

**CITY OF LAURINBURG
COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 17, 2009
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 February 17, 2009 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Councilmember Leak, seconded by Councilmember Faulk, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes from the regular meeting which was rescheduled to and held on January 27, 2009.

PUBLIC HEARING

CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT REQUEST FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF 40 TAX CREDIT UNITS OF MULTIFAMILY HOUSING – MRS. NANCY WALKER, LAURINBURG HOUSING AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mayor Block explained that the Laurinburg Housing Authority's non-profit affiliate Opportunity, Inc. has requested a public hearing on a conditional use permit for the construction of 40 Tax Credit Units of multifamily housing at the corner of X-Way and Turnpike Roads. He added that Council had been informed that Planning Board member Charles Parker had requested that Staff share with Council his concerns about the project that were not reflected in the minutes. He further added that the Planning Board reviewed the project on January 13, 2009 and approved unanimously to recommend the project to City Council.

Mayor Block declared the public hearing open.

Ms. Brandi Deese, first duly affirmed, appeared before Council and explained that Mrs. Nancy Walker, on behalf of the Laurinburg Housing Authority affiliate, Opportunity, Inc., has requested a Conditional Use Permit to construct 40 units of multi-family housing, Scottish Glen Phase II, at the corner of X-Way Road and Turnpike Road.

The application for the conditional use permit was reviewed by staff where it was determined that:

- The subject property is located within the planning jurisdiction of the City of Laurinburg.
- The application is complete
- The proposed development is in substantial compliance with the regulatory provisions of the Unified Development Ordinance.

Planning Board unanimously concurred with these findings at its January 13, 2009 meeting and recommended that a

conditional use permit be granted.

A discussion ensued concerning the traffic situation. Mrs. Deese explained that the entrance to the development would be off X-Way Road. She added that the last traffic count by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (DOT) was conducted in 2006 which revealed a traffic count of around 4,000 vehicles on X-Way Road per day and 3,200 vehicles on Turnpike Road. She further added that the Housing Authority is going to ask for another study to be conducted and for a stoplight to be installed. She explained that, according to the DOT, the 2006 traffic count was not enough to warrant a stoplight.

Councilmember Leak explained that he had several concerns about the request. He explained that at the last meeting Council had requested a traffic study. He then expressed concern about the existence of two (2) low-income housing units in the vicinity and the abundance of pedestrian traffic along West Blvd. and X-Way Road.

Councilmember Faulk explained that West Blvd./X-Way Road is a dangerous road for pedestrians and bikers, and she was concerned about adding additional people and cars to the area.

Mrs. Nancy Walker, Executive Director of the Laurinburg Housing Authority, first duly sworn, appeared before City Council and explained that the concerns of Councilmembers Leak and Faulk had been raised at the Planning Board meeting. She explained that she had met with DOT representatives who preferred the entrance to the development be located on X-Way Road rather than on Turnpike Road. She added that she would like a traffic light at the intersection of X-Way Road and Turnpike Road. She further added that she had been working with City staff to put together an application for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for improvements including a sewer line on X-Way Road, curb and gutter, and a sidewalk.

Upon questions by Mayor Block, Mrs. Walker explained that there will be 40 households but not all households would have vehicles. She also explained that tenants living in the units would have to be at 60% or below of the median poverty level.

A discussion ensued concerning the entrance. Mr. Bill Peele, first duly sworn, appeared before Council and explained that DOT does not have stacking standards for driveway entrances.

A discussion then ensued concerning the elevation changes from the overpass bridge on West Blvd. to the subject property and storm drainage. Mr. Peele explained that there is approximately a 2-foot change in elevation. He added that he did not know if the creek near the bridge is designated as wetlands but that, if it is, the developer would be responsible for obtaining State permission to tie the storm drainage into the creek.

A discussion then ensued concerning traffic along X-Way Road and Turnpike Road. Mr. Peele explained that the traffic problem along X-Way Road is the intersection with Turnpike Road. He added that, at the intersection, X-Way Road has the caution light and Turnpike has the stoplight. He further added that it would be safer to avoid creating more traffic at that intersection, which is why DOT wanted the entrance to the apartment complex located on X-Way Road.

Upon question by Councilmember Parker, Mrs. Walker explained that the complex would consist of the 40 units, an office, a community space, laundry facilities with two (2) washers and dryers, a picnic area and a retention pond that will be fenced. She added that the landscaping and parking exceed the City's requirements.

Councilmember Leak expressed concern about the concentration of low-income apartments in one area of the City.

Mrs. Walker explained that the awarding of funding requires that the tax credit units be located in a non-poverty census tract, which is determined by the number of people in the census tract that are at or below the median poverty level. She added that the selected site meets that requirement.

A discussion ensued concerning the competition for funding and deadlines. Mrs. Walker explained that she will need to submit the full application the latter part of May or the first part of June in order to be considered.

Upon question by Councilmember Rainer, Mrs. Walker explained that a good bit of construction work on Scottish Glen I was done by local subcontractors including carpentry, roofing, paving and sheetrock work.

Upon question by Mayor Block concerning individuals from other areas moving to Laurinburg because of the new apartments, Mrs. Walker explained that the market study had to show a present need in order for funding to be awarded. She added that approximately 95% of her tenants have Scotland County/Maxton birth certificates. She further added that there are a few tenants that relocate to the area but that it is usually because they have some connection to Laurinburg.

Further discussion ensued concerning the application process for funding.

A discussion ensued concerning the location of additional apartments in one area. Councilmember Leak explained that he felt the sites need to be scattered throughout the City, particularly on the north side.

Mrs. Walker explained that one of the important criteria for funding selection is selecting a site that is in a non-poverty census tract. She further explained that a poverty census tract is not considered as desirable as a non-poverty census tract because the federal government has pushed helping low income families live in areas other than the lowest income areas.

Upon questions from Councilmembers Parker and Faulk, Mrs. Walker explained that the General Assembly passed a law last year that the property tax paid on a tax credit property would be based on the income appraisal approach versus the value of the buildings because of the restrictions on resale, use of the land and the restrictions on the income of the property. She added that by taking tax credit units the owner cannot charge market rent even though the property looks like and has all of the amenities of a market property. She further added that the tax credit is good for 15 years on a property.

A discussion ensued concerning the median poverty level.

Upon question by Mayor Block, Mrs. Walker stated that the total tax bill for Laurinburg Housing Authority properties last year was approximately \$32,000.00.

Upon question by Mayor Block, Chief Johnny Evans, first duly sworn, explained that the Police Department has not had many problems at Scottish Glenn I or at Greenfield Apartments. He stated that when there is a problem, it is brought to the attention of the Housing Authority and the tenants are evicted. He added that the traffic along X-Way Road at the entrance to the Health Department and the Department of Social Services creates a problem. He further added that between 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. is particularly a hectic time.

There was no one to speak in opposition to the request.

Mayor Block closed the public hearing.

Following a lengthy discussion, motion was made by Councilmember Parker, seconded by Councilmember Rainer, and unanimously carried to table this matter until the March meeting with the request that Mrs. Walker obtain a traffic study.

DELEGATIONS

Scotland County Economic Development Director Greg Icard

Mayor Block introduced Greg Icard, the new Director of Economic Development for Scotland County.

Mr. Icard provided an update to City Council on the Retail Recruitment Committee.

SCOTLAND COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION TRAINING FACILITIES

Mayor Block explained that there are several representatives to address Council on the proposed training facility for the Scotland County Firefighters Association.

Mr. Kevin Strickland, Commander of the Scotland County Rescue Squad and Assistant Chief of the Stewartsville Fire Department, appeared before Council and explained the importance of the training facility to the firefighters.

Ms. Melissa Weaver on behalf of the families of firefighters appeared before Council to express support for the training facility proposed.

Mr. Harold Smith, Laurinburg Fire Chief, appeared before Council and explained that the proposed training facility will be of great benefit to the firefighters. In order to reduce time in preparing and breaking down for training, he also stressed the importance of locating the facility adjacent to the North Fire Station. He discussed a per capita comparison of Laurinburg firefighters to several other cities as well as a comparison of the number of paid firefighters and the number of fires. He explained that Laurinburg has two (2) paid firefighters on duty at a time and that, without the volunteer firefighters, the work could not be done. He added that the firefighters have not asked Council for much throughout the years but are asking now for a training facility that may save their lives and the lives of others.

Mayor Block explained that, although the issue of the facility was scheduled to be considered later in the meeting, it should be considered now. He explained that at the December City Council meeting, Council reviewed the proposal from the Scotland County Firefighter's Association to donate and build a fire tower/training facility behind the North Fire Station. He added that, during this presentation, discussion took place about looking at possible other City locations (South Fire Station; Public Works) to see whether other sites would be more feasible. He further added that City Council had requested that the City Manager investigate the issue and bring back information for the January meeting for further discussion, which he had done. He explained that he and Councilmembers Parker and Faulk had visited the proposed site. He added that none of the adjoining property owners have any objections.

Councilmember Parker explained that it was important to the City Council for the decision regarding the training facility to be a consensus. He added that he is committed to seeing the training facility built.

Councilmember Leak expressed concern about the need for a fire station on the southwest side of the City. He added that the Council wanted to have a training facility that could be used 20-30 years in the future.

Upon question by Councilmember Faulk, the City Manager stated that he would have a draft of the proposed agreement for Council at the retreat.

A discussion ensued concerning the height of the training facility and the topography of the site at the North Fire Station. Councilmember Parker explained that the height of the proposed tower had been reduced from 60 feet to 40 feet. He also explained that the current burn building is 28 feet high and with the location of the new tower at a lower elevation (i.e. closer to the creek), the new tower would probably not be much more visible than the current building.

Councilmember Leak expressed concern about the location of historical properties near the proposed site and the undesirable aesthetics of the facility.

Councilmember Parker explained that the Firefighters Association has proposed a border of trees and bushes around the training facility.

Mr. David Laviner, representing the Firefighters Association, appeared before Council and requested that Council make a decision on the matter.

A discussion ensued concerning the lack of infrastructure at Public Works which makes that site less desirable.

Councilmember DeBerry explained that he attends Bright Hopewell Baptist Church and that no one from his church

has expressed opposition to the training facility being located at the North Fire Station.

Motion was made by Councilmember DeBerry to authorize location of the proposed training facility at the North Fire Station provided the height of the tower be no greater than 40 feet and the burn building be no higher than two (2) stories. Councilmember Parker seconded the motion and it was approved as follows:

Ayes: Rainer, Parker, DeBerry, Faulk

Nays: Leak

TAXATION

Ms. Janice Morrison, City Tax Collector, explained that as required by G.S. 105-369(a), on the second Monday in February of each year, the municipal tax collector must report to the governing board the total of unpaid taxes for the current fiscal year that are liens on real property. Ms. Morrison stated that there is \$264,434.84 in outstanding taxes that are liens on real property. G.S. 105-369(a) further states that the governing body shall thereupon order the tax collector to advertise liens. Ms. Morrison respectfully requested the order to advertise for March 10, 2009.

Motion was made by Councilmember Parker, seconded by Councilmember Faulk, and unanimously carried that the City Tax Collector be authorized to advertise the list of delinquent taxpayers on March 10, 2009.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE 2008 TAX LEVY

Ms. Janice Morrison, City Tax Collector, requested that the following adjustments be made to the 2008 tax levy:

RELEASES:

NAME	PP/RE	PROPERTY	VALUE	YR	RATE	TAXES	REASON
Annie E Ward	RE	1-70-1-18	22,320	2008	0.42	93.74	SC Exemption
Jennie L Brown	RE	1-74-4-11	35,330	2008	0.42	148.39	SC Exemption
Brenda C Brazelton	PP	638	2000	2008	0.42	8.40	SC Exemption
Gertrude Brooks	RE	1-64-1-2A	11,510	2008	0.42	48.34	Building demolition
Michelle C Everette	PP	2154	14,500	2008	0.42	24.65	Deceased
Jonestown Plantation	PP	3600	0	2008	0.42	180.16	Located outside city limits
Laurinburg & Southern	RE	1-50-1-15	10,010	2008	0.42	42.04	Public Service Co
Laurinburg Pentecostal Holiness	RE	1-64-4-1	8,830	2008	0.42	37.09	Historic/Religious Exemption
Laurinburg Pentecostal Holiness	RE	1-64-4-7	190	2008	0.42	.80	Historic/Religious Exemption
Locklear Medical Supplies	PP	4014	5,378	2008	0.42	22.59	Out of Business
Stephannie Chadwick	PP	1125	2,500	2008	0.42	10.50	MH Sold in 2007
Claude Strickland	PP	7018	2,925	2008	0.42	12.29	Not located inside city limits
Donna K Waite	PP	7483	14,395	2008	0.42	60.46	Not located inside city limits
Central School	RE	1-54-4-1	538,100	2008	0.42	2260.02	Historic Exemption
Laurinburg Radiology	PP	2421	0	2008	0.42	184.34	Moved to Cumberland Cty

DISCOVERIES:

NAME	PP/RE	PROPERTY	VALUE	YR	RATE	TAXES	REASON
AT & T	PP	2762	596,569	2008	0.42	2,505.59	Public Service Co
Bellsouth Telecomm	PP	2763	12,938,716	2008	0.42	54,342.61	Public Service Co

Carolina Power/Light	PP	2774	2,517,431	2008	0.42	10,573.21	Public Service Co
CSX Transportation	PP	2765	588,967	2008	0.42	2,473.66	Public Service Co
Greyhound Lines	PP	2768	21,277	2008	0.42	89.36	Public Service Co
Laurinburg & Southern RR	PP	2769	182,495	2008	0.42	766.48	Public Service Co
Level 3 Communicat	PP	2770	25,058	2008	0.42	105.24	Public Service Co
Lumbee River EMC	PP	2771	202,289	2008	0.42	849.61	Public Service Co
NC EMC	PP	2772	6,431	2008	0.42	27.01	Public Service Co
Piedmont Nat Gas	PP	2773	2,773,120	2008	0.42	11,647.10	Public Service Co
Kimberly E Pressley	PP	2758	2,000	2008	0.42	8.40	Not Listed
Carolina American Tours	PP	2764	932	2008	0.42	3.91	Public Service Co
Dukenet Communications	PP	2766	266,801	2008	0.42	1,120.56	Public Service Co
Gerald Weinreis	PP	8093	2,500	2008	0.42	10.50	Not Listed
Law Office-Chris Wood	RE	1-1-4-4	70,090	2008	0.42	441.57	Not Listed
Lin Jin Dong/Chang Xin Lin	RE	1-51-5-7	118,120	2008	0.42	744.15	Not Listed
Southern Coach	PP	2775	882	2008	0.42	3.70	Public Service Co
AT & T Services	PP	8129	20,875	2008	0.42	87.68	Failure to List
Hibbett Sports	PP	8128	43,361	2008	0.42	182.12	Failure to List
Training & Development	PP	7324	14,872	2008	0.42	62.46	Failure to List

Motion was made by Councilmember Parker, seconded by Councilmember Faulk, and unanimously carried to adjust the 2008 tax levy as recommended by the tax collector.

CONSIDER REQUEST FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO OPERATE A NIGHTCLUB AT THE CLINTON INN LOCATED AT 1609 US HIGHWAY 401 SOUTH

The City Manager explained that a public hearing will need to be set for Tuesday, March 17, 2009 at 7:00 pm to consider a conditional use permit to allow the Clinton Inn to operate a nightclub at its location of 1609 US Hwy. 401 South. The City of Laurinburg Planning Board met on February 10, 2009 and voted 5-2 to recommend to the City Council approval of the request.

Upon question by Councilmember Leak, Mrs. Brandi Deese explained that the conditional use permit was required because CG's was originally permitted as a restaurant with an accessory lounge and that, with the change in occupancy, CG's will attract patrons from other than the hotel and become more of a standalone nightclub than an accessory lounge.

Following discussion concerning the age of patrons and the hours of operation, motion was made by Councilmember DeBerry, seconded by Councilmember Leak, and unanimously carried to set a public hearing on the request to be held Tuesday, March 17, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the upstairs council room of the Municipal Building located at 303 West Church St., Laurinburg, North Carolina.

CONSIDER REQUEST FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO EXPAND A DAY CARE CENTER AT 601 SOUTH CALEDONIA ROAD

The City Manager explained that, at this time, this request has been delayed at the request of the applicant. He added that the applicant will submit an updated application at the March Planning Board meeting for review, and City Council may be requested to set public hearing at the March meeting for April.

RESOLUTION TO DECLARE CERTAIN ITEMS AS SURPLUS PROPERTY

The City Manager explained that the proposed resolution lists several items that have been deemed surplus by City

Staff, and the resolution needs to be approved by City Council to allow the City Manager to dispose of the property as outlined in North Carolina General Statutes.

Councilmember Faulk moved for the adoption of Resolution No. R-2009-03 which declares certain items as surplus property that are no longer needed by the City. Councilmember DeBerry seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Faulk, Leak, DeBerry, Parker, Rainer

Nays: None

(Resolution No. R-2009-03 on file in Clerk's Office)

RESOLUTION TO UPDATE FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE ACT OF THE CITY OF LAURINBURG PERSONNEL POLICY

The City Manager explained that the Federal Department of Labor has issued new changes to the Family Medical Leave Act effective January 16, 2009. He added that the changes deal with military family leave entitlements. He further added that the proposed resolution needs to be adopted in order to bring the City of Laurinburg's Personnel Policy into compliance with the new requirements.

Councilmember Parker moved for the adoption of Resolution No. R-2009-04 which amends the City's Personnel Policy. Councilmember Faulk seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Parker, DeBerry, Faulk, Leak, Rainer

Nays: None

(Resolution No. R-2009-04 on file in Clerk's Office)

RESOLUTION WHICH AUTHORIZES THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE DOCUMENTS FOR THE MOSQUITO CONTROL PROGRAM

The City Manager explained that as part of the annual recertification of the City's mosquito program with the North Carolina Department of Human Resources, Division of Health Services, the City Council must approve a resolution that authorizes the City Manager to oversee and perform acts that are proper and necessary in connection with the operation of the project.

A discussion ensued concerning finding more effective ways to control the mosquito population. Councilmember Rainer requested that staff research how other municipalities administer mosquito control programs with the issue to be discussed at the Council's retreat.

Councilmember Parker moved for the adoption of Resolution No. R-2009-05 which authorizes the City Manager to execute documents for the mosquito control program. Councilmember DeBerry seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Parker, DeBerry, Leak, Faulk, Rainer

Nays: None

(Resolution No. R-2009-05 on file in Clerk's Office)

CAROLINA TRANSFORMER LITIGATION

The City Manager explained that the City was part of the group that settled with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the environmental claims related to the former Carolina Transformer industrial site. He added that the City's initial share of the settlement amount was \$48,768.00 and that the City subsequently received back \$15,666.00 due to the fact that additional parties later joined the settlement; therefore, to date, the City's total net out of pocket settlement costs are \$33,102.00. He further added that as part of the settlement with the EPA, the settling parties reserved the right to pursue claims against others who are believed to also have liability but refused to participate in or contribute to

the EPA settlement.

The City Manager explained that the City is under no obligation to be a part of the group of Settling Defendants who are pursuing what will, in essence be, reimbursement for some or all of the amounts they have paid. He added that the cost of participating will be dependent upon the number willing to participate and the amount that is ultimately recovered.

The Assistant City Attorney explained that he had spoken with Bill White, counsel for the Carolina Transformer Site Group, who indicated that the City's share of the expense for the additional litigation would be between \$3,200.00 and \$4,500.00. He also indicated that if the litigation goes well, the City could expect to recover up to nine-fold its share of the expense.

Following discussion, motion was made by Councilmember Parker, seconded by Councilmember Faulk, and unanimously carried to authorize the execution of the Agreement to Form a Trust to Pursue Assigned Contribution Claims Arising from Carolina Transformer Consent Decree Settlement Payments and to authorize the expenditure of the City's share of the litigation expenses.

MARLOWE AND COMPANY

The City Manager explained that staff would like to recommend that the City contract with Marlowe and Company, a Washington DC government affairs consultant, to help the City, Scotland County, Town of Maxton and Laurinburg/Maxton Airport (LMA) determine the best approach in securing funding for the runway and to also jointly assist the City and County in receiving their share of the Federal Stimulus Package funding. He added that at no time since the Great Depression and the WPA has the Federal Government looked to create as many jobs with influx of capital funding for local governments; however, the process is very complicated, and there are many different pots of funding for which the City and County may be eligible. He stated that it is staff's recommendation that the City work with Marlowe and Company to develop strategies to receive the most funding as possible. He further added that the contract would be for one (1) year and that Marlowe and Associates would also work with the City not just with regard to the stimulus package but also with respect to future appropriations bills/grant opportunities.

The City Manager explained that the proposal is two-fold with the first part being \$24,000.00 for a one year contract to look at funding for the Laurinburg/Maxton Airport (LMA) runway to upgrade it to military standards. He added that the cost would be equally shared by the City, Town of Maxton, Scotland County and LMA Board (cost of \$6,000.00 per entity) and approval would be contingent upon all parties participating equally. The City Manager explained that the second proposal is for a contract to be shared by both the City and County to look at the entire stimulus package (as well as other opportunities) to maximize the best returns for the community with an annual cost of \$36,000.00 (\$18,000.00 to the County/\$18,000.00 to the City). He added that if both contracts are approved, the cost to the City would be \$24,000.00.

A discussion ensued concerning the financial participation of Maxton, the County and LMA as well as the necessity of hiring a consultant. The City Manager explained that he had had a joint meeting with Paul Davis, Director of LMA, and Kevin Patterson, Scotland County Manager, and that both indicated they are interested in participating if all parties participate equally. He added that the Maxton Town Manager was unable to attend the meeting. He further added that the County will probably want to be represented on the LMA Board if it participates in this proposal.

Following further discussion, motion was made by Councilmember Faulk, seconded by Councilmember Rainer, and unanimously carried to approve the proposal by Marlowe and Company contingent upon participation by the Laurinburg/Maxton Airport Commission, the Town of Maxton and Scotland County.

COUNCIL RETREAT TO DISCUSS UPCOMING BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2009-2010

The City Manager explained that it is time once again to look at the City's 5-year plan and to set goals and objectives for the upcoming budget year. He added that in the past Council has held the retreat on two (2) days, half a day each day. With Council's permission, staff felt that Council needed to just look at one full day. Staff suggests the

following dates for a retreat:

March 5, 6 or 7
March 12 or 14
March 19, 20 or 21

Following discussion, it was consensus of Council to hold the retreat on Friday, March 13, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. in the council room of the Municipal Building located at 303 West Church Street.

RESOLUTION REQUESTING STATE ASSISTANCE FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF OLD WATER LINES IN SEVERAL SECTIONS OF THE CITY OF LAURINBURG

The City Manager explained that the resolution authorizes the City to apply for State assistance for water line projects. He added that this money is part of the Stimulus package and that, at this point, it is unknown if it will be in the form of grants or loans. He further added that if the money is in loan form, the loans could be for 20 years at zero percent (0%) interest.

Councilmember Parker moved for the adoption of Resolution No. R-2009-06 which authorizes application for State assistance for water line projects in several sections of the City of Laurinburg. Councilmember DeBerry seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Parker, Rainer, Faulk, Leak, DeBerry
Nays: None
(Resolution No. R-2009-06 on file in Clerk's Office)

MAYORAL UPDATE

Mayor Block explained that since it had been a long meeting, he would provide his Mayoral update at a later date.

CITY MANAGER RESIGNATION

Mayor Block advised Council that the City Manager had submitted his resignation to be effective April 3, 2009. He stated that the City Manager had done a great job and wished him well. The City Manager has agreed to take the position of County Manager in Alamance County, North Carolina.

Motion was made by Councilmember Parker, seconded by Councilmember Faulk, and unanimously carried to accept the resignation of the City Manager effective April 3, 2009.

A brief discussion ensued concerning the City Manager hiring process. Mayor Block requested that Mr. Bob Bell, Human Resources/Risk Management Director, contact Hartwell Wright with the NC League of Municipalities for recommendations on how to best proceed.

The City Manager requested that Mr. Bell send him the job description for City Manager so that he could email it to Council for review and consideration.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Councilmember Rainer expressed his concern about internet cafes. The City Manager stated that he would notify legislators to consider proposed changes in the current law regarding internet cafes.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

Matthew Block, Mayor

Dolores A. Hammond, City Clerk