

**CITY OF LAURINBURG  
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
OCTOBER 6, 2017  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
303 WEST CHURCH ST.  
3:00 p.m.**

**Minutes**

The City Council of the City of Laurinburg held a special meeting on Friday, October 6, 2017 in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building at 3:00 p.m. with the Honorable Mary Jo Adams, Mayor Pro Tem, presiding. The following Councilmembers were present: Dolores A. Hammond, Curtis B. Leak (arrived at 3:11 p.m.), Andrew G. Williamson, Jr. and J.D. Willis. Mayor Matthew Block was absent.

Also present were Charles D. Nichols III, City Manager; Jennifer A. Tippet, City Clerk; and Carrie H. Neal, Finance Director.

Mayor Pro Tem Adams called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. and requested a Moment of Silence.

**CONSIDER ORDINANCE AMENDING BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE (ORDINANCE NO. O-2017-15) FOR CITY HALL AND POLICE DEPARTMENT PROJECT**

The City Manager explained that the purpose of this ordinance was to set up a capital project ordinance for the City Hall and Police Department Project. He added that thus far all funds spent on the project have come from the General Fund. He further added that since the Local Government Commission (LGC) approved the financing, the next step was to set up the capital project ordinance for the \$9.165 million project. He explained that the funds were broken down as follows:

- \$ 153,742 to Contracted Services (705-504500)
- \$ 200,000 to Capital Outlay (705-707400)
- \$ 8,526,924 to New Construction (705-707500)
- \$ 109,334 to Miscellaneous for reimbursement-G/F (705-505570)
- \$ 175,000 to Cost of Issuance (705-508800)

He further added that approval of the capital project ordinance would allow the Finance Director to pre-audit any contracts or expenditures because funds had been budgeted. He explained that the costs, the liability for repayment of bonds and the annual debt service would be allocated: General Fund – 67%, Electric Fund – 16.5%, and Water/Sewer Fund – 16.5%.

Councilmember Hammond moved to approve Ordinance No. O-2017-17 Amending the 2017-2018 Budget Appropriation Ordinance (Ordinance No. O-2017-15) for the City Hall & Police Department Project. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Willis, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Hammond, Willis, Leak, Williamson, Adams  
Nays: None  
(Ordinance No. O-2017-17 on file in City Clerk's office)

Motion was made by Councilmember Hammond, seconded by Councilmember Willis, and unanimously carried to authorize Mayor Pro Tem Adams to sign Ordinance No. O-2017-17 since Mayor Block was absent and he had earlier indicated that he would not sign any documents relating to the City Hall and Police Department.

### **FINANCIAL UPDATE FOR CITIZENS TO BE ITEMS**

Mayor Pro Tem Adams explained that this item was on the agenda for discussion about the City Manager presenting an update on the City's financial status at the October 17, 2017 meeting in order to clear up misinformation for the citizens and the media, and for this information to be shared on the City's website and social media.

The City Manager requested clarification if this was the General Fund, utility funds, where we stand or is this financial about this project.

Councilmember Willis suggested tax rate comparison, water/sewer rate comparison and electric rate comparison with municipalities the same size. He also suggested discussion of change in sales tax distribution, and the increase in revenue from that change.

Councilmember Williamson suggested that information about the Fund Balance requirements as well as the City's policy which is higher than what the Local Government Commission recommends.

Councilmember Willis suggested discussion about the capital projects in the Water/Sewer Fund and also concerning the electric substation.

Councilmember Adams suggested an update on the electric rate history.

The City Manager clarified that Council wanted the following in the update: tax rate comparison, utility rate comparison (water and electric), sales tax distribution, Fund Balance history, Water/Sewer Capital project list, electric substation budget breakdown and electric rate history.

Councilmember Adams suggested some way to let the citizens know that the City has no involvement with the school closings. She also suggested explanation of the breakdown between funds of how the City Hall project will be paid, as well as explanation of the Management Fees.

Councilmember Leak suggested that a discussion be held on the County Water System issue.

The City Manager explained that the County Water System Update was already on the agenda.

Councilmember Hammond suggested that the loan terms for the City Hall project be discussed as there are a lot of citizens that believe the City has a pot of money that can be spent on whatever Council wants to spend it on.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 3:32 p.m.

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Matthew Block, MD, Mayor

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Jennifer A. Tippett, City Clerk