

**MINUTES OF CLOSED SESSION**  
**Law and Finance Committee Meeting**  
**City of Sanford – December 15, 2010**

Upon a motion duly made, seconded, and carried in the December 15, 2010, open session of the of the Law and Finance Committee meeting, the Council went into closed session in accordance with N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a) (1) to prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential pursuant to the law and not considered a public record and (5) to instruct the public body staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken on behalf of the public body in negotiating the price or other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property.

Mayor Cornelia P. Olive  
Council Member Charles Taylor  
Council Member L. I. (Poly) Cohen  
City Attorney Susan C. Patterson  
City Manager Hal Hegwer

Council Member Walter McNeil  
Council Member James G. Williams  
Council Member Sam Gaskins  
City Clerk Bonnie White

Absent:

Mayor Pro Tem Mike Stone  
Council Member Linwood Mann, Sr.

**Item #1**

City Manager Hal Hegwer advised Council that Don and Ted Key have written him a letter (Exhibit A) stating that they will accept an offer from the City of \$150,000. They rejected the previous offer of \$125,000 from the City.

Mayor Olive stated that she has spoken with Mrs. Headen and Mrs. Headen thinks the parking lot will be used because the people who are handicapped, cannot get out of their cars on Main Street because it is too dangerous.

Mr. Hegwer explained that staff is keeping track of expenses and if Council chooses to purchase the parking lot, we could fix a portion of the lot for parking. It is not going to be an easy site to work with. Mayor Olive added that one area will need to be paved to help the handicapped.

Council Member Taylor stated that if the City purchases the property, we need to make improvements because of liability purposes.

Council Member McNeil stated we could buy it and we have a motor grader to level it off and put some crush'n run on it. Council Member Sam Gaskins echoed Mr. McNeil's comments.

Mr. Hegwer advised that we could design the parking lot and build it in approximately six months.

City Manager Hal Hegwer asked Council how they would like for staff to proceed with the project.

Council Member Charles Taylor made the motion to negotiate with Mrs. Headen to purchase the strip of property behind her building in exchange for improvements made to it; however, if she does not agree, to authorize negotiations of a purchase price not to exceed \$5,000 for her property; and to purchase the property from Ted and Don Key in the amount of \$150,000 including an easement to Main Street. Council Member James Williams stated that we need something in writing to present to the Keys.

Council Member Sam Gaskins seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Council Member Charles Taylor stated in the future, he felt that council members should be kept out of the negotiation process. It puts the council member in an awkward position, appearance-wise, and if staff negotiates, it makes a better public perception. Mr. Taylor believes no council member should negotiate a purchase price and then have to vote on it.

Council Member Sam Gaskins made the motion to adjourn and return to regular session. Seconded by Council Member L. I. "Poly" Cohen, the motion carried unanimously.

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Mayor Cornelia P. Olive

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City Clerk Bonnie D. White

Mayor Pro Tem Sam Gaskins made the motion to approve and release these minutes. Seconded by Council Member Charles Taylor, the motion carried unanimously. Adopted in closed session on Tuesday, August 16, 2011.

