

**CITY OF LAURINBURG  
COUNCIL MEETING  
MARCH 18, 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 March 18, 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, 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 Leak gave the invocation.

Members of the Scotland High School Marching Band presented the National Anthem in celebration of March being "Music in Our Schools" Month.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by Councilmember Leak, seconded by Councilmember DeBerry, and unanimously carried to approve the proposed minutes from the regular meeting held February 19, 2008.

**ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE XVII SIGNS, SECTION 270 (10), SECTION 276, AND SECTION 280 (d) OF THE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE**

Mayor Block explained that the First United Methodist Church has requested an amendment to the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) to increase the height restrictions on detached ground signs. He stated that currently the restrictions in the City's UDO are for ground signs to be no higher than five feet with a maximum of 32 square feet sign area. He then stated that the proposed changes would change the sign height up to a maximum of eight feet and a maximum sign area of 48 square feet. He concluded by stating that the City of Laurinburg Planning Board met on February 12, 2008 and voted 4-2 to recommend to the City Council approval of the amendment change.

He then declared the public hearing open.

Mr. Bert Dean on behalf of Board of Trustees of the First United Methodist Church appeared before Council and explained that the family of Dr. Sam Mitchener had provided a memorial for Dr. Mitchener and had requested that a sign for the Church be erected along the South Main Street side of the Church near the parking lot. He said that the sign would list Church services and announce other activities at the Church such as bloodmobiles, etc. He stated that eight feet is the ideal viewing height for signs according to the sign company.

Upon question by Councilmember Faulk, Mr. Bill Peele, City Planner/Zoning Officer, explained that all ground signs must be located five (5) feet from the street right-of-way, which in this case would be five (5) feet behind the sidewalk.

Mr. Charles Parker spoke in opposition to the request. He expressed concern that taller signs will obstruct the view. He concluded by stating that the change will not just affect the First United Methodist Church but that other businesses and organizations would also be able to erect taller signs.

Mayor Block closed the public hearing.

Upon request by Mayor Block, Mr. Peele explained that the proposed change to the ordinance would apply to all Office/Institutional zoned property. He explained that zoning ordinances, particularly sign ordinances, are constantly changing because signs are being improved, changed, modified, and fads come and go. He then explained that in early 2001, the sign ordinance was changed at the request of Council because most of the Office/Institutional zoned property along South Main Street abutted residentially-zoned property, and Council felt the sign ordinance allowed signs too commercial in appearance. He stated that since that time Planning staff has had discussions with businesses which felt that the sign ordinance was too restrictive. He concluded by stating that the proposed changes to the sign ordinance are based on uniformity so that the more linear footage of a business, the larger the sign area that will be allowed.

Councilmember Parker moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. O-2008-03 which amends Article XVII Signs, Section 270(10), Section 276, and Section 280(d) of the Unified Development Ordinance. Councilmember Leak seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Parker, Rainer, Faulk, Leak, DeBerry

Nays: None

(Ordinance No. O-2008-03 on file in Clerk's Office)

### **PUBLIC HEARING ON A REQUEST FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO OPERATE A CHILDREN'S DAY CARE FACILITY AT 12760 HOLLY LANE**

Mayor Block explained that Ms. Cynthia Nwackukwu had applied for a conditional use permit to allow a children's day care facility to be located at 12760 Holly Lane. He stated that the City of Laurinburg Planning Board met on February 12, 2008 and voted unanimously to recommend to the City Council that the request be approved.

He then declared the public hearing open.

Mr. Bill Peele, first duly sworn, explained that Mrs. Cynthia Kernan Nwachukwu has requested that a conditional use permit be granted for the operation of a children's day care facility at 12760 Holly Lane. He stated that the property is located in the Country Club Estates subdivision and abuts the commercially-zoned property of Bennett's Foreign Care Service and Jerome's Cycle Service.

Mr. Peele then stated that a staff review of the proposal found that:

- 12760 Holly Lane is located within the planning jurisdiction of the City of Laurinburg.
- The application submitted by Ms. Nwachukwu is complete.
- With the exception of the proposed recreation area being located in the front yard of the property, the development is in substantial compliance with the regulatory provisions of the Unified Development Ordinance.

He further stated that Planning Board considered this request at its February 12<sup>th</sup> meeting and, finding the proposal to be in substantial compliance with the regulatory provisions of the Unified Development Ordinance, recommended unanimously that a conditional use permit be granted for the operation of a children's day care facility at 12760 Holly Lane contingent upon the condition that the fencing of the recreation area be extended to encompass the facility's entrance. He further explained that the Unified Development Ordinance requires that recreation areas for day care facilities be located in the side or rear yard. He then explained that the proposal by the architect shows the recreation area in the front yard as this is deemed the best place for the recreation area on this site.

A discussion ensued concerning the six foot fence surrounding the swimming pool located on the property and the location of the recreation area.

Ms. Cynthia Kernan Nwachukwu, first duly sworn, appeared before Council and discussed the fencing around the swimming pool on the property and the attempt to make every effort to prevent a child from getting to the pool by

surrounding the day care building with a fence. She added that in the future she hopes to offer swimming lessons with a lifeguard and staff.

There was no one to speak against the request.

Councilmember Leak motioned, upon the condition that the fencing of the recreation area be extended to encompass the facility's entrance, to approve the conditional use permit request based on the following findings of fact:

- The development is within the planning jurisdiction of the City of Laurinburg;
- The application is complete;
- The development is in substantial compliance with the regulatory provisions of the Unified Development Ordinance;
- The request will not materially endanger the public health or safety;
- The request will not substantially injure the value of the adjoining or abutting property;
- The request will be in harmony with the area in which it is to be located; and
- The request will be in general conformity with the Land Use Plan, Thoroughfare Plan or other plan officially adopted by Council.

Councilmember Rainer seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

### **PUBLIC HEARING ON A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT REQUEST TO OPERATE AMERICAN LEGION POST 181 AT 421 MCKENZIE ST.**

Mayor Block explained that Mr. Ulyses O. Thomas, Jr. is requesting that a conditional use permit be granted to operate American Legion Post 181 at 421 McKenzie Street. He stated that the City of Laurinburg Planning Board met on February 12, 2008 and voted unanimously to recommend the request to the City Council for approval.

He then declared the public hearing open.

Mayor Block stated that there are delinquent ad valorem taxes, lot cutting fees, and utility bills on the property totaling \$4,095.14. He stated that the City Tax Collector sent a letter to American Legion Post 181 notifying the Post of the outstanding balance. He further stated that as of March 11, 2008, there had been no response.

The City Manager stated that after the agenda packet was prepared, a representative of the American Legion Post did come in and meet with the Tax Collector. He then stated that all of the issues related to any back payments have been rectified at this time. He concluded by stating that a payment plan has been set up that is satisfactory to the City and the applicant.

Ms. Janice Morrison, City Tax Collector, first duly sworn, explained she was not speaking for or against American Legion Post 181 being issued a conditional use permit. She stated that, however, the balances outstanding on its accounts are several years in arrears. She then explained that the afternoon of March 11, 2008 Mr. Thomas came into the office concerning the letter sent regarding the accounts. She further explained that the utility bill was reduced from \$2,440.25 to \$134.00. She then stated that Mr. Thomas was to return to her office to sign an agreement on payment of the accounts in arrears. She concluded by stating that, to date, no one has signed the agreement.

Upon question by Councilmember DeBerry, the City Manager stated that most of the amount of the utility bill was penalties and interest, and those will be written off by the City.

Mr. Bill Peele, first duly sworn, explained that Mr. Ulyses O. Thomas, Jr. and Mr. Robert Williams, on behalf of the membership of American Legion Post 181, have requested that a conditional use permit be granted for the operation of their post facility at 421 McKenzie Street. Social and fraternal clubs, lodges and similar uses are permitted as a conditional use in this Residential-6 zoning district.

He stated that a staff review of this proposal found that:

- 421 McKenzie Street is located within the planning jurisdiction of the City of Laurinburg.
- The application submitted for a conditional use permit is complete.
- The proposal is in substantial compliance with the regulatory provisions of the Unified Development Ordinance.

He then stated that Planning Board considered this request at its February 12<sup>th</sup> meeting and found the proposal to be in substantial compliance with the regulatory provisions of the UDO and unanimously recommended that a conditional use permit be granted to allow American Legion Post 181 to operate a facility at 421 McKenzie Street, contingent upon the following conditions being imposed:

- Post 181 be operated in a manner consistent with the constitution and by-laws of the American Legion.
- No alcoholic beverages be permitted on the property.
- All activities at the facility cease at 11:00 p.m. on weekdays and midnight on Friday and Saturday.
- Post 181 not engage in any activities which would disturb the tranquility of the neighborhood.

Upon question by Councilmember Leak, Mr. Peele explained that the Planning Board recommended the conditions based upon concerns expressed by residents of the neighborhood around the location. He then explained that Planning Board felt that, with the past history of the previous operation of Post 181 at the site, some conditions needed to be imposed so that matters would not get out of hand as they once did.

Upon question by Councilmember DeBerry, Mr. Peele explained that Planning Board did not recommend any restrictions concerning security. He stated that if the American Legion Post wanted security, that would be incumbent upon that organization.

Upon question by Councilmember Rainer, Mr. Peele explained that if the conditional use permit is granted and American Legion Post 181 wants to change one of the conditions, the Post can make a request for an amendment from Council.

Mr. Ulyses O. Thomas, Jr., first duly sworn, explained that he was requesting to reopen American Legion Post 181. He then explained that the Post had difficulties in the past but that, under new leadership, the focus would be on serving veterans and the community. He stated that there will be no late night activities at the Post.

Mr. Robert Williams, Jr., first duly sworn, appeared before Council and explained that the Post would abide by the by-laws and constitution of the American Legion to make the community better.

Upon question by Councilmember Parker, Mr. Thomas and Mr. Williams both indicated that they were satisfied with the conditions recommended by Planning Board. Mr. Williams stated that they wanted an opportunity to prove themselves to the community.

A discussion ensued concerning the recommended conditions to the conditional use permit and Mr. Thomas' and Mr. Williams' experience with the American Legion.

Upon question by Mayor Block, Mr. Thomas explained that he had not had a chance to meet with the Tax Collector and sign the agreement.

Ms. Lee Opat, first duly sworn, appeared before Council to explain her concerns regarding the opening of American Legion Post 181. Ms. Opat explained that, as a neighbor of the Post property, she had been a victim of past activities at the Post, yet has also seen good come from the Post. She stated that as long as the Post is operated according to the by-laws and constitution of the American Legion and abides by the conditions recommended by Planning Board, she does not object to the request.

Mr. James Rush, first duly sworn, appeared before Council and explained that he was a 34-year resident in the neighborhood near the Post. He discussed past activities at the Post and the effects on the neighborhood. He stated that provided that no alcohol is allowed and the other conditions recommended by Planning Board are imposed, he does not object to the Post reopening.

Ms. Helen Campbell, first duly sworn, appeared before Council and explained that as long as the conditions recommended by Planning Board are imposed, she has no objections to the request.

Upon question by Mayor Block, Ms. Opata, Mr. Rush, and Ms. Campbell stated that they were satisfied with the conditions recommended by Planning Board.

He then closed the public hearing.

Following a brief discussion, Councilmember Leak motioned, upon the conditions hereinafter set forth, to approve the conditional use permit request based on the following findings of fact:

- The development is within the planning jurisdiction of the City of Laurinburg;
- The application is complete;
- The development is in substantial compliance with the regulatory provisions of the Unified Development Ordinance;
- The request will not materially endanger the public health or safety;
- The request will not substantially injure the value of the adjoining or abutting property;
- The request will be in harmony with the area in which it is to be located; and
- The request will be in general conformity with the Land Use Plan, Thoroughfare Plan or other plan officially adopted by Council

with the conditions of the permit to be those recommended by Planning Board, to wit:

- Post 181 be operated in a manner consistent with the constitution and by-laws of the American Legion.
- No alcoholic beverages be permitted on the property.
- All activities at the facility cease at 11:00 p.m. on weekdays and midnight on Friday and Saturday.
- Post 181 not engage in any activities which would disturb the tranquility of the neighborhood.

Councilmember Rainer seconded the motion and it was carried by a 4-1 vote with Councilmember DeBerry casting the dissenting vote.

## **CRIME STOPPERS-DETECTIVE CHRIS YOUNG-LAURINBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Detective Chris Young appeared before Council and provided a history of the Crime Stoppers Program and explained how the Crime Stoppers Program works. He explained that Crime Stoppers is a joint effort for the entire County, not just the City. He stated that it is a partnership with law enforcement, the community and the media. He then stated that Law enforcement is the coordinator only. He then explained that the program is run by the citizens of the community and is funded through donations. He further stated that the program will kick off on April 1, 2008 with a listing of Scotland County's 12 "Most Wanted. He concluded by stating that volunteers are needed for the board of directors and donations are also needed.

Upon question by Mayor Block, Detective Young explained that the amount of the award for a tip leading to arrest will vary depending upon the type of crime.

Detective Young stated that the recommended budget to begin a Crime Stoppers Program is \$5,000.00. He explained that thus far \$2,000.00 has been donated and that the program is in receipt of a \$2,000.00 grant to be used for the Scholastic Crime Stoppers Program which is a program to be run in the school system.

## **APPLICATION TO PRESERVE AMERICA AND AUTHORIZE MAYOR TO EXECUTE APPLICATION**

Mayor Block explained that James White, intern with the City, will present the Preserve America application through the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. He stated that currently 19 municipalities and counties with the State have been designated as a Preserve America Community. He then stated that by being designated, the City becomes eligible for Preserve America grants; is authorized to use the Preserve America logo on marketing materials; and is listed in a web-based Preserve America Community Directory. Mayor Block concluded by stating that approval of the application will authorize the Mayor to execute the application on behalf of the City.

James White appeared before City Council and explained that, on behalf of the City, he prepared an application that will designate Laurinburg as a Preserve American Community. He then explained that the program recognizes and designates communities that protect and celebrate their heritage, use their historic assets for economic development and community revitalization, and encourage people to experience and appreciate local historic resources through education and heritage tourism programs. He stated that benefits of designation include White House recognition; eligibility to apply for Preserve America grants; a certificate of recognition; a Preserve America Community road sign; authorization to use the Preserve America logo on signs, flags, banners, and promotional materials; listing in a web-based Preserve America Community directory; inclusion in national and regional press releases; official notification of designation to state tourism offices and visitors bureaus; and enhanced community visibility and pride.

Mr. White then explained that Preserve America grants are designed to support a variety of activities related to heritage tourism and innovative approaches to the use of historic properties as educational and economic assets. He stated that individual grants range from \$20,000.00 to \$150,000.00. He further explained that the amount of the grants depends upon what historic project the City pursues and requires a dollar for dollar non-federal match. He also stated that categories for grants include research and documentation, interpretation and education, planning, marketing and training.

He then explained that Preserve America is a White House initiative that encourages and supports community efforts to preserve and enjoy the country's priceless cultural and natural heritage. He stated that the goals of the initiative include a greater shared knowledge of the nation's past, strengthened regional identities and local pride, increased local participation in preserving the country's cultural and natural heritage assets, and support for the economic vitality of our communities. He concluded by stating that Mrs. Laura Bush, First Lady of the United States, is the Honorary Chair of Preserve America.

Following a brief discussion, motion was made by Councilmember Parker, seconded by Councilmember Rainer, and unanimously carried to submit the Preserve America grant application and to authorize the Mayor to execute same.

## **AWARD OF CONTRACT**

The City Manager explained that in accordance with the Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant for the Richmond Community College (RCC) campus construction, the City had to bid out architectural and engineering services. He then explained that originally two bids were received, and the City then re-bid the project to try to get three proposals. He stated that, unfortunately, the City did not receive any additional proposals, and that under the grant guidelines, the City can choose from the proposals submitted since the project was bid twice.

He stated that, in consultation with RCC, and with its approval, Staff would like to recommend the Wooten Company to serve as the architect and engineering firm for the project. He explained that the Wooten Company is very familiar with the project as it served as the preliminary engineer and did the early design work with the original Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) the City received for the project. He further stated that Staff would like to recommend that the City Council authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement with the Wooten Company for architectural and engineering services, contingent upon review and approval of the contract by the City Attorney.

The City Manager stated that Dr. Sharon Morrissey, President of RCC, was present and he thanked her for attending the meeting. He then stated that Dr. Morrissey had met earlier in the day with Bill Riemer, Director of Administration and Development, and representatives of the Wooten Company.

Dr. Sharon Morrissey, President of RCC appeared before Council and explained that RCC is happy with the work done thus far by the Wooten Company and on behalf of the Board of Trustees thanks the City for taking the lead on this project.

A discussion ensued concerning the bidding process. Upon question by Mayor Block, Dr. Morrissey stated that the construction of the project would be bid out in August.

Motion was made by Councilmember DeBerry, seconded by Councilmember Leak, and unanimously carried to award to the Wooten Company the contract for the engineering and architectural services for the Richmond Community College campus site and to authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement contingent on City Attorney review and approval.

**ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 4, ANIMALS, ARTICLE I, SECTION 4-15 (d), SECTION 4-19 (b), AND SECTION 4-20 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LAURINBURG**

The City Manager explained that the City has had issues recently with vicious dogs within the community. He stated that in order to better deal with the issue of dangerous dogs/animals in heat and the restraint of dogs (repeat issues), it is the opinion of Staff that, if the City requires spaying or neutering of the animals, many of the problems will be lessened.

He shared the following information with Council with reference to the present ordinance:

Section 4-19, Restraint of Dogs - Most repeat offenders are dogs that have not been sterilized. Unsterilized dogs tend to escape their confinement looking for companionship.

Section 4-20, Confinement of female cats and dogs in heat - Anyone who has failed to adequately confine their dog or cat in heat will be required to have it sterilized.

Section 4-15, Dangerous Dogs - Any dog that has been declared a "potentially dangerous dog" or a "dangerous dog" would be sterilized. Sterilization of these dogs will help reduce their aggression. Nine-five percent (95%) of attacks on humans come from dogs that have not been spayed or neutered.

The City Attorney has reviewed the proposed ordinance and has made some changes.

Upon question by Councilmember Leak, the City Manager stated that the changes go into effect April 1, 2008.

Councilmember Leak moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. O-2008-04 which amends Chapter 4, Animals, Article I, Section 4-15(d), Section 4-19(b) and Section 4-20 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Laurinburg. Councilmember Rainer seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes Leak, Faulk, Rainer, Parker, DeBerry

Nays: None

(Ordinance No. O-2008-04 on file in Clerk's Office)

**ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 10, ARTICLE V, CONDUCT OF PERSONS AND ARTICLE VII, HILLSIDE MEMORIAL PARK OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LAURINBURG**

The City Manager explained that staff would like to recommend changes to the City's Cemetery Ordinance with respect to the placement of trinkets at gravesites. He then explained that the placements of these type materials have made many areas unsightly and have also created a hazard to City maintenance crews as they try to maintain the plots. He stated that staff is also recommending that only one approved flower receptacle be allowed in the Fountain, Myrtle and Rose sections. He then stated that Staff is also recommending that flat granite and marble markers be allowed in areas where currently only flat bronze markers are allowed. He concluded by stating that the City Attorney has reviewed the recommended changes.

Upon question by Councilmember DeBerry, the City Manager explained that this change would prohibit the lighted crosses that are currently seen in the cemetery. He also explained that the changes would take place on April 1, 2008.

Councilmember Faulk indicated that she had spoken with a funeral director who agreed that the crosses are a huge maintenance issue who stated that he is in favor of the changes.

Upon questions by Councilmembers Leak and Faulk, Mr. Pete Morris, Beautification Director, explained that flowers are left on a grave approximately one week after a funeral. He stated that the florists have a rotating schedule to pick up recyclable items that are removed from graves.

The City Manager stated staff had discussed erecting a tasteful sign at the cemetery that listed the rules. He also stated that citizens who purchase plots at the cemetery would be notified of the rules of the cemetery.

Mr. Morris explained that, because of the increased cost of bronze, staff is also recommending that granite and marble flat markers be allowed at Hillside Memorial Park.

Councilmember DeBerry moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. O-2008-05 which amends Chapter 10, Article V, Conduct of Persons, and Chapter 10, Article VII, Hillside Memorial Park, of the City Code. Councilmember Rainer, seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: DeBerry, Leak, Faulk, Rainer, Parker

Nays: None

(Ordinance No. O-2008-05 on file in Clerk's Office)

A discussion ensued concerning the removal of trinkets currently in the cemetery. Mr. Morris suggested that families be allowed until October 1, 2008 to remove the trinkets and after that time, staff would remove the items.

Councilmember Parker suggested trinkets be removed from the cemetery no later than January 1, 2009.

## **REVISION TO SCHEDULE OF FEES FOR THE CITY OF LAURINBURG**

The City Manager explained that Staff recommends that prices for cemetery plots be increased from \$240.00 to \$300.00 for residents and \$480.00 to \$600.00 for non-residents. He stated that it would be the first fee increase in over 10 years. He then stated that the increases would be effective April 1, 2008.

Motion was made by Councilmember Parker, seconded by Councilmember Leak, and unanimously carried to so increase the price of the cemetery plots with the increase to be effective April 1, 2008.

## **ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2007-2008 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE BY ALLOCATING FUNDS FROM THE ELECTRIC FUND BALANCE TO NEW CONSTRUCTION**

The City Manager explained that, because of the increased expenses that occurred during the work on the switching station, the SCADA system upgrade, and the 200 pole replacements, Staff is requesting a budget amendment for the Electrical Department in the amount of \$400,000.00 towards new construction.

He then explained that one of the major costs was the increase in cost of the voltage regulators that were upgraded and replaced as crews rebuilt the switching station and changed all 18 voltage regulators in the station. He also explained that the cost of the regulators also increased as metal prices doubled which caused the regulator prices to increase.

He concluded by stating that by also doing the amount of work in the 07/08 FY, Staff will not have to budget as much money in next year's new construction line item, as most of the work will be done already for next year. The revenue will come from our Electrical Fund Balance.

Councilmember Parker moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. O-2008-06 which amends the 2007-2008 Budget Appropriation Ordinance by allocating funds from the Electric Fund Balance to New Construction. Councilmember Faulk seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Parker, Rainer, Faulk, Leak, DeBerry

Nays: None

(Ordinance No. O-2008-06 on file in Clerk's Office)

### **SUBMISSION OF SIDEWALK GRANT APPLICATION AND AUTHORIZATION FOR MAYOR TO EXECUTE DOCUMENT**

The City Manager explained that Senator Purcell recently sent the City information with respect to the North Carolina Department of Transportation sidewalk funding for areas near elementary or middle schools. He stated that City Staff has evaluated the cost and feasibility of sidewalks and cost estimates for Washington Park Elementary, I.E. Johnson, North Laurinburg, Covington Street and Scotland High School.

He also explained that the email Senator Purcell sent was in reference to District 10. He stated that the City is in District 8 and Staff is trying to see if District 8 will have the same program and funding. If approved, Staff will work with the Lumber River RPO on the resolution of endorsement of the project.

Motion was made by Councilmember Parker, seconded by Councilmember Leak, and unanimously carried to submit a sidewalk grant application and to authorize the Mayor to execute necessary documents contingent on the availability of funding from the NC Department of Transportation.

The City Manager stated that the grant would need to be narrowed to one project with a maximum expenditure of \$50,000.00.

Following discussion, it was consensus among Council that the sidewalk improvement project be at Covington Street School contingent on funding availability.

### **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF LAURINBURG AND RICHMOND COMMUNITY COLLEGE (RCC) AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE DOCUMENT**

The City Manager explained that in order to have a clear understanding of responsibilities of each party with respect to the construction project of the RCC campus at the old hospital site, a joint Memorandum of Understanding will be entered into between the City and RCC. He then explained that Staff has worked on this document jointly with RCC and feels that it covers the major issues associated with this joint project.

Dr. Morrissey appeared before Council and thanked Mr. Honeycutt and the City Attorney for working on this agreement. She stated that since the RCC Board of Trustees is not controlling this construction project, this agreement will give the Board some confidence in moving forward in partnership and collaboration with the City. She further stated that the RCC Board of Trustees will take action on the agreement at its April 1, 2008 board meeting.

Motion was made by Councilmember Parker to approve the revised memorandum of understanding as approved by the attorneys between the City of Laurinburg and Richmond Community College and to authorize the Mayor to execute the document, seconded by Councilmember Rainer, and unanimously carried.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no one present to speak.

Mayor Block wished the citizens a Happy Easter on behalf of Council.

### **RECESS**

Motion was made by Councilmember DeBerry, seconded by Councilmember Leak, and unanimously carried to recess the meeting until Thursday, March 27, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at Scotland Place located at 1210 Turnpike Road, Laurinburg, North Carolina.

The meeting was recessed at 8:55 p.m.

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Matthew Block, Mayor

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Dolores A. Hammond, City Clerk