

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, September 3, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 114 West Sycamore Street, Lincolnton North Carolina.

Mayor John Gilleland opened the meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Eaddy made the motion unanimously approved the **REGULAR AGENDA**.

Councilman Rhyne made the motion unanimously approved the **CONSENT AGENDA**

REGULAR AGENDA:

BUDGET AMENDMENT
(BA-04-15)

Proposed budget amendment increasing several line items within the General Fund/General Expense/Distribution & Collection/Electric Fund

Mr. Steve Zickefoose spoke to this item explaining that this request is a result of evolving projects that were not completed by the end of the previous budget year. Therefore revenue needs to be rolled over into this fiscal year's budget. Mr. Zickefoose gave a brief summary /explanation for each request. Council had no questions.

Councilman Eaddy made the motion unanimously approved the request for budget amendment BA-04-15.

CONTRACT
(C-17-15)

Approval of contract between the City and Wirth & Associates for the design of First Federal Park - not to exceed \$295,000

Recreation Director Richard Haynes presented a copy of the proposed contract between Wirth & Associates and the City of Lincolnton which listed the Scope of Services to be performed. Mr. Haynes began by directing Council to one major change on page 6. Item #10 was changed to one million dollars, which is the maximum amount. Mr. Haynes explained the contract amount is approximately 15% of the total project which is on the bottom half of the estimated average cost for design work. He also pointed out the contract for the project being turn-key, taking you from design to grand opening.

Mr. Haynes noted that changes and/or additional services will cause an increase cost. He then offered to answer any questions from Council. Although not about the contract, Councilman Rhyne questioned if the status of the caboose should be addressed with the

architect in relation to the design of the project. Some discussion was generated as to whether the caboose can be utilized or the possibility of it being a part of the design. Recreation Director Richard Haynes confirmed there being ADA issues as well as liability issues if the caboose were to be made accessible to the public. At the conclusion of the discussion, Mayor Gilleland requested the issue of the caboose be placed on next months agenda.

Councilman Rhyne made the motion unanimously approved to approve the contact between the City and Wirth & Associates for the design of First Federal Park

OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion of Back Collection for Route 90 Customers

City Manager Jeff Emory gave a report regarding monies owed and collections of back payment from Route 90 customers. Mr. Emory provided a spreadsheet which was put together by Finance Director Steve Zickefoose, showing accounts and amounts to be collected going back three years. Mr. Emory reported that the City could collect approximately \$85,000.00 if council chooses to pursue back collection. There was discussion among Council and staff regarding how to proceed, ending in a consensus among Council to take measures to collect. Councilman Eaddy suggested collecting twenty-five dollars a month, stating that in ten years, most accounts will be paid in full. All others will need to make other arrangements with the collections department. Councilman Rhyne agreed with requiring a monthly payment, however felt a maximum ten year payoff, regardless of the amount owed, should be implemented as customers may neglect to set up payment arrangements. Finance Director Steve Zickefoose, as well as City Attorney T.J. Wilson stated they saw no problems with this being done. Mr. Zickefoose and Mr. Emory explained the monthly bill will show this amount separately from their current bill however the entire bill will need to be paid each month to keep service.

After much discussion, Councilman Eaddy made a motion unanimously approved that the individuals owing for back sewer services be notified of a ten year payoff for those services with the requirement that those payments be made monthly in order to maintain service. If any resident moves outside of the city limits, the account is to be turned over to a private or public collection agency. Councilman Cloninger requested more discussion on the issue however motion stood. Mayor Gilleland took a moment to thank Commissioner Martin Oaks as well as the other members of the board for working with the City in this matter.

Discussion of Recruitment Efforts for City Commercial/Industrial Customers

Business and Community Development Director Vicki Davis and City Manager Jeff Emory updated Council on recruitment efforts for city commercial/industrial customers. Mr. Emory began by stressing the city's commitment to continue to work

with LEDA on recruitment efforts, while also finding ways to compliment those efforts. Mrs. Davis gave a power point presentation, referred to as an Industrial Focus Plan, she explained as being an outline for the bases for development of the concentrated strategic effort to attract businesses, with an emphasis on significant water users. She provided Council with detailed information on each step from start to finish. Mrs. Davis and Mr. Emory addressed questions from Council regarding implementing plan as discussion was generated on the issue.

Monthly Financial/Overtime Report

City Manager Jeff Emory presented the monthly financial and overtime report for July to City Council. Mr. Emory pointed out several of the line items, giving a brief explanation for each. Councilman Rhyne inquired about the tax reallocation issue which Mr. Emory informed is still pending. Councilman Rhyne also asked about the status of the pending projects with Piedmont Properties. City Attorney T.J. Wilson responded confirming the County's need to decide how to handle if legislation is not passed. Discussion was generated. Councilman Eaddy expressed his concern with the delay, suggesting if nothing has been decided within the next two months, the City find a way to move forward with the project.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No one signed to speak under public comment.

CLOSED SESSION

Councilman Rhyne made a motion unanimously approved to go into closed session in accordance with NCGS 143-318.11(a)(1)(4)(5) to discuss property. Mayor Gilleland asked Commissioner Oates to join the Council in the closed session discussion.

Mayor Gilleland reported no action taken.

NEWS MEDIA:

No questions from the news media

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Cloninger made the motion unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting.

DONNA C. FLOWERS, CMC
CITY CLERK

JOHN O. GILLELAND, Jr.
MAYOR