

**CITY OF LAURINBURG
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING/JOINT MEETING
AUGUST 30, 2016
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER
1403 WEST BLVD.
4:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

The City Council of the City of Laurinburg held a special/joint meeting on August 30, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. at the Emergency Operations Center located at 1403 West Blvd., with the Honorable Mary Jo Adams, presiding. The following Councilmembers were present: Dolores A. Hammond, Curtis B. Leak, Andrew G. Williamson, Jr. and J.D. Willis. Mayor Matthew Block arrived at 4:06 p.m.

Also present were: Charles D. Nichols III, City Manager; Jennifer A. Tippet, City Clerk; and Angie Foster, General Services Supervisor.

Present from the Scotland County Board of Commissioners were: Chairperson Carol McCall; and Commissioners Guy McCook, Whit Gibson, Bob Davis, John Alford, Clarence McPhatter, and Betty Blue-Gholston. Also present were Kevin Patterson, County Manager; Ann Kurtzman, Clerk to the Board; Ed Johnston, County Attorney; and Beth Hobbs, Finance Director.

Chairperson McCall called the County Commissioners meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Commissioner Davis gave the invocation.

Mayor Pro Tem Adams called the Laurinburg City Council meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

DISCUSSION ON MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE

County Commission Chairperson McCall explained that the purpose of the meeting was for the County and City to work towards a solution concerning Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) that would be beneficial to the City and County with a focus on the citizens.

Mayor Pro Tem Adams explained that Council was happy to discuss options to do what is best for citizens and the City concerning MSW.

The County Manager discussed the status of the County's Solid Waste Fund. He explained that the County's contract for hauling expires at the end of this Fiscal Year, and that he and County staff would begin negotiations this year. He added that he would be looking at costs and changing the MSW and Construction and Debris programs. He further added that if the City could operate a long-term yard waste program more efficiently, that would be beneficial to the County since the leaf and limb program is a loss leader for the County. He further explained that in a year the County would be in a better position to discuss options for a consolidated program and work with the City.

The City Manager explained that due to the financial condition of the City's Solid Waste Fund, the City made a purely business decision to enter into an agreement with Robeson County for its MSW. He discussed the savings that the City would see in MSW costs taking into account the

fuel and increased maintenance costs from hauling MSW to Robeson County. He also explained that by handling yard waste in-house, the City would experience savings by not having to pay a Tipping Fee.

Discussion ensued concerning the cost of sanitation trucks, the possibility of the County raising the Availability Fee to City residents, and that City residents are also County residents.

Upon question by Councilmember Willis, the City Manager explained that he had proposed to the County Manager an option of charging City residents the \$85.00 Availability Fee in an effort to continue working with the County, and the City would have still seen a positive balance in the Solid Waste Fund. He added that if the Availability Fee for City residents was increased, the City would have decreased its rates to citizens by the \$30.00 to offset the Availability Fee.

Discussion ensued concerning the communication between the City Manager and County Manager concerning solid waste options being considered by the City.

Mayor Pro Tem Adams relinquished presiding over the meeting to Mayor Block at 4:29 p.m.

Discussion ensued concerning moving forward to develop a solution that will benefit the City, County and the citizens. Councilmember Willis suggested that the City and County Managers and their staff pull together and look at the most economical way for the City and County to work together on MSW. He added that then the governing boards could meet together to hear the proposal.

Discussion ensued concerning the Availability Fee and its purpose to generate revenue in order to close the County's Construction and Demolition Landfill in approximately 30 years.

Following further discussion, it was consensus of Council and the Scotland County Board of Commissioners for the City and County Managers to work on proposals for MSW and for the governing bodies to meet jointly in mid-January, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Councilmember Willis, seconded by Councilmember Hammond, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

Matthew Block, MD, Mayor

Jennifer A. Tippet, City Clerk