

**CITY OF LAURINBURG
COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 4, 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, reconvened and recessed on that date until June 1, 2010, and reconvened and recessed to this date and time, June 4, 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, Davian LaJoyce "Joy" Ellison, and Herbert M. Rainer, Jr. Councilmember Parker arrived at 6:50 p.m.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The City Manager explained that the Fire Chief was unable to attend this evening. He began by explaining that there are a couple of things in capital outlay that need to be addressed. There are hoses and nozzles on the trucks need to be replaced because they are cracking or breaking. There is also a need for turnout gear. He then explained that there is \$35,000.00 included to match a grant for a new pumper truck. He said that this amount could be removed if discussions with the County are finalized with respect to a 50/50 purchase for a truck.

He then explained that the City needs a new fire truck (pumper). He suggested that, because it takes nine months to a year to spec a truck out and have it built before delivery, he suggests that in January or February specs could be developed, brought to Council, bids received, and it could be ordered with delivery of the truck in next year's fiscal budget (2011-2012).

Upon discussion regarding the purchase of fire trucks, it was suggested that specifications for two trucks be sent out in the latter part of the proposed 2011-2012 budget and included in the proposed budget for 2013-14

The City Manager stated that the Fire Chief, Harold Smith, has announced his retirement effective July 1, 2010. He stated that there has been conversation about hiring a full time fire chief. He suggested to Council that he would like to meet with the fire department employees and volunteers to ascertain the need for a full time fire chief. He will then bring back to Council what the discussions where and how to proceed with the filling of the fire chief position.

Councilmember Spencer stated that he would like to see a promotion within the fire department employees or volunteers (if appropriate) along with reviewing the salary structure before any decision is made.

Upon question by Councilmember Ellison, Cindy Carpenter, Finance Director stated that the expense for travel and schools for paid firemen and volunteers is included in the amount.

The City Manager stated that the travel and training could be increased from \$2,000.00 \$3,500.00.

It was consensus among Council to increase the travel and training line item to \$3,500.00.

Councilmember Leak suggested that the fire department employees take better care of its surroundings at the fire station by cutting grass more often. The City Manager stated that he will look into the issue.

The City Manager explained that there has been a hold up on the completion of the fire tower and that situation is being taken care.

PUBLIC WORKS/ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Harold Haywood, General Services Director, stated that there are not major changes in the 2010-2011 proposed budget.

He explained that this budget is a portion of an administrative support assistant, an office assistant, and a portion of the technology specialist.

There are no capital outlay requests in the proposed budget.

FUELING FACILITY

Mr. Haywood then explained the fueling facility which is shared with Scotland County. He stated that the biggest expense in the department is the removal of five old steel tanks. The estimated cost is \$100,000.00. The tanks are at or over 30 years old.

Ms. Carpenter stated that fuel costs are charged to each department in the City, and the County is billed for their usage.

A discussion ensued on the contracted services line item. Mr. Haywood explained that this is for software maintenance and for a new fuel and maintenance service program that will allow web based service records for every department. This will allow each department to view its vehicle maintenance needs and what amount of fuel is being used.

He also explained that cards will be issued in order to purchase fuel outside the fueling facility in case of an emergency and when the tanks are not operable.

GARAGE

Mr. Haywood explained that the biggest change in this department is for a tire changer. The current changer is 25 years old and needs to be replaced because of the change in the size of tires on vehicles.

ANIMAL CONTROL

Mr. Haywood explained that, because of the retirement of the Animal Control officer, the salary for this position decreased. He then explained that a person in the Garage Department was moved into the animal control position. He stated that an employee was transferred from the Sanitation Department into the Garage position therefore eliminating a position in the Sanitation Department.

Councilmember Leak stated that he had asked about the consolidation of this department with Scotland County. He was informed by Ms. Carpenter that there had been discussions with the County Manager but that it was found that there would not be any savings to the City if this department were to be consolidated. He commended Mr. Haywood for his creativity in this vacancy.

Mr. Haywood explained that the Animal Control Officer will need training to complete certification requirements of the State.

Councilmember Ellison thanked Mr. Haywood for his thoroughness in preparing his proposed budget.

SOLID WASTE

Ms. Carpenter explained that there are no real changes on the revenue side for solid waste. There will be a slight increase in recycling revenues but no changes in fees for solid waste.

SANITATION

Mr. Haywood stated that, with the transfer of one of the sanitation employees to the Garage Department, the number of workers has decreased from 19 to 18.

Mr. Haywood explained the largest change in the Sanitation Department is the increase in tipping fees that is paid to Scotland County. The County's tipping fee will increase in the 2010-2011 proposed budget from \$45.75 per ton to \$49.75 per ton.

He stated the Sanitation Department is fading out the knuckleboom trucks in order to purchase and transition to a one man leaf machine. This concept was implemented last year which also eliminated a position. This will see the same result in the proposed budget.

The monies for the purchase of the roll-out carts for recycling are included in this proposed budget. He explained that there will be a bar code on the carts in order to track citizens who recycle and those who do not.

NON-PROFIT REQUEST

Mrs. Jan Schmidt of the Storytelling Arts Center appeared before Council to report on the activities of the Storytelling Arts Center. She informed Council that the center is now in the downtown area. She explained that they have received funds from the NC Rural Center as well as private individuals.

She explained that the Center is trying to expand by having more events. She then explained that the grants pay for exhibits but not for display boards, lighting, alarm system, and other items needed to make the Center more useable.

She stated that she is asking Council to allocate \$7,500.00 to the Storytelling Arts Center.

Council will consider this request in preparing the final budget.

WATER/SEWER FUND

Mr. Robert Ellis, Water/Wastewater Treatment Plants Director, stated that the main unusual item he is requesting in the proposed budget is to rehab Well #6 (located at the water plant) or drill another well on the existing site or another well site. One other item is that the elevated tank located on 401 South needs to be painted.

He also pointed out that the State has new requirements that we have water and meter readings on individual wells everyday. This can be accomplished with the proposed Datamatic system which is currently under discussion.

There is a request for two vehicles to be replaced. He explained that one is solely for the water plant, and one is used between the water plant and the wastewater plant.

A discussion ensued on the price of chemicals in the next budget year.

Upon question by Councilmember Leak, the proposed alternate well site would be in the Johns Station area.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT

Mr. Ellis stated that the largest increase in this proposed budget is in capital improvement which includes one-half (½) the cost of a vehicle. He explained that other improvements are for the land application of sludge and for the purchase of equipment so that this process can be done by City staff instead of being contracted out.

The City has 34 lift stations in its collection system and the thought process is to hire an engineering firm to see if there is a way to eliminate some in order to minimize the number of pump stations. The pump stations that the city has are getting old, and the \$30,000.00 line item is always included in the budget in case there needs to be repairs.

Councilmember Spencer requested a capital outlay list and the items being proposed to finance.

The City Manager asked if the name of the City should be painted on the tank and if the All America City logo should be repainted.

Mr. Ellis will find out the cost to have the City of Laurinburg painted on the tank versus the All America City.

The City Manager stated that the next time Council meets, they will finish up the General Fund and that the Non-Departmental line items as well as capital financing will be discussed.

RECESS

Motion was made by Councilmember Ellison, seconded by Councilmember Rainer, and unanimously carried to recess until Monday, June 7, 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 8:16 p.m.

Matthew Block, Mayor

Dolores A. Hammond, City Clerk