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## Wilmington City Council Report

by **Marimar McNaughton**  
Thursday, June 5, 2008

### Budget passes first reading, trucks, trees

The Wilmington City Council heard the first reading of its proposed 2008-2009 \$128 million budget and will conduct the second reading at its June 17 meeting.

Also held over until June 17 was a proposed land development code amendment limiting the number of parked commercial and utility vehicles in residential districts. The planning department recommended approval of the change, which was driven by public complaint.

"Currently there are no regulations on the number you can have on your lot or where they are placed, so we are placing more restrictions on what's appropriate," associate planner Corey Taylor said.

The proposal recommends one commercial vehicle, used by the resident of the premises and weighing less than 10,000 pounds, may be parked off the street in a driveway or a garage on a residential lot containing a principal building.

Under the same amendment, a total of two utility machines or vehicles not exceeding 7 feet in height may also be permitted on a residentially zoned or used lot provided they are parked or stored in the rear yard and are not used in conjunction with a commercial purpose or business.

The proposal, which passed its first reading, may affect owners of light construction businesses. The second reading will be heard during the June 17 meeting.

In other business, the council unanimously passed a land development code amendment altering the timetable for completion of mixed-use development. The applicant, Raiford Trask III, developer of Autumn Hall, was also recognized, along with his arborist, Scott McGhee, by the Wilmington Tree Advisory Commission. The pair received tree care, maintenance and design awards for their outstanding tree preservation efforts and for their outstanding use of native trees in the planning of the Autumn Hall community.

Tree awards were also received by Karen Gibson, president of the Muirfield Homeowners Association, and Scott McGhee, arborist, for outstanding tree pruning, maintenance and overall good tree health at Muirfield in Landfall; and by Carl Worsley and Elise Rocks of Preservation Place for tree care and maintenance.

The city council also authorized the creation of a permanent home for the DREAMS Center for Arts Education and a venue for other youth and vocational education programs through a \$230,000 expenditure to Cape Fear Area Resource Centers Inc. for renovation of the former north side municipal garage. The appropriation is contingent upon a \$250,000 contribution from DREAMS and a \$150,000 contribution from the Cape Fear Area Resource Centers Inc.

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