

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners, Laurinburg City Council joint session
May 8, 2008, Scotland Place, Laurinburg*

MINUTES

Scotland County Board of Commissioners Reconvened Meeting, May 8, 2008, Scotland Place Joint Session with Laurinburg City Council

Commissioners in attendance: Chairman J.D. Willis and Commissioners Leon Butler, Guy McCook, Joyce McDow and Clarence McPhatter. Commissioners not present: Vice Chair Betty Blue Gholston and Commissioner John Alford. Staff in attendance: County Manager Kevin Patterson and Clerk to the Board Ann W. Kurtzman.

City Council Members in attendance: Mayor Matthew Block and Council Members Amanda Faulk, Tommy Parker and Rembert Deberry. Not present were Council members Curtis Leak and Herbert Rainer. Staff in attendance: City Manager Craig Honeycutt and City Clerk Dee Hammond.

Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Newton, Schools Maintenance Director Roger Ammons and Coach Tommy Britt also attended.

Following a tour of the Recreation Complex, Laurinburg Mayor Matthew Block called the City Council meeting to order. Chairman Willis reconvened the Board of Commissioners. Council Member Rembert Deberry delivered the opening prayer.

Mayor Block said City residents during a recent input session expressed a need for more recreational opportunities, particularly indoor during summer months and weekends.

City Council and Commissioners discussed the possibility of using neighborhood schools for recreation activities for teenagers, who would be within walking distance of those schools.

Ms. Newton said a similar program currently exists at Laurel Hill Community Center, which grew out of efforts made by the Youth Center Task Force.

Chairman Willis suggested that Ms. Newton, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and school representatives develop a plan to open several school gyms for a specific time period and account for the cost factor. Chairman Willis said the report should then be presented to the City Council and Board of Commissioners.

The governing boards agreed that recreational activities in Gibson and Wagram and at I.E. Johnson and Sycamore Lane be included in the report. The City Council and Commissioners agreed that the National Guard Armory also might be an option.

Mayor Block mentioned that City residents also indicated a desire to see a recreational facility in a centralized location that would offer amenities similar to those at a YMCA.

Chairman Willis said since everything has a price tag could citizens afford a project of this nature. Chairman Willis said if the City wanted to pursue a YMCA-type facility, it should develop a plan and then determine how the County might figure in that plan.

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City Council member Tommy Parker said revenue to continue support of a YMCA-like project must be considered.

Commissioner McCook said the Youth Center Task Force in the 90s researched the possibility of locating a YMCA in the community, but the Task Force could not make it work. Commissioner McCook said a centrally-located property of the right size would have to be identified.

Chairman Willis said current County priorities include lowering the tax rate, bringing more jobs to the area and completing the Recreation Complex.

Commissioner McCook said the County is looking to improve neighborhood parks by soliciting input from citizens to determine what they would like to see for their parks. Commissioner McCook said attendance was good for the first two community forums.

The Commissioners and City Council discussed parks in general, methods to improve them and make them more inviting and how to resolve security issues.

The governing boards then discussed possible consolidation efforts. Chairman Willis asked County Manager Patterson and City Manager Honeycutt to develop a one-stop consolidation of services plan involving inspections, planning and zoning and tax for possible implementation in FY 2009-2010.

The City Council adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Motion was made by Commissioner McCook and duly seconded by Commissioner McDow to recess to 12 p.m. May 27 at 507 West Covington Street. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Ann W. Kurtzman
Clerk to the Board

J.D. Willis
Chairman