

**CITY OF LAURINBURG  
COUNCIL MEETING  
JUNE 1, 2010  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
305 WEST CHURCH STREET  
LAURINBURG, NC  
6:30 P.M.**

**Minutes**

The City Council of the City of Laurinburg reconvened its regular meeting held on May 18, recessed on that date until May 25, 2010, reconvened and recessed on that date until May 26, 2010, and reconvened and recessed on that date until this date and time, June 1, 2010, at 6:30 p.m., in the council room of the Municipal Building with the Honorable Matthew Block, Mayor, presiding. The following Councilmembers were present: Curtis B. Leak, Kenton Spencer, and new councilmember Davian LaJoyce "Joy" Ellison. Councilmember Parker arrived at 6:50 p.m. Councilmember Herbert M. Rainer, Jr. was absent.

The City Manager explained that at this time the proposed 2010-2011 budget will be presented to Council.

**BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE**

Stacey McQuage, Utilities Director, presented the Building and Maintenance proposed 2010-2011 budget. No notable changes were made or discussed.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Mr. Bill Riemer, Director of Administration and Community Development, presented the Administration portion of the Community Development Department proposed 2010-2011 budget. He commented on travel for him and his administrative assistant/deputy clerk.

The City Manager stated that Mr. Riemer will assist him in attending meetings in order to divide the City Manager's time more efficiently. He also stated that Mr. Riemer will continue to work on grants for the City of Laurinburg.

*Councilmember Parker arrived at 6:50 p.m.*

A discussion ensued on the number of grants (7) that Mr. Reimer was either completing or applying for and whether there is a need for an additional person or at least a part time person to assist him in this area.

Mr. Riemer stated that when the Richmond Community College project is completed (which should be the end of June) he will be free to work and continue working on other grants.

Councilmember Leak asked that Mr. Riemer provide information on the grants that he is working on.

Mr. Riemer stated that he is working on the Richmond County Community College, two Community Development grants and several Rural Center grants.

Councilmember Leak asked that a summary of the costs for the Richmond Community College project be presented once it is completed.

The City Manager stated that he and Mr. Riemer will discuss grants that have been awarded, those that have been turned down, and those that are being applied for.

Councilmember Leak stated that with the reorganization of the Community Development Department the City Manager should reconsider putting the Planning Department, GIS, and the Cemetery Department back under the direction of Mr. Riemer.

The City Manager stated that by combining the cemetery department with the street department it has allowed staff to better utilize employees.

The City Manager stated that the Planning Department reports to him; therefore, he can keep a handle on what is developing in the City.

Upon question by Councilmember Parker, Mr. Riemer stated that the employees in the Community Development Department have been with the City for so long that the department runs itself.

Councilmember Spencer stated that the City could do a better job communicating to its citizens on what is happening with the City by utilizing the Community Access Channel.

There were no changes in the Administration Department of Community Development.

## **PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

Mr. Bill Peele, Zoning Officer, explained that this was his first budget presentation to Council because Bill Riemer had previously presented the entire Community Development Department budget.

Mr. Peele stated that for the last two of three years requests had been made and not funded. Therefore, the department decided to hold the line on the budget and has not requested any additions.

The City Manager stated that he was requesting a part time person in this department to investigate dilapidated structures. He then stated that he had had discussions with Mr. Peele but was told that another person was not needed but that funds to tear down the dilapidated structures was needed.

Mr. Peele explained that the department was successful this year in tearing some houses down because of foreclosures, negotiating property sales with private individuals, and working with individuals and with private companies to demolish houses that did not involve the City. There are about 12-15 houses that need to be repaired or demolished. Often times, the condemnation process deals with asbestos removal and that is an expensive process. He explained that depending on the size of the house, it is turned over to Public Works to tear down and then taken to the landfill. The tipping fees are paid by the City and then a lien is placed on the property.

A discussion ensued concerning a listing of the houses and whether the fire department makes use of any of the structures for fire training.

Mr. Peele stated that there are some houses that are turned over to the Fire Department with a cost of about \$2,000.00 per house. Demolition costs run around \$8,000.00 - \$10,000.00 per house.

Mr. Peele was instructed to compile a list of properties and to consider the least expensive houses to as being first for demolition.

A discussion ensued concerning the sale of lots once the structure is eliminated.

*Following further discussion, it was consensus among Councilmembers that \$30,000.00 be added to contracted services in the Planning Department budget for demolition.*

Councilmember Leak stated that there needs to be consideration of an ordinance to remove upholstered furniture from citizen's front porches.

Mr. Riemer stated that with respect to the GIS (Geographic Information System), one of the budget's changes is the

maintenance amount for the GIS software.

The City Manager stated that the City gets a lot of demand from the county, citizens, and the prison for maps and GIS information.

Upon question by Mayor Block, Mr. Riemer stated that it varies in what the needs are from the County. He stated that charges for maps, etc. is covered in the City of Laurinburg's Schedule of fees.

The City Manager stated that there is \$9,000.00 in capital outlay in the GIS department to buy a handheld GIS device to count the number of power poles. This information is needed in order to build a database to consider the amount of fees to charge entities that attach to the City's power poles.

The City Manager stated that he would research this item and find out if it could be charged to the Electric Department considering the main purpose is to build a database on electric poles.

### **SCOTLAND COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD**

Mr. Chad Donaldson, Rescue Squad Commander, reported that the rescue squad is a joint department funded by the City and Scotland County. He explained that the department's duties. He explained that the one change in the proposed budget is for infection control, and this is for hepatitis shots to give an additional 15 volunteers who have joined the squad. He also explained that this is the last year for payments on the rescue truck that was originally financed for a five-year period.

He also explained that the State's requirement for training has increased; therefore, the travel budget has increased slightly to comply with the regulations.

### **RECESS**

Motion was made by Councilmember Parker, seconded by Councilmember Leak, and unanimously carried to recess until Wednesday, June 9, 2010 beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the upstairs council room of the Municipal Building located at 303 West Church St.

The meeting recessed at 8:03 p.m.

---

Matthew Block, Mayor

---

Dolores A. Hammond, City Clerk