

**CITY OF LAURINBURG  
AGENDA WORKSHOP  
AUGUST 10, 2010  
W. CHARLES BARRETT ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
305 WEST CHURCH ST  
7:00 P.M.**

**Minutes**

The City Council of the City of Laurinburg held an agenda meeting August 10, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room of the Barrett Administration Building with the Honorable Matthew Block, Mayor, presiding. The following Councilmembers were present: Curtis B. Leak, Kenton Spencer, Herbert M. Rainer, Jr., and Joy Ellison. *Councilmember Thomas W. Parker, III arrived at 7:50 p.m.*

Also present were Edward F. Burchins, City Manager, Dolores A. Hammond, City Clerk and Charles L. Hicks, Jr., Assistant City Attorney.

Mayor Block called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Councilmember Ellison gave the invocation.

The City Manager presented the consent agenda which is as follows:

1. Consent Agenda
  - a. Set public hearing to be held Tuesday, September 21, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the upstairs room of the Municipal Building located at 303 West Church St. on a request to rezone from Residential-6 to General Business property located at 112 Tucker St., 928 and 932 South Main St.  
*Mr. Peele explained that Mrs. Desiree Block is requesting the rezoning and that the Laurinburg Planning Board was hearing this request at its meeting tonight. He stated that Council would need to set a public hearing on this request.*

The City Manager then reviewed the remainder of the agenda.

2. Public hearings on assessment roll and levies for Deluca and Peele Streets  
*No discussion.*
3. Swearing in of Laurinburg Housing Authority appointee (Crowell Holcomb)  
*No discussion.*
4. A representative from Scots for Youth to discuss ideas on how the city and other groups could help in their efforts to help young high school dropouts or suspended students  
*No discussion.*
5. Council to accept fair housing plan for the upcoming Scottish Glen Phase II project  
*Councilmember Leak suggested that the information on the fair housing plan be put in the City's utility bills.*
6. Setting public hearing on voluntary annexation by St. John's Holiness Church - Wagram Road  
*The City Manager explained that there is a question about one of the trustees but that the City Clerk and the Attorney are working together to resolve the issue.*
7. Consider Resolution authorizing the sale of 20.26 acres, more or less, of land at

Laurinburg-Maxton Airbase to Umicore USA Inc. and execution of deed  
*A discussion ensued concerning how the funds from the sale could be allocated, (escrow, etc.) Council suggested that discussions be held on allocating the funds from the sale of land toward the renovation of the runway. Further discussion will take place at regular meeting. Further discussion ensued about the City of Laurinburg buying out Maxton's interest in the Airport. The Attorney stated he would investigate.*

8. Consider Ordinance which designates handicapped parking spaces on Covington St. at Covington Street Elementary School  
*Mr. Bill Peele, Zoning Officer, stated that there is currently a loading zone at the school and that the school is requesting a handicapped space. Mr. Peele was instructed to talk with the school about reconfiguring the parking spaces to accommodate the needs in a more efficient manner.*
9. Report on substandard housing  
*The City Manager explained that \$30,000.00 was added to the budget in order to deal with dilapidated properties. He stated that there has been discussion about the criteria for ranking which properties would be chosen. He stated that Mr. Peele has prepared a report about what conditions are considered before action is taken. Mr. Peele reported the procedures in determining properties to be condemned. He stated that if the cost of repairs to the dwelling exceed 50% of value, the property owner is required to demolish and clear the property; if less than 50% of value, the property owner is required to secure or repair the property. He further explained the process and the costs of condemnation. A discussion ensued regarding a foreclosure policy and the problems locating property owners. The City Manager suggested that staff take an entrepreneurial approach when a property cannot be dealt with through its owners, that staff give Council the rationale as to why the property needs to be considered for condemnation and that it also give a quarterly report as to substandard property.*

*Councilmember Parker arrived at 7:50 p.m.*

10. Unpaved driveway aprons for existing businesses  
*The City Manager explained that this item was mentioned at a prior meeting. There was concern about businesses and private lots that do not have paved parking areas. Staff researched this request and found that a majority of the cities and towns require paved driveway aprons for new businesses but not for existing businesses unless significant improvements are made to the parking lot. Mr. Peele explained parking criteria as adopted in the Unified Development Ordinance. (No action)*
11. Chamber of Commerce Washington, DC Fly-in  
*Councilmembers were asked who might be interested in attending this function. Councilmember Parker stated that the Council, County Commissioners, and Chamber representatives should discuss legislative goals before the meeting. The City Manager stated that the fly-in is supported by the Chamber's Governmental Affairs Committee and that he would find out more information and have it available at the upcoming regular meeting*
12. Appointment to Beautification Committee  
*Scotland County High School representative*
13. Discussion on recognition of the Golden Knights for their world competition win

*Councilmember Spencer stated that the Golden Knights won second place in a world competition and that Council should consider honoring them along with the ladies competition team which won first place in the women's competition. Consensus to research information and find out when they may be able to attend a meeting or special ceremony.*

The City Manager stated that there is another item that came up after the agenda was set and turned the details of the item over to Stacey McQuage, Public Utilities Director.

Mr. McQuage stated that there is a sweeper budgeted for the City to purchase. He explained that he would like to add it to September's agenda. \$180,000.00 was budgeted and this item would be financed. He stated that he will advertise the sweeper in the local newspaper and will bring it to Council at its September meeting.

Upon question by Councilmember Leak, the City Manager stated that he had not heard anything further about the Newtown project.

Councilmember Rainer stated that residents in the area of the Central School Apartments had mentioned to him about people trespassing on the property.

The City Clerk was instructed to call the Laurinburg Housing Authority and speak with Mrs. Nancy Walker about the concern.

Councilmember Leak suggested that Mrs. Walker come before Council and discuss the activities in the Washington Park Area.

The City Manager stated that he would contact Mrs. Walker.

The City Manager stated that the National Guard Armory was very helpful in letting the City use its facilities for the City's Summer Youth Program. He explained that he and the Mayor had met with General Clint Willis to discuss improving the looks of the facility.

The City Manager stated he would like to put a spotlight on the armory's flag pole. He informed Council that the light is constantly being kicked out and that the cost to light the flag pole per month is \$13.00. He is asking that the City install the light and pay the energy charge.

A discussion ensued about the energy charge and it was decided that was not something the City should do.

The City Manager stated that Council's retreat is coming up, and he itemized some of the issues to discuss as follows:

1. Downtown Redevelopment
2. Main Street Program
3. Community and Recreation Center (options and opportunities)
4. Funding non-profit organizations
5. Results of the Industrial Site proposal
6. Discussion on potential economic development uses for the Laurinburg/Maxton airport
7. BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure) program
8. Technology (Automated Meter Reading, consolidation of hardware and software in a

- secure facility)  
9. Employee Succession Planning

He also stated that Councilmembers should let him know about any topic that they would like to discuss.

A discussion ensued regarding retreat topics and a list will be finalized after Councilmembers send their requests in to the City Manager.

There was also discussion concerning dates for the retreat. It was consensus that Council set the time and date at the upcoming regular meeting August 17, 2010.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

---

Matthew Block, Mayor

---

Dolores A. Hammond, City Clerk