

**CITY OF LAURINBURG
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 18, 2018
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
303 WEST CHURCH ST.
7:00 p.m.**

Minutes

The City Council of the City of Laurinburg held its regular meeting on Tuesday, September 18, 2018 in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building at 7:00 p.m. with the Honorable Matthew Block, Mayor, presiding. The following Councilmembers were present: Mary Jo Adams, Mary Evans, James J. Garby, Jr., Curtis B. Leak, and Andrew G. Williamson, Jr.

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

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

Councilmember Leak gave the Invocation and then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Block thanked the citizens in attendance. He explained that Council decided to hold the meeting as the community recovers from Hurricane Florence. He added that there had been discussion as to whether to continue with the agenda as discussed or to amend the agenda.

A lengthy discussion ensued concerning the decision to hold the meeting, the curfew and items on the agenda.

Mayor Block expressed concern about holding the public hearing on the rezoning request since the meeting was not being recorded, and that he felt citizens were not as informed as they should have been concerning the meeting and the curfew.

Councilmember Adams explained that she felt Mayor Block had a personal agenda against Mr. and Mrs. Willis.

Mayor Block denied having a personal agenda. He explained that he does not believe it would be correct to have a public hearing when the public was confused about the curfew and did not attend the meeting.

Councilmember Evans stated, "I make a motion."

Discussion ensued about the curfew and the meeting.

Councilmember Leak requested that Councilmember Evans state her motion.

Councilmember Evans explained that she thought that Mayor Block did not feel that some of the items on the agenda were important; however, citizens might not have been notified that the curfew had been changed and that the meeting was going on as scheduled. She suggested that some items could be moved to another meeting.

Upon question by Councilmember Adams, Mr. Mac McInnis, Planner and Code Enforcement Officer, explained that there were no citizens at the Planning Board meeting.

Mayor Block requested that the City Attorney provide guidance to Council.

The City Attorney stated that there was a motion on the floor, and Council should deal with the motion first. He then asked for clarification of the motion.

Upon question by Mayor Block, Councilmember Evans explained that the motion was to approve the agenda minus the public hearing.

Upon question by Councilmember Garby, the City Manager suggested that Item 9, "Community Development"; Item 10, "Consider authorizing the City Manager to execute the contracts for engineering services and grant administration services for the CDBG-I grant project in the Produce Market Road Area"; and Item 12, "Discussion of Execution of Documents" could also be removed from the agenda.

Further discussion ensued concerning the agenda items. The City Manager explained that if presenters on the agenda were present, such as Police Chief Williams and Mr. Todd, those items should remain on the agenda.

Discussion ensued concerning delaying the public hearing. The City Clerk explained the legal requirements for advertising.

Further discussion ensued concerning amending the agenda. The City Manager expressed concern that if someone on the agenda was present, they should remain on the agenda.

The City Attorney explained that Councilmember Evans needed to articulate the motion and that Councilmember Garby could help articulate exactly what the motion is so that there can be a second to the motion, and then it be discussed. He added that it seemed appropriate for Council to determine the entire agenda. He offered that that one (1) way would be for Council to go item by item on the agenda, and then vote to amend the agenda by removing the items Council desired to remove. He offered another alternative to vote on inclusion or removal of an item each item one (1) at a time.

Following discussion, Councilmember Evans moved to amend the agenda by removing the following from the agenda:

- 4) Consider request to rezone from Residential-15 to Office/Institutional property located at 308 Prince Street

- 5) Tony Fairly-Resistance Against Pressure, Inc.
- 9) Community Development Update
- 12) Discussion of Execution of Documents

Councilmember Garby seconded the motion.

Upon question by Councilmember Garby, the City Clerk explained that the expense for advertising the public hearing was between \$135.00 to \$200.00, as she did not recall the exact amount.

Upon question by Mayor Block, the City Attorney explained that Council would have to decide if it wanted to hold the public hearing or not. He added that Council should discuss the particular reasons why it would want to continue the public hearing if Council chose to do so. He further added that he was not aware of a legal precedent that would apply to this situation.

Upon question by Mayor Block, the City Attorney explained that he was not aware of any grounds whereby a person could claim he or she was confused about the meeting since that could be claimed at any time.

Councilmember Leak explained that property owners in the particular neighborhood receive written notification of the Planning Board as well as for the public hearing.

Upon question by Councilmember Williamson, Mr. McInnis stated that none of the property owners in the neighborhood had expressed any opposition to the request.

Upon question by Councilmember Williamson, Mayor Block explained that he did not believe that it was a good idea to hold the public hearing because of lack of citizen attendance and that the meeting was not being video-taped. He added that he thought that the meeting was being held to hear the law enforcement report and discuss hurricane response.

Councilmember Evans explained that she agreed with Mayor Block.

Councilmembers Williamson, Leak and Adams separately explained that their understanding of the reason the meeting was being held were different from Mayor Block and Councilmember Evans. Councilmember Adams further explained that it was her understanding that if someone who was on the agenda was not in attendance, that item would be postponed.

Mayor Block explained that the other issue that he had with the public hearing was that he believed it was a controversial initiative in that it is a residential street even though at one end it does abut Office/Institutional property, an engineering firm. He added that he also wanted to ensure that the residents were aware of the option of a Conditional Use Permit specific to just a bed and breakfast rather than a permanent change in zoning of a residential street. He further added that while Mrs. Willis may have talked to the neighbors and downplayed the significance of her request because she wants a bed and breakfast, the neighbors need to be aware of the other possible uses allowed in Office/Institutional zoning. He added that he wanted the opportunity to go into the neighborhood after the hurricane to address his issues with the neighbors.

Upon question by Councilmember Williamson, Mayor Block explained that he wanted to have a conversation with the neighbors to make sure that they understood the options.

Councilmember Adams reiterated that she believed this to be a personal agenda of Mayor Block's.

Mayor Block explained that he and Councilmember Evans talked with residents prior to the solar farm public hearing also.

Councilmember Adams discussed the renovations and improvements made by Mr. and Mrs. Willis when they purchased their home. She added that it is a showplace and greatly improved the neighborhood. She further added that since The Thomas Walton Manor is no longer a bed and breakfast, having one (1) in the City would be an enhancement to the City.

Following further discussion, the City Attorney explained that Council was discussing items that should be discussed during the public hearing. He added that first Council needed to determine if the public hearing would be held.

Mayor Block explained that the motion by Councilmember Evans was to approve the agenda by removing the four (4) items previously stated by Councilmember Evans, with a second to the motion by Councilmember Garby. He then requested a roll call vote.

The City Clerk called the roll with the vote as follows:

Ayes: Evans, Garby

Nays: Williamson, Adams, Leak

Councilmember Adams moved to approve the agenda by removing items for which the individual was not present and Item 12, Discussion of Execution of Documents. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Leak. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Adams, Leak, Garby, Williamson

Nays: Evans

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mayor Block reviewed public comment procedures.

Ms. Lynda Huntley, Pine Harbor Road, explained that the curfew had her confused. She commended Councilmember Garby for working tirelessly throughout the hurricane. She explained that her primary purpose in appearing was to discuss the failure of the City to serve its citizens in an emergency by not having a working phone number to call. She discussed the flooding in her neighborhood and the closing of the only road into the subdivision until someone removed some poles across private property. She explained that she and other citizens were scared during the hurricane, and that the City failed its citizens. She concluded by stating that the City needed trained people to answer calls from citizens.

Mr. Mac McInnis explained that he lived in the same neighborhood as Ms. Huntley. He added that he lost electricity on Thursday or Friday, and that the electric provider was Duke Energy Progress, not the City of Laurinburg. He further added that as soon as water began running over Woodbridge Road, he called Mr. Stacey McQuage, Public Utilities Director. He further added that he lost water service for approximately a half day. He stated that in his opinion, the City Manager and City crews did “one hell of a job in this storm”. He added that because of the three (3) feet of water in his yard, and he had to leave his home.

Mayor Block explained that Ms. Huntley was expressing concern about the City not having proper communication with the citizens.

Discussion ensued concerning calls into the 911 Center/Emergency Operations Center. Councilmember Adams explained that there was a manned phone at the Emergency Operations Center; however, if the line was busy, calls may have gone to a recording.

Ms. Huntley explained that she did not want to call 911 for a non-life-threatening emergency. She explained that she believed that the City should have had a phone number for citizens to call for non-emergencies. She said that she could not call to report that her street was flooded.

Upon question by Councilmember Williamson, Ms. Huntley explained that she was referring to the phone number 276-3211.

The City Manager explained that this is the Police Department phone number, and it is forwarded to the 911 Center after hours.

Councilmember Garby explained that he was not trying to make any excuse; however, there were thousands of telephone calls that came into the 911 Center and the Emergency Operations Center. He added that he was at the Emergency Operations Center, and it was very stressful for the ones answering the phones.

Ms. Francine McLaurin, 12560 Cypress Drive, explained that she was amazed by the service the citizens received during the hurricane. She added that she witnessed City crews working during and after the storm. She further added she was concerned about property she owns in Country Club Estates, 12420 Pineview Drive, and that she was told a work ticket was submitted for that location. She added that she thought it might take a week for the City to respond due to the hurricane; however, crews came out and did what they could about the drainage issue at the Pineview Drive location. She requested assistance on the storm drainage in the next couple of weeks. She also requested that the GIS System be updated to include the storm drainage pipes information for the Country Club Estates area.

Mr. Devlon Bowyer, 12441 Angus Drive, explained that the City did a great job dealing with the hurricane. He asked if there was any update on the Boil Water Advisory.

The City Manager explained that the City water system was still under the Boil Water Advisory for 48 hours. He added that the City needed to conduct further testing.

Ms. Shirley Campbell, 913 Isabelle Street, expressed concern about flooding of her brother's house which is located across the street from her residence. She explained that when she called the Police Department, she was told by a police officer that her brother should "jump out the window". She explained that she finally called Sheriff Kersey who came and pulled her brother out of his house. She added that this was poor service by the City.

Mr. Don Rainer, 906 Isabelle Street, explained that he has had a water problem since the City built the street, and he has complained numerous times. He added that one (1) time he showed the City Manager where a manhole cover had been left off in a yard. He further added that that issue was fixed; however, his yard floods every time it rains. He asked if Council had decided what and when the storm drainage issues on Isabelle Street would be fixed.

Mayor Block explained that after Mr. Rainer called him, he went to Mr. Rainer's house and saw the problems he was experiencing. He added that the water was run-off from a City street, and that he did not believe there was enough drainage on that street. He further added that the City was aware of this issue; however, it was expensive to fix.

Councilmember Evans explained that she was experiencing flooding from street run-off.

Ms. Brenda Douglas explained that she was from New York City and built a home at 904 Isabelle Street. She explained that she could not understand why there was only one drain on Isabelle Street.

Police Chief Williams explained that he was familiar with Mr. Rainer's flooding issue. He added that if Ms. Campbell called 276-3211, her phone call was not answered by a police officer, but by a telecommunicator in the 911 Center. He further explained that first responders were dealing with rescues and even a death during the hurricane.

Mayor Block explained that he wanted to make sure that a work ticket was submitted for Ms. McLaurin. He added that Ms. Huntley was not criticizing employees, but that citizens expect a higher level of service, and that the City should have had someone manning a phone. He further added that the next time, the City should have a dedicated phone number with a City employee answering the phone.

Councilmember Williamson explained that Hurricane Florence was a once in a lifetime event. He added that he anticipated that there were lessons learned and that he was sure that the City would be better prepared in the next emergency. He further added that he was proud of City staff and that the City provided remarkable service.

Mayor Block stated that he wanted to recognize the City Manager. He explained that he had been tough on the City Manager during/after the storm, and that the City Manager handled everything professionally and timely.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Block reviewed the Consent Agenda:

- a) Consider minutes of June 5, 2018 special meeting/budget workshop
- b) Consider Resolution No. R-2018-19 directing the City Clerk to investigate the sufficiency of voluntary request for annexation
- c) Consider Resolution No. R-2018-20 Signatory Authorization for CDBG-I Account Grant #17-I-2966
- d) Consider Resolution No. R-2018-21 Adopting Compliance Plans for CDBG-I Grant #17-I-2966

Councilmember Evans moved to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Williamson, and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Evans, Williamson, Adams, Leak, Garby

Nays: None

PUBLIC HEARING

CONSIDER REQUEST TO REZONE FROM RESIDENTIAL-15 TO OFFICE/INSTITUTIONAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 308 PRINCE STREET

Mayor Block stated that as the Mayor and a Constitutional Officer, he wanted to put in an official protest because he did not believe this public hearing should be held tonight.

Mayor Block opened the public hearing to hear the request to rezone property located at 308 Prince Street.

Mr. Mac McInnis, Planner and Code Enforcement Officer, explained that the request is for the property located at 308 Prince Street to be rezoned from Residential-15 to Office/Institutional. He added that to his knowledge, the Willis do not have any specific immediate plans. He further added that the rezoning would provide the Willis with the opportunity to use their property for something other than residential. He further explained that there are several properties zoned Office/Institutional near the subject site. He added that the Planning Board unanimously recommended approval of the request at its August 14, 2018 meeting.

Upon question by Mayor Block, Mr. McInnis explained that the Office/Institutional zoning district allows offices such as for doctors and lawyers, some light retail use and residential. He added that Atkinson Street used to be zoned residential; however, most of the property on Atkinson Street closer to downtown is zoned Office/Institutional now.

Upon question by Councilmember Evans, Mr. McInnis explained that he did not have the Zoning Use Chart with him, and he could not say definitively whether a group home could be located at 308 Prince Street if the property is rezoned to Office/Institutional.

Upon question by Mayor Block, Mr. McInnis explained there was no other property on Prince Street zoned Office/Institutional. He added that there was Office/Institutional property approximately 200 feet from the subject property.

Upon question by Councilmember Evans, Mr. McInnis explained that he did not have the Zoning Use Chart with him, and he could not say definitively whether a group home or family home be located at 308 Prince Street if the property is rezoned to Office/Institutional.

Mrs. Frances James Willis explained that she appreciated the services the City had provided to her home, business and all over town. She explained that she and her husband had raised three (3) children in the home, and that she and her husband have no plan to leave Laurinburg or their home. She added that when she and her husband purchased the house 18 years ago, it was dilapidated and renovation took over a year. The house has six (6) bedrooms, each with its own bathroom. If the property is rezoned, the Willis would have options for her and her husband, and also for their children for utilizing the home. She further added that they would not do anything that would be detrimental to her neighborhood.

Upon question by Mayor Block, Mrs. Willis explained that she was aware of the option of a Conditional Use Permit, but she was requesting to have the property rezoned from Residential-15 to Office/Institutional.

There being no one to speak in opposition to the request, Mayor Block closed the public hearing.

Councilmember Williamson moved to approve Ordinance No. O-2018-12 rezoning from Residential-15 to Office/Institutional property located at 308 Prince Street and identified as PIN ID 010000904009 based on the following:

The rezoning of Scotland County Land Parcel Number 01000904009 from Residential-15 to Office Institutional is consistent with an adopted comprehensive plan and any other officially adopted plan that is applicable because:

1. The Office and Institutional district is established to encourage land uses which serve as an adequate buffer between intensive non-residential uses and residential uses; provide aesthetic controls and dimensional requirements to ensure compatible office and service development with surrounding residential uses; and encourage a mixture of medium density residential uses with offices and services.
2. The Comprehensive Use Plan 2035 Future Land Use Map indicates the development of mixed uses in the area, where this parcel is located.
3. There is already a tremendous Office and Institution presence along with the Residential uses in the area. The rezoning of this parcel will allow residential as well as office and service uses on the property as a permitted use.

AND

The rezoning of Scotland County Land Parcel Number 01000904009 from Residential-15 to Office Institutional is reasonable because:

1. The rezoning to Office/Institutional will allow uses consistent with other existing uses.
2. The rezoning to Office/Institutional will help maintain the present character of the City of Laurinburg while promoting diversity and future growth.
3. The rezoning to Office/Institutional will have no detrimental impact to the property values of the surrounding land owners; and
4. The rezoning to Office/Institutional requires no infrastructure improvements by the City of Laurinburg.

The motion was seconded by Councilmember Adams.

Upon question by Councilmember Garby, Mrs. Willis explained that the house would be renovated for the family to use a portion of the ground floor. She added that there were no immediate plans to operate it as a bed and breakfast.

Mayor Block stated that he thought Council needed to be aware that previously Mrs. Willis had been cited by the City for selling catered meals out of her home.

Ayes: Williamson, Adams, Leak, Garby

Nays: Evans

(Ordinance No. O-2018-12 on file in City Clerk's office)

DELEGATION

REV. TONY FAIRLY – RESISTANCE AGAINST PRESSURE, INC.

Mayor Block stated that Mr. Fairly was not present.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

TOM ANDERSON-NC LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES –UPDATE ON POLICE STUDY

Mayor Block explained that Mr. Tom Anderson was from the North Carolina League of Municipalities (the League) and was conducting a free assessment of the Police Department to make sure the department was following proper protocol to ensure safety of citizens and mitigating risks.

Mr. Tom Anderson, Public Safety Risk Manager explained that his career was in law enforcement and that he joined the League in 2015. He added that the League began looking at the risks involved in law enforcement because it drive a lot of the risks that a municipality faces. He then presented a PowerPoint with highlights as follows:

- Sources of Risk for police departments:
 - Personnel Matters-Hiring, Firing, Advancement, Discipline

- Driving
- Constitutional based practices
- The League NCLM put together a Police Chiefs Advisory Committee in 2013 which provides:
 - Guidance in reviewing common denominators of Law Enforcement Claims and Exposures
 - Training Recommendations
 - Law Enforcement Risk Review Development
- In 2015 Police Chiefs Advisory Committee Priorities:
 - The Committee reviewed and identified exposures related to several areas of risk
 - Development assisted by: NCLM Claims Staff, NCLM Underwriting, Legal Counsel
 - Reviewed Other State Leagues for similar programs

He explained that the Law Enforcement Risk Management Review was designed to assess an agency's adherence to best practices, court decisions, and policies and procedures related to high liability activities in law enforcement. The goal of a Review is to:

- Mitigate liability exposures
- Enhance officer and community safety
- Validate that training and operating procedures are meeting industry standards

Mr. Anderson explained that when police departments are following proper operating standards and procedures, the community relationships are stronger and the community communicates better with police departments.

Mr. Anderson explained that the Review is not a Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) certification. It is not mandatory, and it is not a required underwriting process from the League.

Mr. Anderson reviewed what the purpose of the Review:

- Voluntary, requested by the chief and city manager
- A continual peer-reviewed process designed to help reduce known-risk exposures to the agency and officers
- Increase officer/community safety
- Validate the use of current policies based on best practices
- Encourage performance management, accountability, and supervisory development
- For agencies, lacking in identified categories, a tool and mechanism for improvement

Mr. Anderson reviewed areas that the Review looks at:

- Administration Section:
 - Supervisor Training
 - Early Intervention System
 - Hiring of Officer/Recruit Untrained and Civilian staff
 - Internal Affairs
 - Sexual Harassment & Sexual Discrimination

- Biased Based Policing
- Proactive Risk Reduction Strategies
- Safety Review
- Training Policy & Documentation
- Officer-involved Critical Incident Investigation
- Property and Evidence
- Operations Section:
 - Use of Force and Response to Active Resistance:
 - Less-Lethal Weapons
 - Care and Custody of Suspects
 - Dealing with persons of diminished capacity/ Excited Delirium
 - Handcuffing
 - Holding Cells (only for agencies utilizing temporary prisoner cells)
 - Transportation & Restraint of Suspects
 - Offender Identification Procedures
 - Confidential Informants
 - In-Car Camera/Body Worn Camera
 - Vehicle Operations
 - K-9 Operations
 - SWAT /SRT/SPECIAL OPERATIONS TEAMS
 - Stop and Arrest & Search of Persons
 - Search & Seizure of Residence
 - Motor Vehicles Stops/Searches
 - Firearms qualification and training
 - Vehicle Maintenance
 - Facility Security
 - First Aid Training
 - Safety Equipment
 - Ballistic Vest Policy
 - Off duty action
 - Police Related secondary employment
 - Civilian Ride-Along program
 - Volunteers in Police Service
 - Reserve and Auxiliary Officer Programs
 - Mutual Aid Agreements
 - Tire Deflation Devices-Deployment

Mr. Anderson explained that the status of the review of the Laurinburg Police Department is:

- Internal and off site policy review ongoing
- Policies are being revised and updated by staff
- Two days of onsite operational review spent with officers in the field, interviewing key staff members

Mr. Anderson explained that the next steps include final policy validation once the polices are up to date, verification of training on policy changes, and once moved into the new facility, another on-site visit to look at operations and evaluation evidence control areas.

Councilmember Garby explained that he was under the impression that the review would be complete and include more data.

Mr. Anderson explained that once the new facility is completed, he would need to do a security assessment before he can finalize the report. He further added that the policies are still being revised, and that the City Attorney must review the policy changes.

Upon question by Councilmember Garby, Police Chief Darwin Williams explained that Council could see the Police Department Policies and would be able to identify the changes that were made because of the review.

The City Attorney explained that there would need to be a redlined document showing the policy changes.

Mr. Anderson explained that once the report is finalized, he would return in three (3) years to ensure that the best practices are being followed and to identify new laws or policies that need to be addressed and included.

Upon question by Mayor Block, Mr. Anderson explained that the review would not include recommendation of utilizing a GPS Data System like the Scotland County Sheriff's Department recently purchased unless there was an area of risk identified.

Mayor Block thanked Mr. Anderson.

REPRESENTATIVE FROM DOWNTOWN ADVISORY COMMITTEE – JAY TODD

Mayor Block explained that Council had requested that a report from the Downtown Advisory Committee (DAC) be presented.

Mr. Jay Todd, Chairman of the DAC, explained that he is a volunteer and private business owner (not downtown). He added that his connection to the downtown was through his grandfather's business, Firestone. He further added that he remembered downtown as very different from years ago, but Laurinburg's downtown was not different from a lot of poor rural communities. He stated that he was excited about the public-private partnership to make Laurinburg's downtown better. He further added that the purpose of the DAC is to assist City staff with strategic planning and marketing, and to assist merchants get the right resources needed to make downtown better. The Main Street Program requires the DAC, and the North Carolina Department of Commerce recommended that the DAC become a 501(c)(3) organization in order to accept donations. He added that Mr. Mandeville, Community Development Director, was working on the paperwork for the non-profit designation. He explained that since the inception of the DAC, the bylaws of the Committee have been drafted, the Façade Grant Program has been revised, and a website was developed. The DAC has two (2) subcommittees, Strategic Planning Subcommittee and Events Planning Subcommittee. He further added that the Events Planning Subcommittee was requesting that Council consider allocating \$5,000.00 of the \$106,000 in the unrestricted money of the Main

Street Program for a retail promotional event for the Central Business District in the next six (6) months. He also discussed the need to involve the downtown business owners.

The City Manager explained that the City just entered the Main Street Program, and every year in the future beginning in Fiscal Year 2019-2020, the subcommittees will have a budget that Council will approve. He added that currently they are advisory committees and do not have a budget. He further added that as of June 30, 2018, there was \$105,000.00 from the Municipal Service District in the General Fund-Fund Balance. He further explained that each year the City matches the amount of the Municipal Tax, approximately \$21,000.00 each year.

Upon question by Councilmember Williamson, Mr. Todd explained that the DAC is not affiliated with the Tis the Season Group. He added that Mrs. Terry Parker is a member of the DAC. He further added that it was interesting to have multiple groups working together. He stated that the DAC would not fund the Tis the Season Group.

Upon question by Councilmember Williamson, Mr. Todd explained that approximately \$19,000.00 had been spent through the Façade Grant Program.

Upon question by Councilmember Williamson, Mr. Todd explained that the Main Street Group from the Department of Commerce provides expertise to encourage others and to educate businesses downtown about possibilities and expertise for aesthetic improvements. He added that the DAC wants to preserve the buildings downtown.

Upon question by Mayor Block, Mr. Todd explained that the Events Planning Subcommittee was planning an event that would bring people downtown. He added that the subcommittee does not have definite plans at this time for an event.

The City Manager reiterated that next year the DAC would have a budget. He added that the Events Planning Subcommittee did not want to plan an event without knowing that funds would be allocated by Council.

Discussion ensued concerning the volunteer status of the DAC members and the possible funding opportunities from being in the Main Street Program.

Motion was made by Councilmember Garby, seconded by Councilmember Williamson, for the DAC to apply for 501(c)(3) status and to allocate up to \$5,000.00 to the Events Planning Subcommittee to plan for a retail support event.

Mayor Block explained that Council supports the efforts downtown, and he invited Mr. Todd and anyone on the DAC to come to Council at any time.

Mr. Todd explained that the DAC does not have quick answers. He added that as private citizens the DAC can put politics aside, and that it needed Council's support. He invited Mayor Block and Council to attend the DAC meetings which are held on the third Thursday of every month at 8:30 a.m.

Upon question by Mayor Block, the City Manager explained that Mr. Daniel Walters, Downtown Program Manager/Public Information Officer prepares action items from the meetings to keep the DAC action-driven. He added that those action items could be sent to Council as part of the agenda packet.

Upon question by Mayor Block, Mr. Todd explained that the draft bylaws call for up to 21 members, with some of those being pre-determined members such as the City Manager, the Main Street Manager, and the Chamber of Commerce Executive Director. He added that the goal is to have 51% of the members be private citizens or private business owners so that it is not just another government program. He added that the DAC meetings are open to anyone interested in the improving the Downtown.

UPDATE ON PANHANDLING & LOITERING – CHIEF WILLIAMS

The City Manager explained that he, Police Chief Williams and his command staff met internally to discuss the panhandling and loitering problems, and that with the assistance of the City Attorney wrote a letter to the merchants along South Main Street and Downtown.

Police Chief Williams explained that he and his officers distributed the letter to the eateries on South Main Street to let the managers/owners know what could be done about loitering and panhandling. He added that he personally went to several of the fast food restaurants on South Main Street to talk with the managers. He further added that Mr. Daniel Walters and Mr. Michael Mandeville distributed the letters Downtown. He explained that the owners of businesses can:

- Tell individuals to leave their property.
- Call the Police Department for individuals that fail to leave when asked by the manager or owner.

Chief Williams discussed issues involved with citizens with mental illnesses.

CONSIDER AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES AND GRANT ADMINISTRATION SERVICES FOR THE CDBG-I GRANT PROJECT IN THE PRODUCE MARKET ROAD AREA

The City Manager explained that he was requesting Council's authorization to execute two (2) contracts, one (1) for engineering services and the other for grant administration services, for the Community Development Block Grant-Infrastructure (CDBG-I) for the Produce Market Area Sewer Project. He added that both contracts would be with McGill & Associates.

The City Attorney requested that the motion to authorize the City Manager to execute the contracts include that the City Manager could execute subject to the City Attorney's review of the contracts.

Motion was made by Councilmember Adams, seconded by Councilmember Garby, and

unanimously carried to authorize the City Manager to execute contracts with McGill & Associates for engineering services and grant administration for the CDBG-I Produce Market Area Sewer Project, pending review by the City Attorney.

REMINDER/UPDATE ON TOWN HALL MEETING

The City Manager explained that the District 1 Town Hall Meeting was being held on September 27, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at the A.B. Gibson Center.

The City Clerk explained that since all Councilmember would be present and City business would be discussed at the meeting, a special meeting should be called for the Town Hall Meeting.

Councilmember Adams explained that she would be out of town the day of the Town Hall Meeting.

UPDATE POST HURRICANE

The City Manager explained that this afternoon crews took the first water samples because the lines and tanks had been at the required pressure for the required time period in order to take the required bacterial tests. He added that the State will work with the City. Approximately 98-99% of electric service had been restored as of this afternoon. The remaining electric services that have not been restored are because the meter box was torn off the structure, and the owner must get a licensed electrician to re-affix and then have the box inspected by the Scotland County Inspections Department.

Councilmember Garby expressed concern about the need to protect renters in the event the landlord does not act to have the meter box re-attached.

Councilmember Adams explained that it might take several days to get an electrician onsite to do the work. It took her four (4) days to get an electrician to re-attach the meter box at her residence.

The City Manager explained that today crews were busy cutting trees and limbs. Debris removal will be a big task due to the enormous quantity of debris. The number one priority for City crews was to restore electricity and water service.

The City Manager explained that City crews removed debris from the fall of Market Furniture so that Main Street could be used. He added that City crews cannot work on private property; however crews would do more cleaning on Main Street, Railroad Street and the sidewalks around the Market Furniture building. He further added that Mr. Mac McInnis, City Planner and Code Enforcement Officer, would begin the unsafe procedures the following morning.

Upon question by Councilmember Garby, the City Manager explained that he spoke with the property owner, Mr. Melton, on the day the three (3) walls collapsed. He discussed the

potential problems if the fourth wall fell.

The City Attorney added that Mr. McInnis would conduct an inspection and then place a sign on the building declaring it unsafe. He will provide notice of the actions to the owner, and it is hoped that the owner will take appropriate action quickly.

The City Manager discussed the liability issues if the City attempted to pull down the fourth wall on private property.

Upon question by Councilmember Garby, the City Attorney explained that the City would not have any liability if the fourth wall fell since it had begun the unsafe building procedures.

Upon question by Mayor Block, the City Manager explained that the assessment had begun from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the State to determine if the FEMA funds would be available. Once FEMA and the State completes the assessment, it will be sent to the Governor and then to the President. FEMA funds are not available until the Presidential declaration.

Discussion ensued concerning the FEMA process and assistance to citizens. The City Manager explained that once the County is declared eligible for FEMA funds, FEMA would come into the County to take applications. He added that he did not know the exact process for citizens.

Councilmember Adams explained that she spoke with Mr. David Richardson of the Lumber River Council of Governments (COG). She added that even the COG is closed at this time due to no electricity and flooded roads, there are services that the COG can offer Laurinburg citizens. She added that the COG delivered five (5) days of meals to Scotland County for the Meals on Wheels Program.

Mayor Block discussed having a City employee designated to field calls from citizens that were hurricane related and to direct them to the correct person or entity.

Discussion ensued concerning some of the volunteer assistance and supplies provided in the community thus far. Councilmember Garby explained that he had directed a group that wanted to bring in supplies and aid to Mr. Roylin Hammond, Emergency Management Director.

Upon question by Mayor Block, the City Manager explained that there would not be any utility cut-offs until October 5, 2018. He added that when there is extreme weather, the City does not cut off utilities.

Discussion ensued concerning the curfew. The City Manager explained that Mr. Hammond recommended that the curfew remain in effect from 9:00 p.m. until 5:00 a.m.

Councilmember Garby commended the City Manager and City staff for the amazing job done during and thus far after the hurricane. He added that Mr. Jason Lighthall, Electric Services

Director, was his neighbor, so he witnessed the fact that Mr. Lighthall's truck was hardly ever home.

Upon question by Councilmember Adams, the City Manager explained that he and staff had looked at Mr. Rainer's property several times, and that Mr. Chuck Willis, Public Engineer, had also looked at the property. Isabelle Street is in a low lying area, and when there are flash floods, the water rushes over the curbing flooding the property. Mr. Willis developed a recommendation to fix the problem; however, the cost was in the seven (7) digits.

Upon question by Councilmember Williamson, the City Manager explained that the City could possibly get FEMA funds to fix the problem on Isabelle Street because FEMA did not want to continually pay for the same issues, but instead wanted to solve the issues to prevent reoccurrence.

Councilmember Leak discussed the flooding issues throughout the City. Six (6) of his neighbors were rescued by boat from their homes.

COMMENTS FROM MAYOR AND/OR COUNCILMEMBERS

There were no comments from the Mayor or Councilmembers.

CLOSED SESSION

At 9:43 p.m. Councilmember Adams moved to go into closed session pursuant to NC General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6) for a personnel matter. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Williamson, and carried unanimously.

At 9:54 p.m. Councilmember Adams moved to adjourn the closed session and return to the regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Garby, and carried unanimously.

ADJOURN

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Matthew Block, MD, Mayor

Jennifer A. Tippet, City Clerk