

**CITY OF LAURINBURG  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 15, 2016  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
303 WEST CHURCH ST.  
5:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

The City Council of the City of Laurinburg held a special meeting on September 15, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. in the council chambers of the Municipal Building located at 303 West Church Street, with the Honorable Matthew Block, MD, Mayor presiding. The following Councilmembers were present: Mary Jo Adams, Dolores A. Hammond, and Curtis B. Leak. Absent were Councilmembers Andrew G. Williamson, Jr. and J.D. Willis.

Also present were: Charles D. Nichols III, City Manager; Jennifer A. Tippett, City Clerk; and William P. Floyd, Jr., City Attorney.

Mayor Block called the special meeting of the Laurinburg City Council to order at 5:05 p.m.

Councilmember Hammond requested a moment of silence.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion was made by Councilmember Adams, seconded by Councilmember Leak, and unanimously carried to approve the agenda as presented.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**CONSIDER MORATORIUM ON SOLAR FARMS (GROUND-MOUNTED PHOTOVOLTAIC ARRAYS) WITHIN THE PLANNING JURISDICTION OF THE OF THE CITY OF LAURINBURG PURSUANT TO NC GENERAL STATUTES 160A-381**

The City Attorney explained the purpose of the public hearing that Council had instructed staff to draft changes to the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) pertaining to solar farms, and that staff had done so. He further explained that Planning Board discussed and approved the proposed changes to the UDO, and Council will consider the amendment to the UDO in October. He added that the proposed amendment addresses the location and possible clustering of solar farms with particular interest placed on main corridors into the City. He further explained that until Council amends the UDO, an application could be filed under the current UDO regulations on solar farms. He further added that he recommended that Council impose a 60-day moratorium on solar farms, which could be shortened if Council adopts the proposed UDO amendment drafted by staff.

Councilmember Leak suggested that Mr. McInnis contact the Scotland County Planning Officer about the moratorium.

Mayor Block opened the public hearing.

There being no one present to speak on this matter, Mayor Block closed the public hearing. Discussion ensued concerning the 1-mile Extra-Territorial Planning Jurisdiction.

Upon question by Councilmember Adams, Mr. Mac McInnis, City Planning Officer, explained that he was aware of at least two (2) more solar farms being planned, one (1) of which would be affected by the proposed amendment to the UDO.

Upon question by Mayor Block, the City Attorney explained that Council's concern with solar farm development was location on the main corridors into the City, and not to eliminate solar farm development. He added that the proposed amendment addresses Council's concern.

Councilmember Hammond moved to approve Ordinance No. O-2016-07 establishing a 60-day moratorium on Solar Farms (Ground-Mounted Photovoltaic Arrays) within the Planning Jurisdiction of the City of Laurinburg pursuant to NC General Statute 160A-381. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Leak, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Hammond, Leak, Adams

Nays: None

The City Attorney explained that this was the first reading on the ordinance and in order to become adopted on the first reading, at least four (4) votes in favor of or against the ordinance were needed; therefore, the ordinance must be considered a second time at the September 20, 2016 meeting. He added that at the second reading of the ordinance, it will require only a simple majority vote.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

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Matthew Block, MD, Mayor

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Jennifer A. Tippett, City Clerk