

**CITY OF LAURINBURG
COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 7, 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, 2010, 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, reconvened and recessed on that date June 4, 2010, and reconvened and recessed on that date until this date and time, June 7, 2010 at 6:30, in the council room of the Municipal Building. Councilmembers present were Curtis B. Leak and Davian LaJoyce "Joy" Ellison. Councilmember Thomas W. Parker, III arrived at 6:45 p.m.

Councilmember Kenton Spencer arrived at 6:50 p.m. Mayor Matthew Block and Councilmember Herbert M. Rainer, Jr. were absent.

2010-2011 PROPOSED BUDGET

ELECTRIC

Ronald Pierce, Electric Utilities Director, reviewed the budget requests for the Electric Department's 2010-2011 proposed budget. He explained that the electric pole inventory process is underway. He also explained that pole attachment agreements are being discussed and will be brought back to Council at a later date.

He stated that the proposed \$30,000.00 request is for the City's engineering consultant.

Cindy Carpenter, Finance Director, explained the electric purchases included in the proposed budget. There are no proposed electric rate increases.

Councilmember Parker arrived at 6:45 p.m.

The City Manager stated that within the City IT Department negotiations are being held with a new company to lease part of the City's fiber optic system and to provide services to the City. This company will take the place of Schoollink, Inc. He explained that Marcus Smith, the City's IT employee, is working very closely with the company. An agreement will be brought to Council for approval at a later date.

Marcus Smith stated that there are many technology needs for the City, and the proposed budget reflects some of the needs. He then stated that he hopes Council will take into consideration the technology needs of the City. He also stated that there are new ventures that the City should consider in the near future.

Councilmember Spencer arrived 6:50 p.m.

A discussion ensued concerning the technology needs of the City including a climate controlled facility for all the City's servers.

Mr. Smith stated that he would like someone from the School of Government to address Council regarding the world of technology and what benefits the City would derive from them. Councilmember Leak suggested that a meeting be set up.

Councilmember Parker asked, if the City begins to finance purchases, what the impact of the financing would be on the tax rate for the next four years.

The City Manager stated that there is no plan for any impact but that they would discuss with Council on Wednesday, June 8, the plans for financing.

Councilmember Parker left at 7:20 p.m.

CONSUMER BILLING

Mrs. Diane Chavis, Customer Service Supervisor, stated that there were not any major changes in the proposed budget for consumer billing from last year's budget.

She then stated that the drive-thru window needs to be replaced as well as the security system in the department.

A discussion ensued on how deposits were determined, the difference between property owner and rental property as well as credit card fees.

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

Stacey McQuage, Utilities Director, stated that previously this was the Beautification Department but that in reorganizing, the Beautification Supervisor position was eliminated and one position was promoted to a leader position. The department is now under his leadership.

Councilmember Leak suggested that the roof over the Council Room be completed.

The City Manager stated that city crews will be mowing the 401 By-pass and other areas that were previously contracted out to other sources.

The City Manager also stated that a lot of trees along the rights-of-way are beginning to deteriorate and die. He explained that an urban forestry grant has been applied for. The grant funds would be utilized to analyze the condition of city trees.

Councilmember Spencer stated that there should be an integrated master plan for the entire City department.

A discussion ensued on the potential costs for a master plan and the potential cost of a tax increase.

CEMETERY

Mr. McQuage explained that this department is currently under his leadership. He explained that the employees in this department also help in the streets and highway department.

STREET & HIGHWAYS

Mr. McQuage explained that there are plans to replace the mosquito fogger and street sweeper in the proposed 2010-2011 budget.

There is also a bridge replacement cost to replace the bridge on Commonwealth. The City will need to pay 20 percent of that cost, and the State will pay the balance.

He stated that two positions have been eliminated from this department.

Discussions continued on storm drainage, water distribution and sewer.

There were no actions taken.

Councilmember Leak stated that there seems to be an odor coming from the old Laurinburg Milling facility. The City Manager stated that he would contact the County's health department and advise them of the concern.

Motion was made by Councilmember Leak, seconded by Councilmember Spencer, 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 8:19 p.m.

Matthew Block, Mayor

Dolores A. Hammond, City Clerk