

**CITY OF LAURINBURG
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
MAY 26, 2010
SCOTLAND COUNTY GOVERNMENT OFFICES
507 WEST COVINGTON STREET
LAURINBURG, NC
4:00 P.M.**

3

Minutes

The City Council of the City of Laurinburg reconvened its May 18, 2010 meeting on May 26 2010 at 4:00 p.m. as a joint meeting with the Scotland County Board of Commissioners in the conference room of the Scotland County Governmental Offices located at 507 West Covington St. with the Honorable Matthew Block, Mayor, presiding. The following Councilmembers were present: Curtis B. Leak, Thomas W. Parker, III, and Kenton T. Spencer. Absent was Councilmember Herbert M. Rainer, Jr. Also present were Ed Burchins, City Manager, and Jenny Tippett, Deputy City Clerk.

The following Commissioners were present: Chairman J.D. Willis, Vice Chair Betty Blue Gholston and Commissioners Bob Davis, Guy McCook and Joyce McDow. Commissioners not in attendance: Commissioners John Alford and Clarence McPhatter. Also present were Kevin Patterson, County Manager, and Ann W. Kurtzman, Clerk to the Board.

Mayor Block called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

WATER SYSTEM EVALUATION

Mr. Dave Zimmer of CDM, an engineering consulting firm, presented a PowerPoint on the City of Laurinburg and Scotland County Water System Evaluation.

Mr. Zimmer discussed the current City and County water systems and water demand projections through 2035. He then outlined three water system alternatives from 2010 through 2035. He explained that a baseline alternative would include making improvements to meet the needs of the City and County. He further explained that Alternative A would add supply treatment water to Moore County and Pinehurst, and that Alternative B would include the supply of raw water to Moore County and Pinehurst.

Mr. Zimmer said it would not be necessary to purchase WestPoint Stevens Water Plant unless a large industrial customer existed that would use the plant for its water services. Mr. Zimmer said it is important to “stay at the table” and continue regional water discussions.

The City Manager said Campbell Soup would qualify as a large industrial customer, and the company indicated it would be interested in wastewater services through WestPoint Stevens. He added that by negotiating a take or pay contract, Campbell Soup as a water customer would make it worthwhile to pursue the possibility of purchasing the WestPoint Stevens Water Plant.

Mr. Zimmer stated that he agreed with agreed that Campbell Soup as a potential customer would make the decision to purchase a lot easier.

Mr. Zimmer explained the possibility of consolidation of water services. He displayed pre-consolidation and post-consolidation expenditures and revenues for the County and the City. In pre-consolidation, the County shows a deficit in revenues while in post-consolidation both the County and the City would have a net positive in revenues.

Mr. Zimmer said that over time and with rate adjustments, both the City and the County would be in positive revenue positions. Mr. Zimmer recommended the City and County proceed with water consolidation and confirm a consolidated water rate structure.

It was consensus of Council to move forward with the water consolidation effort.

Chairman Willis suggested County Manager Kevin Patterson and City Manager Ed Burchins work with the City and County attorneys on proceeding with the consolidation process.

(A break was called, and the meeting resumed at 5:20 p.m.)

SPELLER BUILDING PROJECT

The County Manager discussed the possibility of the County Tax Office and City Utilities Billing moving to the Speller Building. He explained that the move would free space for the Department of Social Services (DSS) and the Laurinburg Police Department. He stated that the move also would create a centralized, one-stop location for City and County services. He warned that space in the Speller Building would be at capacity from day one.

The County Manager estimated the renovation, installation of a security wall and extension to the waiting area would be \$225,000.00 and \$300,000.00 with furniture moved and in place. Mr. Patterson said the \$300,000.00 estimate does not include making use of the neighboring Sanford building.

Mr. Burchins said it was determined the roof on the Sanford building has a 15-year life expectancy. He suggested the Sanford building be used for space overflow.

Mr. Patterson said \$150,000 is in the proposed FY 2010-2011 budget for the capital expenditure. Mr. Patterson said the County would budget for the custodian position and supplies if the City would pay utilities and share in the capital cost.

It was consensus of the Council to move forward with the Speller Building Project.

TAX CONSOLIDATION

The County Manager proposed that the County look at one tax collection system.

The City Manager stated that a goal would be to cross train all individuals who would work at the collection windows so they would be familiar with all procedures.

Chairman Willis directed the County Manager and Tax Administrator Mary Helen Norton to meet with the City Manager to develop a proposal that both governing boards could review and agree upon.

RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

Commissioner McCook stated that the County, City and school system are pooling their resources in order to maximize opportunities regarding an open gym concept. He added that the three (3) entities are looking at ways to provide youth access to one (1) or more gyms on a controlled, supervised basis, and staff would be on site with structured programming. He further added that it is hoped the open gyms would be available in July or August once resources and funding issues are resolved. He estimated the cost at \$40.00 an hour to keep a facility open.

Mayor Block stated that a committee of 15 to 20 people representing various entities has been formed to look into the development of an indoor recreation facility which would also serve as a community center and performing arts center.

Upon question by Chairman Willis, Mayor Block said the site would be more centrally located in the City rather than at the Morgan Recreation Complex.

Chairman Willis stated that the County would participate in funding such a facility if it was located at the Morgan Complex as outlined in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. He added that the Board of Commissioners made no promises to provide \$5,000.00 for a City/County feasibility study. He further added that the Master Plan addresses a recreation center, and the Master Plan was the result of a lot of work by many people who gathered community input to address community needs.

Commissioner McCook said the recreation facility concept is worthy of continued discussion on what the community wants, the pros and cons and the availability of funding.

Chairman Willis said the County, meanwhile intends to put \$10,000 in its budget as its matching portion for a summer program.

FIRE CONTRACT

Upon question by Chairman Willis, the City Manager stated that the City Council had taken no action yet on the fire contract between the City and the County. He briefly discussed vehicle replacement needs of the City fire department. He added that recommendations to the City Council had not been made yet because the costs and provision of fire services inside and out of the County are still being evaluated.

Councilmember Leak stated that the recommendations would be presented to City Council in June so they could be presented to the County Commissioners in July.

Commissioner McCook suggested another joint meeting between the County and the City be scheduled so complete contract information and fire services could be shared.

The County Manager said the contract under discussion includes wording from the State Fire Marshall. He added that the contract the County currently has with the fire departments is 20 years old, and the intent is to update the verbiage. He explained the financial allocations among the fire departments and that based on the formula, Laurel Hill and Laurinburg fire services receive the highest financial distributions. He further added that the County was made aware of vehicle replacements for the fire departments, and a fire truck replacement plan is needed because the County will be asked to replace at least 10 vehicles over the next 10 years. He stated that the fire tax does not generate enough revenue to support replacement of fire trucks.

RECESS

Motion was made by Councilmember Parker, seconded by Councilmember Spencer, and unanimously carried to recess the meeting to Tuesday, June 1, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in the council room of the Municipal Building located at 303 West Church St., Laurinburg, NC.

The meeting recessed at 6:00 p.m.

Matthew Block, Mayor

Dolores A. Hammond, City Clerk