

**CITY OF LAURINBURG  
AGENDA WORKSHOP  
AUGUST 14, 2012  
W. CHARLES BARRETT ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
305 WEST CHURCH ST.  
7:00 P.M.**

**Minutes**

The City Council of the City of Laurinburg held an agenda meeting August 14, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at the W. Charles Barrett Administration Building located at 305 West Church St. 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; William P. Floyd, Jr., Assistant City Attorney; Cindy Carpenter, Finance Director; Stacey McQuage, Public Utilities Director; Brandi Deese, Planning and Community Development Director; and Mac McInnis, Planning/Code Enforcement Officer.

Mayor Parker called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Councilmember Adams gave the invocation.

1. Consent Agenda

- a. Consider the minutes from the May 29, 2012 reconvened meeting, and May 31, 2012 reconvened meeting and June 5, 2012 reconvened meeting.
- b. Set public hearing to be held September 18, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. to consider the request to amend Article 17 "Signs", Section 277 "Political Signs" of the Unified Development Ordinance.

*Mrs. Deese explained this would take effect after the November 2012 elections. This would prohibit political signs from being placed no sooner than 30 days before election time. Also discussed were policies for candidates to register to put signs on private property.*

*The City Manager explained that signs are not allowed to be placed on limited access roads or right-of-ways. The City Manager further explained that the County does not have an Ordinance on political signs.*

*Mayor Parker requested that this item be moved to the retreat agenda.*

- c. Set public hearing to be held September 18, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. to consider a request for a Conditional Use Permit to erect an off-premises sign (billboard) on a 3.4 acre tract of land at the intersection of US Hwy 401 and Barnes Bridge Road
- d. Set public hearing to be held on September 18, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. to consider a request to rezone property located at 304 US Hwy 401 Bypass from Industrial to General Business.

*Mrs. Deese explained that changing the property to General Business will help with problems experienced at this site.*

- e. Set public hearing to be held on September 18, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. for the Initial Public Hearing for potential CDBG application for 2012 cycle of funding.

*The City Manager explained that in order to apply for Community Development Block Grants, a series of public hearings must occur. Categories for the grant include water, sewer, public infrastructure or neighborhood revitalization.*

- f. Authorize Mayor to execute Order to Collect Taxes.

#### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

2. Consider Amendment to Article II, Section 15, Article X, Section 146 and Article XI of the Unified Development Ordinance.

*Mrs. Deese discussed the rationale of amending the UDO regarding tattoo parlors.*

#### **DELEGATION**

4. Mr. Jim Ward-concern regarding filling vacancy on Council

#### **APPOINTMENTS**

##### **5. BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE**

*The City Manager explained that the Chamber of Commerce has nominated Harley Norris to fill Drew Williamson's unexpired term.*

##### **6. RURAL LAND USE ADVISORY COMMISSION (RLUAC)**

*The City Manager recommended Brandi Deese, Director of Planning and Community Development, be appointed as the City's representative.*

##### **7. SCOTLAND COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

*A brief explanation of the Scotland County Community Foundation was presented. Mr. Charles Brown of Gustaf C. Lundin and Company recommended the following be appointed: Andrew G. Williamson, Jr., Mike Vinson, and Martha McCoy. The City has four (4) appointments, so one more will need to be made. Councilmember Spencer agreed to serve.*

##### **8. LUMBER RIVER TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

*Mayor Parker recommended Councilmember Adams to fill Councilmember Rainer's vacant seat.*

##### **9. RESIGNATION OF HERBERT M. RAINER, JR. AND FILLING VACANCY**

*The City Manager explained that Councilmember Rainer's resignation was delivered at the last Council meeting and Council needs to formally accept his resignation. After accepting the resignation an appointment needs to be made.*

*The Assistant City Attorney explained that the Council can accept the resignation through the end of the month, leaving Councilmember Rainer with voting privileges until a new Councilmember is elected.*

*A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the procedure for appointing a new Councilmember including the historic precedence and the possibility of developing a policy.*

*Mayor Parker explained that the Council would vote Tuesday night, and all Councilmembers could contact the two (2) potential persons for Councilmember Rainer's seat on the Council.*

## **UPDATE ON INTERNET PRIVILEGE LICENSE PAYMENTS**

The City Manager explained that \$211,538.00 was collected in internet privilege license fees in 2011. He expressed concern about regulating and taxing internet cafes in Scotland County because this issue would be discussed by the General Assembly next year. He added that for 2013, \$100,000.00 in revenue was budgeted for internet privilege licenses, and to date, \$47,100.00 had been collected.

Upon question by Councilmember Williamson, Mrs. Carpenter explained that an internet café pays a fee of \$2,000.00 to set up an establishment and a fee of \$400.00 for each machine in the establishment.

## **REQUESTS FOR KEYS TO THE CITY, PROCLAMATIONS FROM ENTITIES OUTSIDE THE CITY**

Discussion ensued about providing proclamations and Keys to the City to people living outside of Laurinburg, criteria used to validate giving someone a key to the City, and what the key means symbolically for the City.

Mayor Parker requested that this item be placed on the Retreat Agenda.

## **STATUS REPORT ON CONDEMNED STRUCTURES**

The City Manager explained that as of August, the total budgeted amount for FY 2012-2013 for condemnations had been expended or encumbered.

A discussion ensued concerning residential and commercial properties that need to be condemned, the process of condemnation, the costs of condemnation and the benefits to the citizens and the community.

Mayor Parker requested that this item be considered for the Retreat Agenda.

## **CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP**

The City Manager explained that each year the City receives four (4) memberships from the Chamber of Commerce. Currently the City has two (2) memberships available, and if none of the Councilmembers want the memberships, they will be given to Department Heads or employees.

There was no decision made on this matter.

## **LOCATION OF AGENDA WORKSHOPS**

The City Manager explained that discussion had occurred regarding moving the agenda workshops to the Council Chambers.

After a brief discussion, it was consensus of Council to continue holding agenda workshops in the W. Charles Barrett Administration Building.

### **POTENTIAL CHANGES TO PERSONNEL POLICIES**

The City Manager explained that the City had been in court recently due to an employee-related issue. He discussed the following:

- The City does not have a policy on name clearing as part of Personnel Policy
- Council needs to be careful about discussing an employee's status in open session

He added that the City Attorney is working on a revision to the Personnel Policy to cover these matters.

### **EMPLOYEE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The City Manager explained that the City has been trying to increase employee satisfaction by providing forums for employees to express themselves and an Employee Advisory Committee has been established consisting of representatives from each department that will meet on the fourth Thursday of each month.

### **LOCAL LEGISLATIVE REQUESTS FOR 2012-2013 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION**

The City Manager explained that the North Carolina League of Municipalities is requesting local legislation from municipalities. The following were discussed:

- House Bill 266 which allows any named city to use disposal procedures for real property like it is a sale of property as opposed to leasing the property for alternative energy. This would allow the City to use three (3) easier options such as, private negotiated sales, bidding, or an upsetting bidding process. These options would allow the City to move quicker to any alternative energy projects that arise.
- The use of motorized wheelchairs on major streets and highways when there are no sidewalks or pedestrian crossings. Babies and children being carried as passengers on motorized wheelchairs.
- The lack of registration and insurance on mopeds.

### **CURB & GUTTER REQUIREMENTS**

The City Manager explained that the primary reason for curb and gutter is to control storm water. He discussed green infrastructure which prevents water runoff from polluting streams in the area. He added that the largest amount of water runoff comes from commercial and multi-family complex areas. He further added that by eliminating the curb and gutter regulations, the City would be provided an opportunity to research different techniques for controlling storm water.

Following further discussion, Mayor Parker suggested moving the topic of curb and gutter requirements to the Retreat Agenda.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm.

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Thomas W. Parker, III, Mayor

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Jennifer A. Tippett, City Clerk