

**CITY OF LAURINBURG  
AGENDA WORKSHOP  
MAY 15, 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 May 15, 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; Ronald Pierce, and William P. Floyd, Jr., Assistant City Attorney.

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

Councilmember Rainer gave the invocation.

**MCNC PRESENTATION**

The City Manager explained that the contract with Clarity, a division of LMK, leasing strands of fiber optic to serve the County, the City and the School System is up for renewal on July 1, 2012. He added that MCNC, a non-profit organization, is building fiber optic from Charlotte to Wilmington. He further added that MCNC's plan and objective is to work with municipalities with fiber in order to provide broadband to rural areas. He explained that he had met with Mr. John Killebrew of MCNC at Research Triangle Park and invited him to make a presentation to Council. The City Manager recognized Ted McGavran and Bruce Fowler, the City's consulting electric engineers.

Mr. Killebrew gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding MCNC's history and services.

- MCNC is a private, not-for-profit company.
- Focus on scientific research. The research universities began to conduct their own research, so MCNC began to focus on networking.
- Governance and advisory structure consists primarily of its constituents.
- Endowment earnings are used for research and development and for new projects.
- Advisory structure is three-tiered.
- Offers primarily three services – connectivity-high performance broadband, data center services and managed video services.
- Price structure is generally half of what is typically charged for similar services.
- Operates state-wide broadband which is at least 10 gigabits per second.

- Serves all 17 of the UNC campuses, 24 of 36 independent colleges in the State, all 58 community colleges, all 115 local school districts, 32 of 106 charter schools, 4 libraries with 10 more coming on board, 58 public health and 23 not-for-profit hospitals, and another 30 to 40 government locations and research locations. No commercial or residential interests whatsoever.
- Do not oversubscribe services.
- Uses federal stimulus funds to install fiber.
- Looks public/private partnerships to provide last mile services.
- Will install 2,604 miles of new middle-mile fiber in the State of North Carolina.
- Uses third party marketing partner.

The City Manager explained that he wanted permission from Council to explore opportunities with MCNC. He added that he would like to present to Council in July his plan to show how the City and MCNC can work together to provide services that the community needs. He explained that the City does not have strong marketing in its relationship with Clarity.

Following discussion, motion was made by Councilmember Williamson, seconded by Councilmember Adams, and unanimously carried for the City Manager to explore a possible relationship with MCNC.

## **HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

The City Manager explained that staff was asked to provide a list of the members of the Historic Preservation Committee. He added that this committee met to consider one item in 2008 and had not met since that time.

Following discussion, it was consensus of Council:

- 1) See if the members would be willing to serve
- 2) Review bylaws and determine intent of Commissioner
- 3) Perhaps work with Scotland Historic Properties Commission
- 4) Council to consider this at a retreat

## **GENERAL DISCUSSION**

Mayor Parker discussed the possibility of having an afternoon retreat in July and Mr. Spencer had some items for the retreat agenda.

Mr. Spencer discussed the following as retreat topics:

- economic development strategies
- expanding the City's tax base
- curb and gutter requirements
- placing City bid opportunities on the City's website

Mayor Parker then challenged each Councilmember to think of ideas and to suggest at the June agenda work session.

Upon question by Councilmember Leak, the City Manager explained that if a councilmember wishes to place something on the agenda for the agenda work session, to contact him with item and he will discuss placing the item on the agenda.

Councilmember Adams requested that Council receive the work session agenda in advance of the work session. It was consensus of Council to receive the work session agendas in advance of the agenda work session meeting.

### **DISCUSSION ON ERECTING “CAUTION-PEDESTRIANS” SIGNS ON DOGWOOD MILE NEAR THE LAKE BRIDGE**

Councilmember Rainer explained that there needed to be some way to reduce speed along Dogwood Mile. He added that he would like funds put in the budget to erect two (2) speed bumps 30 yards on each side of the lake bridge. He further added that he would like to see the road repaved.

Councilmember Adams suggested that St. Andrews University needed to be contacted regarding the speed bumps.

Following discussion, it was consensus of Council for the City Manager to discuss with St. Andrews the signs and speed bumps, investigate the costs, and then report back to Council.

### **OBSERVATION OF POLITICAL SIGNS**

Mrs. Deese explained that after an election, staff gives individuals one (1) week following the election to remove political signs. She added that staff began picking up signs earlier in the day and picked up a truckload of signs. She further added that many candidates picked signs up. She explained that the signs would be stored for 10 days before they are thrown away.

### **CEMETERY EXPANSION**

The City Manager explained that expansion of the Hillside Memorial Park (HMP) is necessary and Mrs. Deese wants to discuss plans developed by her department to ensure the plans are consistent with Council's wishes.

Mrs. Deese explained that the initial plan for HMP has not been followed and the cemetery has been developed piece meal. She discussed the following:

- By-Pass Park is owned by the City
- Need to add additional area for flat markers and expand the Estate Sections
- Original plans called for roads in the expanded areas.

- Need to move the drainage ditch along the southern side of HMP or either tile it which would cost approximately \$80,000.00.

Upon question by Councilmember Spencer, Mrs. Deese explained that without expansion, there would be no plots available for sale in a few years. She added that the proposed expansion should be sufficient for 15 years.

Councilmember Leak expressed concern about the condition of the middle of the cemetery.

Further discussion ensued concerning the cemetery. Mrs. Carpenter explained that funds for cemetery improvement have been included in the FY 2012-2013 budget. She added that paving and drainage improvements would require better estimates and if Council wanted to fund paving and drainage improvements, a budget amendment could be prepared during FY 2012-2013.

A discussion ensued concerning operation of the cemetery as an enterprise.

Upon question by Mayor Parker, Mrs. Deese explained that funding for some of the improvements would come from the Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund for maintenance. She added that Perpetual Care Funds could not be utilized for improvements. She further added that the estimate for expansion and not including paving and drainage improvements was between \$8,000.00 and \$10,000.00.

Mayor Parker suggested budgeting an additional \$25,000.00 for cemetery improvements.

Councilmember Rainer suggested putting the \$25,000.00 in contingency and adding cemetery expansion as a retreat item.

A discussion ensued concerning options for utilization of space to extend the life of the cemetery.

## **AGENDA FOR MAY 22**

Mayor Parker suggested that Council read over the proposed May 22, 2012 agenda and then discuss any items that Council wishes to discuss. The proposed agenda is as follows:

- 3) **Consent Agenda**
  - a) Approve minutes of the March 13, 2012 agenda workshop; minutes of the March 20, 2012 special meeting; minutes of the March 20, 2012 meeting; minutes of the March 28, 2012 meeting  
*No discussion*
  - b) Set public hearing to be held June 19, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the council room of the Municipal Building located at 303 W. Church St. on the proposed 2012-2013 Fiscal Year Budget  
*No discussion*

c) Set public hearing to be held June 19, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the council room of the Municipal Building located at 303 W. Church St to consider request to rezone from Industrial to Office/Institutional the property located at 412 Fairley St.

*No discussion*

d) Set public hearing to be held June 19, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the council room of the Municipal Building located at 303 W. Church St. to consider amending Article V, Section 146, Permissible Uses and Article XI, Supplementary Use Regulations, by adding Section 180.3

*Mrs. Deese explained that staff had received a complaint from a local non-profit regarding the Planet Aid donation containers who are concerned that resources need to stay in our community instead of being sold in Third World countries. She further added that there is some controversy about legitimacy of this group. She stated that Planning Board unanimously recommended denial of this request from Planet Aid.*

e) Set public hearing to be held June 19, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the council room of the Municipal Building located at 303 W. Church St. to consider amending Article V, Section 146, Permissible Uses and Article XVII, Section 287, Off-Premises Signs

*Mrs. Deese explained that an Off-Premises Signs Overlay District has been proposed along the major thoroughfares in the Extraterritorial Planning Jurisdiction to the City Limit line. She explained that any property zoned General Business in the Overlay District would allow erection of an off-premises sign upon granting by Council of a Conditional Use Permit. She added that supplemental regulations had been developed concerning size, maintenance and location of signs.*

f) Set public hearing to be held June 19, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the council room of the Municipal Building located at 303 W. Church St. to consider Ordinance which amends Chapter 6, Buildings and Building Regulations, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Laurinburg

*The Assistant City Attorney explained that a process called "lis pendens" will allow the City to file a notice of lis pendens in the Clerk of Court's Office at the beginning of condemnation process so that if the owner of property dies or the property is sold, the City would not have to start the process again.*

g) Consider Ordinance No. O-2012-08 which condemns the property located at 1506 Woodlawn Street and authorizes the Building Inspector to demolish and clear the property

*No discussion*

h) Consider Ordinance No. O-2012-09 which condemns the property located at 16290 Joy Street and authorizes the Building Inspector to demolish and clear the property

*No discussion*

i) Consider Ordinance No. O-2012-10 which condemns the property located at 430 Carver Street and authorizes the Building Inspector to demolish and clear the property

*No discussion*

j) Consider Resolution No. R-2012-12 approving the sale of lot on Cary St. (PIN ID 010013A170041) for the amount of \$750 and authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute deed conveying said property to Mr. Billy Campbell

*No discussion*

k) Consider Resolution No. R-2012-13 approving the sale of 2 lots on Fayetteville St. (PIN ID 0100132809 and PIN ID 01001328010) for the amount of \$4,500.00 and authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute deed conveying said property to Mr. William Dowdy

*No discussion*

l) Consider Resolution No. R-2012-14 appointing the Acting Tax Collector as the process agent for tax foreclosure suits

*No discussion*

m) Consider Resolution No. R-2012-15 authorizing the Mayor, City Manager and City Clerk to execute Financing Agreement with BB&T for automated side-loading refuse truck and front-loading refuse truck for 10 years at 1.83% and for the custom pumper fire truck for 10 years at 2.18%, total amount financed \$818,790.00

*Upon question by Mayor Parker, the City Manager explained that this item was budgeted and Council had approved expenditure. He added that BB&T wanted a resolution.*

n) Consider Resolution No. R-2012-16 authorizing the Mayor, City Manager and City Clerk to execute any and all documents related to the City of Laurinburg Rural Economic Development Center Grant/2012 Clean Water Partners Planning Infrastructure Grant

*No discussion*

#### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

4) Consider Ordinance No. O-2012-11 which rezones property located at 318 E. Church Street from Residential-15 to Office/Institutional

*No discussion*

5) Consider Ordinance No. O-2012-12 which amends Article X, Section 146, Permissible Uses, of the Unified Development Ordinance regarding multi-family housing regulations

*No discussion*

#### **DELEGATIONS**

6) Scotland County Humane Society

7) Laurinburg Downtown Revitalization Corporation-Jim Willis

8) Laurinburg/Maxton Airport Commission-2012-2013 Proposed Budget and Update-Jo Ann Gentry, Interim Executive Director

9) Laurinburg/Scotland County Area Chamber of Commerce-Brenda Gilbert

10) Brent Webb-Report on Walk

#### **CITY MANAGER REPORTS**

11) Present Proposed FY 2013 Budget to City Council

Councilmember Rainer requested that an item regarding the number of burglaries at churches be added to the agenda.

Councilmember Leak suggested a report on public safety to include the Neighborhood Watch Program.

Mayor Parker explained that all of the entities listed under the Delegations section were budget-related with the exception of Brent Webb reporting on his walk.

Upon question by Councilmember Spencer, the City Manager explained that Mr. Tim Brown, contractor for Laurinburg Downtown Revitalization Corporation is obtaining releases from the property owners to allow the City to remove some obsolete signs.

The City Manager explained that he would present the budget and have some brief comments concerning the budget.

Councilmember Adams discussed an advertisement she had been given showing how another small town in North Carolina promotes itself.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Councilmember Rainer, seconded by Councilmember Williamson, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

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Thomas W. Parker, III, Mayor

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Jennifer A. Tippett, City Clerk