

**CITY OF LAURINBURG  
COUNCIL MEETING  
AUGUST 17, 2010  
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 August 17, 2010 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: Joy Ellison, Curtis B. Leak, Thomas W. Parker, III, Herbert M. Rainer, Jr. and Kenton T. Spencer.

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 7:00 p.m. Councilmember Ellison gave the invocation.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The City Manager presented the Consent Agenda indicating all items were considered to be routine and could be enacted simultaneously with one motion and a roll call vote.

The items on the Consent Agenda were as follows:

- 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.

Councilmember Leak moved for the approval of the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Parker seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Leak, Ellison, Rainer, Spencer, Parker

Nays: None

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**RESOLUTION WHICH CONFIRMS THE ASSESSMENT ROLL AND LEVIES ASSESSMENTS FOR STREET IMPROVEMENTS ON DELUCA STREET**

Mayor Block explained that the City Council adopted a resolution on September 22, 2009 ordering street improvements to a portion of Deluca Street. Under House Bill 1552 the City can levy special assessments for street improvements without petition. The costs of the improvements have been declared to be \$5,575.00. A copy of the proposed assessment roll was

available in the Clerk's Office during the past 30 days. If approved, the assessments will be delivered to the City Tax Collector for collection.

All property owners were notified of the public hearing

He then declared the public hearing open.

There was no one to speak for or against this resolution.

Mayor Block then closed the public hearing.

Councilmember Parker moved for the adoption of Resolution No. R-2010-14 which confirms the assessment roll and levies assessments for street improvements on Deluca Street. Councilmember Rainer seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Parker, Spencer, Rainer, Ellison, Leak

Nays: None

(Resolution No. R-2010-14 on file in the City Clerk's Office)

**RESOLUTION WHICH CONFIRMS THE ASSESSMENT ROLL AND LEVIES ASSESSMENTS FOR STREET IMPROVEMENTS ON A PORTION OF PEELE STREET**

Mayor Block explained that the City Council adopted a resolution on September 22, 2009 ordering street improvements to a portion of Peele Street. Under House Bill 1552 the City can levy special assessments for street improvements without petition. The costs of the improvements have been declared to be \$6,375. A copy of the proposed assessment roll was available in the Clerk's Office during the past 30 days. If approved, the assessments will be delivered to the City Tax Collector for collection

All property owners were notified of the public hearing.

Mayor Block opened the public hearing.

There was no one to speak for or against this resolution.

Mayor Block then closed the public hearing.

Councilmember Parker moved for the adoption of Resolution No. R-2010-15 which confirms the assessment roll and levies assessments for street improvements on Peele Street. Councilmember Leak seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Parker, Leak, Ellison, Rainer, Spencer

Nays: None

(Resolution No. R-2010-15 on file in the City Clerk's Office)

**LAURINBURG HOUSING AUTHORITY SWEARING IN**

Mayor Block swore in Mr. Crowell Holcomb to serve on the Laurinburg Housing Authority Board and thanked Mr. Holcomb for serving.

## **DELEGATION**

### **SCOTS FOR YOUTH – STEPHANIE MONROE --**

There was no one in attendance from the organization.

## **CITY MANAGER REPORTS**

### **FAIR HOUSING PLAN**

The City Manager explained that one of the requirements for the Community Development Block Grant for the Scottish Winds Apartments, Phase II was that Council adopt a Fair Housing Plan. He also stated that notification of the adoption of the plan will be mailed with the City's utility bills.

Motion was made by Councilmember Parker, seconded by Councilmember Rainer, and unanimously passed to adopt the Fair Housing Plan per the requirements of the Community Development Block Grant.

### **VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION**

The proposed Resolution No. R-2010-16 sets a public hearing to be held Tuesday, September 21, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. The public hearing will be held in the upstairs council room located at the Municipal Building at 303 West Church St., Laurinburg, NC. The public hearing is for public input on a voluntary annexation requested by St. John's Holiness Church for property located on Wagram Rd.

He also explained that at Council's workshop session the City Clerk had stated there was a minor error involving the name of one of the trustees that needed to be corrected before she signed the sufficiency certificate. He explained that this had been dealt with and that an affidavit explaining the error has been provided and incorporated into the minutes. With this, the City Clerk has investigated the sufficiency of the voluntary annexation petition and found it to be correct.

Councilmember Leak moved for the adoption of Resolution No. R-2010-16 which sets a public hearing to be held Tuesday, September 21, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the upstairs council room located in the Municipal Building at 303 West Church St. for the purpose of considering voluntary annexation of property on Wagram Road owned by St. Johns Holiness Church. Councilmember Rainer seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Leak, Ellison, Rainer, Spencer, Parker

Nays: None

(Resolution No. R-2010-16 on file in the City Clerk's office)

### **LAURINBURG-MAXTON AIRBASE - SALE OF PROPERTY**

The City Manager stated that the Laurinburg/Maxton Airport Commission has received an offer to purchase 20.26 acres, more or less, of land at the Laurinburg/Maxton Airport from Umicore USA Inc. The offer for the property is the full, fair and adequate market value and the best interest of the City of Laurinburg and the Town of Maxton will be served by the acceptance of the offer. The Town Council of Maxton will also need to approve this sale of property. The proposed resolution authorizes the sale of 20.26 acres, more or less, at the Laurinburg/Maxton Airport to Umicore US, Inc. and authorizes the Mayor and City Clerk to execute a deed of conveyance for the property.

Councilmember Spencer stated that he would like to see the proceeds of the sale of the land set aside in an escrow account for improvements to the airport runway.

Mr. Terry Garner, Laurinburg-Maxton Airport Commission Attorney, stated that he was present on behalf of the Commission. He explained that monies from the sale of property at the airport have always been handled pursuant to the terms of the agreement originally set up with the Federal Government. The money from the sale of land is restricted in its use and can only be used for airport repairs and improvements. It cannot be used for regular operating expenses, salaries, or things of that nature.

He then explained that there is one correction in the deed regarding height restrictions. He stated that he had spoken with the Assistant City Attorney and that the restriction in the proposed deed of 150 feet would be changed to simply require that Umicore comply with all FAA regulations regarding height restrictions. He explained that the property is not in the flight pattern of the airport but that having Umicore comply with FAA regulations would be the best way to handle restrictions.

A discussion ensued concerning the sale of the property and that the proceeds be put in an escrow account for the airport runway improvements.

Councilmember Parker, who is the Council appointed representative on the Airport Commission, explained that he had spoken with JoAnn Gentry, Interim Airport Director and that she is investigating whether the proceeds could actually be set aside as Council wishes.

A discussion ensued concerning the Town of Maxton and if it would participate in any funding of the airport.

Mr. Garner stated that he could not speak on behalf of the Town of Maxton.

A discussion evolved concerning adopting two resolutions: one for the sale of the property and one directing that the monies be held in escrow for the proposed runway improvements.

Upon question by Mayor Block, the Assistant City Attorney stated that Council could approve the sale of the property by the proposed resolution and then, by further resolution, direct that the proceeds of sale not be spent by the Airport Commission but rather be held until they propose and receive approval from the Laurinburg City Council on how the funds will be spent.

Councilmember Parker suggested that Council vote on the resolution and then have the Interim Airport Executive Director appear before Council at Council's next regular meeting to explain

the accounting procedures regarding how the monies could be expended. He stated that after the meeting if Council needs another resolution that it could be drafted and introduced for approval.

Mayor Block suggested that Council vote on approval of the proposed resolution and that the Assistant City Attorney work with the Airport Commission, Mrs. Gentry and Mr. Garner regarding the use of the proceeds from the sale of the property.

Councilmember Spencer moved for the adoption of Resolution No. R-2010-17 which authorizes the sale of 20.26 acres, more or less, at the Laurinburg/Maxton Airport to Umicore US, Inc. and which authorizes the Mayor and City Clerk to execute a deed for said property. Councilmember Rainer seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Spencer, Rainer, Ellison, Leak, Parker

Nays: None

(Resolution No. R-2010-17 on file in the City Clerk's office)

### **ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING TWO HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACES AT COVINGTON STREET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

The City Manager explained that Ms. Sandra Wilcher, Principal of Covington Street Elementary School, has requested that approximately 40 feet of road along the curb of West Covington Street adjacent to the already designated loading zone be designated for handicapped parking.

Upon question by Councilmember Leak, Mr. Bill Peele, City Zoning Officer, stated that he had discussed with Ms. Wilcher about the location of the designated handicapped parking spaces. He then stated that there is no handicapped curb cut anywhere along the entire block. The parking spaces would free up the existing loading zone to accommodate daycare and after school care pick up and drop off. It will also provide a handicapped parking space for an existing member of the facility that needs more accommodating parking facilities. The other space would be used in the event that a handicapped space is needed by visitors to the school.

A discussion ensued regarding the fact that there is no handicapped curb cut in the designated spaces.

Following discussion, Councilmember Parker motioned to approved Ordinance No. O-2010-17 with the requirement that the access for handicapped persons be generally along approved standards. Councilmember Rainer seconded the motion, and it was denied by the following vote:

Ayes: Parker, Spencer

Nays: Rainer, Ellison, Leak

Councilmember Parker then moved for the adopting of Ordinance No. 2010-17 with the requirement that access for handicapped persons generally along approved standards be within reasonable proximity to the two designated spaces as determined by the City Manager and City Staff so that it provides appropriate access to handicapped persons.

Councilmember Rainer seconded the motion, and it was passed by the following vote:

Ayes: Ellison, Rainer, Spencer, Parker, Leak  
Nays: None  
(Ordinance No. O-2010-17 on file in the City Clerk's office)

## **LAURINBURG HOUSING AUTHORITY**

Mrs. Nancy Walker, Laurinburg Housing Authority Director, gave an update on the construction of Scottish Glen Apartments, Phase II.

## **CITY COUNCIL FALL RETREAT**

During discussion at Council workshop, the suggested month for the retreat was September. This retreat would allow Council to discuss future projects and allow for the development of a strategic plan. Each Councilmember is to bring 2-3 items for consideration to the next workshop in order to formulate an agenda.

The consensus of Council as the date for the fall retreat is Friday, September 24, 2010 beginning at 3:00 p.m. and Saturday, September 25, 2010 beginning at 12 Noon.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

Mayor Block explained that Jaimika Patel, Scotland High School, recommended that Will Collins, Scotland High School representative be appointed to the City of Laurinburg Beautification Committee.

Motion was made by Councilmember Parker, seconded by Councilmember Leak, and unanimously approved to appoint Will Collins to the City of Laurinburg Beautification Committee.

## **COMMENTS FROM MAYOR AND/OR COUNCILMEMBERS**

Councilmember Spencer had suggested in the work session that the Golden Knights, both men and women teams, be recognized for their accomplishments in the recent world skydiving event. The men's team came in second in the event, and the women's team came in first. His suggestion is to award the teams a plaque as well as anything else that Council deems appropriate.

The City Manager stated he would make contact with SFC Brian Krause.

Councilmember Leak suggested that the Golden Knights be considered as grand marshals for the Laurinburg/Scotland County Chamber of Commerce Christmas parade.

Councilmember Rainer stated that Mr. Galligan who operates the fish market on Old Lumberton Road would like to be responsible for cutting grass and for upkeep of the right-of-way at his business location.

The City Manager stated that he or Stacey McQuage, Public Works, would give Mr. Galligan a call.

Councilmember Spencer stated that in front of Scotland High School on the convenience store side that there is no sidewalk. He said that this could be potentially dangerous to students at the high school.

The City Manager stated that the road is a NC Department of Transportation (DOT) road and that there is no curbing along the road which is a requirement of DOT to install sidewalks. He also stated that he would give them a call to inquire about the issue.

Councilmember Rainer stated that there seemed to be a manhole problem on Vance Street near James Street and also one near the Central School apartments on the Covington Street side. He asked that someone investigate.

The City Manager stated that he would have someone look into the issue tomorrow morning.

Mayor Block congratulated Councilmembers for getting the gym program put together so quickly. He stated he felt it was a great success.

Councilmember Parker informed Council that bids for improvements to the Laurinburg-Maxton Airport runway were opened and that he will give a further report at Council next meeting.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No one appeared to speak during the public comment period.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

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Matthew Block, Mayor

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Dolores A. Hammond, City Clerk