

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners/Laurinburg City Council joint session
6 p.m. Thursday, January 12, 2006, City Council Chambers, 303 West Church Street*

**Scotland County Board of Commissioners/City of Laurinburg Joint Session
6 p.m. Thursday, January 12, 2006
City Council Chambers, 303 West Church Street, Laurinburg, NC**

Following a dinner, which began at 6 p.m., Chairman J.D. Willis reconvened the meeting, a joint meeting with the Laurinburg City Council. Commissioners in attendance: Chairman Willis, Vice Chair Betty Blue Gholston and Commissioners John Alford, Leon Butler, Charles “Scoofer” Jordan (*left at 7 p.m.*) and Joyce McDow. Commissioners not in attendance: Commissioner Clarence McPhatter. Staff in attendance: County Manager John A. Crumpton and Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager Kevin Patterson, who recorded the minutes in the absence of County Clerk Ann W. Kurtzman.

City Council in attendance included Mayor Ann B. Slaughter, and Councilmembers Curtis Leak, Herbert Rainer, Tommy Parker, Lisa Griswold and Rembert Deberry. City staff in attendance included City Manager Craig Honeycutt, City Clerk Dee Hammond, Finance Officer Cindy Carpenter and Human Resources Officer Bob Bell.

County Manager Crumpton provided an update on proposals by Waste Management and Republic to site a regional landfill in the County. Mr. Crumpton said Waste Industries also intends to submit a proposal. He said the second reading of the Host/Franchise Agreement with Waste Management was postponed. A site has not yet been identified.

Councilmember Leak asked if the LRCOG Groundwater Committee has been made aware of the proposals so it might contribute information as to how water in the County would be affected. Chairman Willis said bringing in the LRCOG Groundwater Committee might be premature at this time. He added that assurance from the State so far indicates there would not be a problem.

Councilmember Parker said the proposals should ensure that revenue generated is proportionate, even 20 years from now, and that a certain number of jobs are created.

Commissioner Jordan said the Board also is relying on information from State officials regarding potential safety issues that might arise from a lined landfill, and that much information has already been shared.

County Manager Crumpton said the permitting process required by the State is not an easy one and could take up to five years to accomplish.

Councilmember Parker suggested the Commissioners visit a retired landfill to see what the after affects might be.

Vice Chair Gholston said the Commissioners are still in the process of gathering information and doing their homework.

Chairman Willis said if there is a positive decision to site a landfill locally, the County would get the most dollars for the volume of trash received.

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The Commissioners and Councilmembers discussed the possibility of consolidating GIS services, which would result in a potential cost savings. County Manager Crumpton said making the GIS investment with the City would help the County greatly and result in considerable savings.

The Commissioners, by consensus, agreed that a consolidation of GIS services with the City should be studied.

Mr. Honeycutt said that he and Mr. Crumpton also discussed the possibility of combining Planning Departments, which would be a long range project at this point. Mr. Crumpton said if consolidated, the City and County could streamline service in this area.

Chamber of Commerce President Jim Frank Henderson provided an update on industrial recruitment. Mr. Henderson said he continues to work on active projects, and he and the County Manager met with a client today. Mr. Henderson said he would meet next week with a client looking for a potential automotive site.

Mr. Henderson said the building inventory in the County is depleted in that there are not existing buildings that meet the average needs of clients. He said the governing board in the future might want to consider construction of a 50,000-square-foot shell building, which would incorporate structural features required by potential clients.

Chairman Willis said such a building would keep the County competitive because existing vacant facilities are not always the right ones, according to industries looking to locate in the County.

Mr. Henderson said just this afternoon he received communication from the president of MSD that the company would discontinue operations effective March 31, 2006. The shutdown would affect 100 employees. Mr. Henderson said that whatever is in the Memorandum of Understanding between the governing body and the company regarding incentives is what the company must live up to.

Mr. Henderson said production remains solid at West Point Stevens, although company-wide, clerical staff would be reduced and sales and support departments would be consolidated. The new corporate name is West Point Home Furnishing, said Mr. Henderson.

City Manager Honeycutt said the City is exploring the possibility of securing a consultant, Buxton, Inc., who specializes in retail recruitment to communities. Mr. Honeycutt said Buxton would actually match a community up with retailers. Mr. Honeycutt said it is hoped that the industrial base would increase if the retail base is increased. He said the consultant cost is approximately \$43,000, and the City would like the Commissioners to consider a cost share in retaining the consultant services.

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Mr. Honeycutt said the City is concerned for pedestrians crossing the overpass bridge off 15/401 to get to the County complex. He said by working with the County and NCDOT, something might be done to make it a safer route for citizens. Mayor Slaughter said a joint appeal might make more of a difference than if one board asked. Chairman Willis said perhaps a joint resolution should be considered.

County Manager said the Historic Properties Commission is asking for the speed limit to be lowered from 45 to 35 mph at the John Blue House and Museum across the street where there is a lot of foot traffic between the two facilities, particularly by children's group. Historic Properties would like a crosswalk, too. Mr. Crumpton said the speed limit should be reduced from the overpass and continuing past the John Blue House. He suggested that be added to the joint resolution.

County Manager Crumpton thanked the City for its assistance with the Recreation Complex. He said the County now is working on the drainage system and grading.

The condition of Hammond, Washington and Lincoln parks was discussed. City Manager Honeycutt discussed a \$40,000 grant, the NC Fit Fund, which might be available in the future. County Manager Crumpton said a spring clean at each parks would be conducted and a safety check list developed. Councilmember Deberry suggested the City might be able to do some in-kind work in order to help the County expedite park improvements.

Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to recess to 6 p.m. January 17, 2006 at the Comfort Inn for a joint session with the Board of Health. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann W. Kurtzman
Clerk to the Board

J.D. Willis
Chairman

***(minutes developed from notes provided by
Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager Kevin Patterson)***