

**CITY OF LAURINBURG
AGENDA WORKSHOP
APRIL 10, 2012
W. CHARLES BARRETT ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
305 WEST CHURCH ST.
LAURINBURG, NC
7:00 P.M.**

Minutes

The City Council of the City of Laurinburg held an agenda meeting April 10, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room of the W. Charles Barrett Administration Building with the Honorable Thomas W. Parker, III, Mayor, presiding. The following Councilmembers were present: Mary Jo Adams, Curtis B. Leak, Herbert M. Rainer, Jr., Kenton T. Spencer, and Andrew G. Williamson, Jr.

Also present were Edward F. Burchins, City Manager; Jennifer A. Tippet, City Clerk; Cindy Carpenter, Finance Director; Bob Bell, Human Resources/Risk Management Director; Brandi Deese, Planning and Development Director; Police Chief John Evans; and William P. Floyd, Jr., Assistant City Attorney.

Mayor Parker called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Councilmember Leak gave the invocation.

QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Carpenter discussed the Quarterly Report for the period of July 2011 through March 2012, which is 75% of the City's budget. She stated that expenditures in the General Fund are at 72%. She discussed expenditures and the method for billing back to City departments and the County with regard to the Fueling Facility. She added that the Garage expenditures are also billed back to each department.

A discussion ensued concerning Management Fees in the General Fund. Mrs. Carpenter explained that the City's enterprise funds require management and those Management Fees are a credit to the General Fund and billed back to the enterprise funds.

Mrs. Carpenter explained that there is a three-month lapse in receiving sales tax revenues from the State.

Mrs. Carpenter discussed the following:

- Revenues in the Water/Sewer Fund were at 70% of budget and expenditures were at 61% of budget

Upon question by Councilmember Leak, Mrs. Carpenter explained that the old water meters and tops would be designated as surplus and sold as scrap. She added that the revenue would go back into the Water/Sewer Fund.

- Revenues in the Solid Waste Fund were at 72% of budget and expenditures were at 65% of budget

Upon question by Councilmember Leak, Mrs. Carpenter explained that tax collections were at 96% of current year taxes to budget.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The City Manager explained that questions had been asked by Council of the racial makeup of the Police Department and regarding uncleared murders. He added that Police Chief John Evans was present to respond to these questions.

Councilmember Rainer explained that he was one of the main advocates for discussing these matters. He added that he wanted to ensure that the City is doing everything possible to ensure closure for the unsolved murders. He further added that it appears the Police Department is having difficulty obtaining information from witnesses. He explained that the City has five (5) detectives and none of them are African American. He further explained that he felt having an African American detective would help that situation in that the African American community would be more apt to talk to someone similar to them. He added that having an African American Detective would be one way of making the Police Department more effective in solving crimes.

Police Chief Evans explained that the City had an African American detective; however, he left the City for more money.

Further discussion ensued concerning the racial makeup of the Police Department. The City Manager explained that recruiting for the Police Department may have to be expanded from traditional methods in order to reach out into the African American community.

A discussion ensued concerning gang activity. Police Chief Evans explained that an officer goes to each elementary school to talk about gangs and the negative impacts of gangs and tries to provide alternatives to joining gangs.

Police Chief Evans explained that the State Bureau of Investigations (SBI) has assisted the Police Department by sending American Indians and African Americans in to assist with questioning of suspects and witnesses for the unsolved murders; however, the SBI officers were unsuccessful as well in obtaining enough evidence to issue a warrant.

A discussion ensued concerning the lack of African Americans applying for positions in the Police Department. Police Chief Evans discussed methods utilized to hire African Americans.

Upon question by Councilmember Spencer, Police Chief Evans explained that the City has a Neighborhood Improvement Team that saturates an area where crime is occurring. He further explained that he found it difficult to be proactive due to manpower limitations. He stated that in 1979 there were five (5) officers per shift. He explained that the current call volume of the Police Department had quadrupled and there are only six (6) officers per shift.

Further discussion ensued concerning community-oriented policing and needs of the Police Department.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

The City Manager presented an organizational chart to Council. He added that the number of personnel by position would be added, the total of personnel by department would be added and a revised chart would be presented to Council the following week.

Councilmember Spencer requested a dotted line between the Police Chief and Fire Chief.

Councilmember Adams requested a listing of the following for every position: name of individual filling position, hire date of each individual and current salary.

AGENDA – APRIL 17, 2012

The City Manager reviewed the agenda for the April 17, 2012 council meeting.

3. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approve minutes of the February 8, 2012 special meeting; minutes of the February 14, 2012 agenda workshop; minutes of the February 21, 2012 regular meeting; and minutes of the March 1, 2012 Citizen Input Session

PUBLIC HEARINGS

4. Public Hearing to consider Ordinance No. O-2012-05 which rezones from General Business to Industrial a 3.4 acre tract of land on McColl Road at its intersection with Barnes Bridge Road.
Mrs. Deese explained that Mr. Lee Howell submitted this request which Council tabled at the March 22, 2012 meeting. She added that Planning Board recommended denial by a 5-2 vote at Planning Board's February meeting.
5. Public Hearing to consider request for a Conditional Use Permit request for an off-premises sign on a 3.4 acre tract of land on McColl Road at its intersection with Barnes Bridge Road.
Mrs. Deese explained that Planning Board recommended approval of this request by a vote of 5 to 1. She explained that Planning Board did not oppose the sign but opposed the rezoning because of the potential uses in the industrial zone. Upon question by Councilmember Leak, Mrs. Deese explained that research conducted revealed that many other jurisdictions did not allow billboards in the city limits. She added that one Planning Board member suggested allowing billboards in the General Business Zone; however based on the number of lots

zoned General Business, she was concerned with Council setting a precedent and many other requests for billboards being submitted. Further discussion ensued concerning research for an equitable solution for this request.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

6. Consider awarding bid to Utility Service Company, Inc. in the amount of \$196,100.00 for repainting of the 401-South Elevated Tank
Mr. Ellis explained that Chuck Willis, the engineer for this project had reviewed all bids and recommended that the bid be awarded to the low bidder, Utility Service, in the amount of \$196,100.00. He added that the bid was higher than expected because an inspection of the tank revealed that there was pitting on the inside necessitating the need to repaint the interior also. A discussion ensued concerning the frequency of tank painting and the schedule for painting all of the City's tanks.
The City Manager explained that there were other capital items such as a new well that would not be completed this year, thus the total capital improvements would not exceed the amount in that line item.
Mr. Ellis explained that a decision needed to be made as to whether the City logo and the All America City logo would be painted on the tank.
7. Authorize Mayor and City Clerk to execute Mowing Agreement with NC Department of Transportation for mowing shoulders on US 401 Bypass from Highland Rd. to Blues Farm Rd. including ramps at 6 interchanges
The City Manager explained that the City gets \$6,600.00 from the DOT for this agreement.
8. Set public hearing to consider request to rezone property located at 318 E. Church Street from Residential-15 to Office/Institutional (for parking lot)
Mrs. Deese explained that First Baptist Church planned to demolish the house at this location and expand its parking lot.
9. Set public hearing to consider request to Amend Article XVII Section 277, Political Signs, of the Unified Development Ordinance
The City Manager explained that the Beautification Committee recommended an ordinance limiting the time prior to and after elections for political signs to be erected. He explained that changing the regulations in the middle of an election period would be difficult.
Mrs. Deese explained that Planning Board felt strongly about amending the Sign Ordinance in reference to political signs. She discussed several recommendations from Planning Board.
Further discussion ensued concerning political sign regulations.
Councilmember Leak suggested that this item be tabled until August or September.
10. Set public hearing to consider request to amend Article ____, Section ____ of the Unified Development Ordinance regarding multi-family housing regulations (Planning Board is considering 2 options at its April 10, 2012 meeting; therefore the exact Article and Section it recommends amending will be added to this agenda after the meeting)
Mrs. Deese explained that Planning Board recommended that eight or more housing units require a Conditional Use Permit.

11. Consider Ordinance No. O-2012-07 condemning the property at 506 N. Caledonia Road
Mrs. Deese explained that this process has been going on since 2008. She added that the tax value was estimated at \$9,800, estimated repairs are \$10,257 and the estimated cost to demolish the dwelling is \$6,500.00. She further added that the actual cost to the City is estimated to be \$4,000.
Upon question by Councilmember Leak, Mrs. Carpenter explained that only \$1,000 of the \$30,000 budgeted for demolition had been spent this year.
12. Authorize Mayor and City Clerk to execute special deed conveying property on Lincoln Street (correct error in prior deed)
Mrs. Deese explained that the property had been sold previously by the City but a portion of the property was omitted from the deed. She added that there is a house on this property.
13. Consider pass through grant – Scotland County Local Food Initiative
Mayor Parker explained that he and the City Manager met with Lisa Canada and Debbie Hanmer regarding the Scotland County Local Food Initiative. He explained that this group is not asking for money but would like to pass a grant through the City because the group does not have its non-profit status yet. He added that the discussion included the Farmers Market and the Community Garden.
The City Manager cautioned that the City would still be responsible for the money spent and any pass-through grant would be audited by the City's auditor.
Further discussion ensued concerning this request and the Farmers Market.

INCUBATOR GROUND BREAKING

Mayor Parker explained that the ground breaking for the Small Business Innovation Center is Thursday, April 19, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. and everyone is invited. He added that this is the incubator site.

REGULATIONS CONCERNING PARKING CARS ON GRASS

Mayor Parker explained that he had received complaints about people parking on grass in their yards and not in the driveway. He added that it lowers the standards in Laurinburg.

Councilmember Rainer expressed concern about regulating where an individual can park in his own yard. He stated that he parks his car in his yard.

The Assistant City Attorney stated that there could be private restrictive covenants that the private neighborhoods could enforce regarding this matter.

Councilmember Leak expressed concern about the actions of renters in neighborhoods.

Following a brief discussion, Mayor Parker suggested that the City Manager and Planning and Development Director research this matter.

OTHER – SPEED LIMIT CHANGE

Councilmember Rainer expressed concern about speeding on Dogwood Mile at the lake at St. Andrews University and asked if the speed limit could be reduced.

The City Manager explained that warning signs at this area may be an option. He added that staff is investigating types of signs that could be erected.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Thomas W. Parker, III, Mayor

Jennifer A. Tippett, City Clerk