 DeBerry gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Councilmember Leak, seconded by Councilmember Faulk, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the joint meeting with the Scotland County Board of Commissioners held May 8, 2008; the budget workshop held May 13, 2008; and the regularly scheduled meeting held May 20, 2008

PUBLIC HEARING TO REZONE FROM RESIDENTIAL-6 TO OFFICE/INSTITUTIONAL PROPERTY LOCATED ON LEE'S MILL ROAD AND WARREN AVENUE

Mayor Block explained that the public hearing is on a request from Northview Harvest Ministries Outreach to rezone from Residential-6 to Office/Institutional property located on Lee's Mill Rd. and Warren Ave. in order to construct a facility to operate an outreach ministry. He then explained that the Laurinburg Planning Board met on May 13, 2008 and unanimously recommended the rezoning change. He stated that the City Clerk has properly advertised the public hearing notice in *The Exchange* and by first-class mail notified all adjoining property owners.

He then declared the hearing open.

Ms. Faye Coates appeared before Council and requested that the subject property on Lee's Mill Road and Warren Avenue be rezoned from Residential-6 to Office/Institutional to permit the construction of an outreach ministry facility. Ms. Coates explained the services the Ministry now provides from three (3) buildings as well as the services, including temporary emergency shelter, that the Ministry will provide in the proposed new facility.

Reverend Kenneth Blease, pastor of Northview Harvest Ministries, spoke in favor of the request.

There was no one to speak against the request.

Mayor Block closed the public hearing.

Councilmember Rainer moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. O-2008-11 which rezones from Residential-6 to Office/Institutional property located at Lee's Mill Rd. and Warren Ave. in order to allow construction of a facility to operate an outreach ministry for that the rezoning is consistent with other development in the area; it advances the public health, safety and welfare; and provides a positive impact to the public at large. Councilmember Leak seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Rainer, Parker, DeBerry, Leak, Faulk

Nays: None

(Ordinance No. O-2007-04 on file in the City Clerk's Office)

PROPOSED 2008-2009 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE

Mayor Block explained that, in accord with the North Carolina General Statutes, the City of Laurinburg will hold a Public Hearing on the proposed 2008-2009 Fiscal Year Budget that will be effective July 1, 2008. He stated that the proposed budget includes a \$.02 tax increase (from \$.40 to \$.42); a 6.5% increase in Water and Sewer fees; and no increase at this time in Solid Waste or Electric fees.

He then declared the hearing open.

There was no one present to comment on the proposed 2008-2009 Fiscal Year Budget.

The public hearing was closed, and there was no action taken on the issue of the budget at this time.

PRESENTATIONS

Chief Evans explained that the Citizen Policy Academy had graduated its first class and that the graduates were present to be recognized. He explained that the 10 graduates had studied 17 different topics with 11 different instructors. He further explained that the objective of the Citizen Police Academy is to produce informed citizens and open the lines of communication between the community and the Police Department. Chief Evans stated that three (3) of the graduates assisted the Police Department on the night of the storm last week - one by helping answer phones and the other two (2) by helping to patrol South Main Street (in the downtown area) to prevent looting.

Mayor Block presented each of the graduates with a certificate. The graduates were:

Richard Faulk	Sybil Kelly
Joshua Woodside	Walter Currie
Robert Walters, Jr.	Queen Elizabeth Gaymon
Gerald Schilling	Wade Hatcher
Edward Tessman	Bernard Thompson, Jr.

RESOLUTION THAT ESTABLISHES A FORMAL POLICY ON THE INCREASE OF THE ELECTRIC FUND OPERATING TRANSFER

The City Manager explained that, as part of the City's budget process, Council felt that changes needed to be made to the Electric Fund Transfer Policy. He then explained funds are transferred each year from the Electric Fund to the General Fund as part of the budget process. He stated that the change recommended is to increase the amount of the transfer from 3% to 5% of gross fixed assets. He concluded by stating that the amount has been reviewed and approved by the Local Government Commission.

Councilmember Faulk moved for the adoption of Resolution No. R-2008-09 which establishes a formal policy on the Electric Fund operating transfers. Councilmember Leak seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Faulk, Leak, DeBerry, Parker, Rainer

Nays: None

(Resolution No. R-2008-09 is on file in Clerk's Office)

2008-2009 CITY OF LAURINBURG SCHEDULE OF FEES

The City Manager explained that the proposed changes in the City's Schedule of Fees relate to the following:

Taxi
Water and Sewer
Late fees
Utility Deposits
Reconnection fees (Service Fee)
Adding a cut-in service fee

Motion was made by Councilmember Leak, seconded by Councilmember Faulk, and unanimously carried to approve the 2008-2009 City of Laurinburg Schedule of Fees as proposed. A copy of the approved fee schedule is on file in the Clerk's Office.

RESOLUTION AMENDING THE CITY OF LAURINBURG PERSONNEL POLICY (R-1996-19) ARTICLE III; SECTION 6-MERIT PAY AND SECTION 7-MERIT PAY BONUS

The City Manager explained that, as was discussed during the Budget Workshops, Council directed Staff to look at not budgeting merit pay or merit pay bonus within the proposed 2008/09 FY budget. He stated that with the suspension of merit pay and merit pay bonuses for the 2008/09 FY, a resolution needed to be passed to suspend this section of our Personnel Policy. He then stated that the proposed resolution suspends merit pay and merit pay bonus, but the resolution also states that they will be considered as part of the 2009-10 FY budget.

Councilmember Leak moved for the adoption of Resolution No. R-2008-10 which amends the City of Laurinburg Personnel Policy (R-1996-19) Article III Section 6-Merit Pay and Section 7-Merit Pay Bonus. Councilmember Rainer seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Leak, Faulk, Rainer, Parker, DeBerry
Nays: None
(Resolution No. R-2008-10 is on file in Clerk's Office)

AGENDA WORKSHOP SESSIONS

The City Manager explained that for the past three months, Council has held agenda workshops the week before the regular monthly meeting to discuss the upcoming Council agenda as well as to work on the budget. He then explained that, originally, the motion was passed to hold the agenda meetings through the budget season and to reevaluate the need at the June meeting. If Council would like to continue, a motion needed to be made to set the regular monthly agenda meeting at 6:30 pm the Tuesday before the regular monthly Council meeting.

Following discussion, motion was made by Councilmember Rainer, seconded by Councilmember Parker, and unanimously carried to continue the monthly agenda meeting at 6:30 p.m. on the Tuesday before the regular monthly Council meeting until Council chooses to discontinue the same.

CHANGING THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL - AUGUST 19, 2009

The City Manager explained that with Scotland County's inclusion in the North Carolina Department of Commerce's 21st Century Program, the County kick-off will be held the evening of August 19, 2008. He stated that since this is an important event for the community and one in which it was appropriate for the City Council to be involved, the suggestion is to move the regularly scheduled monthly meeting from August 19, 2008 to August 26, 2008. The agenda workshop would still be held on August 12, 2008.

Motion was made by Councilmember Faulk, seconded by Parker, and unanimously carried to change the regularly scheduled monthly meeting for August from August 19, 2008 to August 26, 2008.

ORDINANCE NO. O-2008-12 (BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE) APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE CITY OF LAURINBURG GOVERNMENT

The City Manager stated that the hearing on the proposed 2008-2009 Fiscal Year Budget had been conducted earlier in the meeting and that, with the changes to the Fee Structure and the suspending of merit pay and merit pay bonuses from the City's Personnel Policy, the City Council should now vote on the proposed 2008/09 FY Budget. He explained that by General Statute, the budget must be adopted by July 1 of each year. The Budget Appropriation Ordinance will set the Laurinburg City tax rate at \$.42 per \$100 evaluation (\$.02 increase) and provides for an increase of 6.5% in water and sewer rates.

Councilmember Parker moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. O-2008-12 which appropriates funds for the operation of the City of Laurinburg government for fiscal year 2008-2009. Councilmember Rainer seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Parker, Rainer, Faulk, Leak, DeBerry

Nays: None

(Resolution No. R-2008-12 is on file in Clerk's Office)

APPOINTMENTS

LAURINBURG PLANNING BOARD

Mayor Block stated that Mr. James Thomas' term on the City of Laurinburg Planning Board will expire June 30, 2008. He has expressed an interest to continue serving on this board.

Motion was made by Councilmember DeBerry, seconded by Councilmember Rainer, and unanimously carried to reappoint James Thomas to the board for a three-year term expiring June 30, 2011.

SCOTLAND COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Mayor Block stated that the appointment is made by Council. He explained that the position can be either a City Councilmember or a member of the community who lives within the City limits.

The meetings are at 12:30 pm on the second Wednesday of each month at Scotland Place. This is a three-year term.

Motion was made by Councilmember Parker, seconded by Councilmember Leak, and unanimously carried to appoint Mayor Block to a three-year term on the Scotland County Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, said term to expire July 1, 2011.

LAURINBURG/MAXTON AIRPORT COMMISSION

Mayor Block stated that Mr. Pete Liles, who has served on the Laurinburg/Maxton Airport Commission (LMA) Board for 20 years, has stated that he does not wish to be considered for reappointment to the LMA Board. The term for the Board appointment is three years. The term will expire June 30, 2011.

Councilmember Leak suggested that a plaque be given to Mr. Liles for his long service on the Commission Board. He added that he had spoken with someone who had agreed to serve on the Commission.

Motion was made by Councilmember Leak, seconded by Councilmember Parker, and unanimously carried to appoint former Mayor Ann Slaughter to a three-year term on the Laurinburg/Maxton Airport Commission, said term to expire on June 30, 2011.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Mayor Block explained that the Laurinburg Downtown Revitalization Corporation has recommended the position of its Executive Director to serve on the City's Beautification Committee. The appointment is a two-year term expiring May 31, 2010.

Motion was made by Councilmember Faulk, seconded by Councilmember Parker, and unanimously carried to appoint the person serving as Laurinburg Downtown Revitalization Corporation's Executive Director to serve on the City's Beautification Committee.

SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE

Mayor Block stated that, as discussed by City Council at its Budget Workshop on June 10, 2008, the City Council would like to form a new Solid Waste Ad-hoc Committee to look at all Solid Waste Issues. Currently, there are no criteria for being on the committee (District, timeframe, number of members, etc.). The 2000 Solid Waste Committee had 12 members, and members chose the Chairman from the membership.

Following discussion, the City Manager explained that a press release would be prepared regarding available appointments to the Solid Waste Committee and the vacancies would be advertised on the City's webpage. Also the members of the 2000 Committee would be contacted to determine if they are interested in serving again.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no one present to speak.

RECOGNITIONS

Mayor Block recognized provisional members of the Junior Service League attending the meeting. He presented them with a City Pin.

Leslie Sellers, member of the Junior Service League, explained some of the projects of the volunteer organization.

Mayor Block also recognized and presented a City Pin to Kaleb Wood, member of Boy Scout Troop 420, who was attending the meeting as a part of one of his badge requirements.

Councilmember Rainer expressed appreciation for all of the volunteer organizations in the community.

OTHER

Councilmember Faulk requested a joint meeting between Council, the Laurinburg/Maxton Airport Commission and the Town Council of Maxton to discuss the Airport.

The City Manager stated that he will contact the Maxton Town Manager and work with the LMA Executive Director to set up a dinner meeting within the next 30 days.

Councilmember Faulk then stated that, in memory of Bernie Clorman, a local resident who passed last week, she would like to report a pothole on Turnpike Road near the Indian Museum.

The City Manager stated that NC Department of Transportation would be notified.

Mayor Block thanked all of the City employees for their work during and after the storm last Wednesday night.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Matthew Block, Mayor

Dolores A. Hammond, City Clerk