

May 12, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor LaWanda Tatum called the regular meeting of the Lawrenceville Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on May 12, 2026.

ROLL CALL

Roll was called. Present: Council Members, Jeanette Grimes, Dora Hardy, Scott Martin, Robert F. Pecht, III, Alice Talbert, Teya Whitehead, and Anne Williams.

Also present: Town Manager, Randy Lynch, Town Clerk, Patti Lewis, Special Projects Coordinator, Kimberly Martin, Police Chief, Clay Clary, Leonard Rose, Michael Tatum, Renee Murphy- Clark, Shirley Penn, Leorie Mallory, citizens and press.

Absent: Town Attorney, W. C. Outten, Jr.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Tatum led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING- PROPOSED FY 2026/2027 BUDGET

Mayor Tatum opened the public hearing on the proposed FY 2026-2027 Budget. There was no public comment. Mr. Pecht stated the 10% increase for water/wastewater/garbage is in the proposed budget, no tax increase and 3% raise for employees. Ms. Williams expressed a concern about raising taxes to offset. Mr. Pecht stated the tax base is low and this would not justify. Mr. Pecht made the motion to close the Public Hearing, seconded by Mr. Martin and carried by all ayes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion by Mr. Pecht, seconded by Mrs. Talbert and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on April 14, 2026, as received, suspend the reading and file.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion by Mr. Martin, seconded by Ms. Williams and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to approve the agenda as presented.

RECOGNITION OF CITIZENS

LEONARD ROSE

Mr. Rose spoke about social concerns.

DR. RENEE MURPHY-CLARK

Ms. Murphy- Clark spoke of her concerns for the sharp curve near Oakwood Cemetery, she asked if signage could be added making traffic aware of the sharp curve that is on Fifth Avenue heading towards Belt Road.

LEORIE MALLORY

BRUNSWICK COUNTY FEDERAL TEACHERS CREDIT UNION

Ms. Mallory extended the Financial Services offered by the Brunswick County Teachers Federal Credit Union to employees of the Town of Lawrenceville. The services include savings accounts, loans and specialty loans.

SHIRLEY PENN

Ms. Penn requested a meeting with Town Manager, Randy Lynch and Mayor Tatum. She also expressed concern for her property located at 308 High Street, states that citizens and children hanging around the property late in the evenings.

LAWRENCEVILLE EDA

No report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Tatum reported that she attended several meetings to include NAACP, Park Street and Finance. She also attended the ribbon cutting for a new counseling service in town. Mayor Tatum says citizens want a "Lawrenceville Day", she will get with Kim, Special Project Coordinator to make this possible. Mayor Tatum also wants to have an event for business owners, to show appreciation, she will provide hotdogs; possibly June 12, 2026. Mayor Tatum thanked Chief Clary and LPD for making the community safer.

REPORT OF TOWN ATTORNEY

No report.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

CONSIDERATION OF ACCOUNTS

Mrs. Lewis reported the bills total \$238,826.22. On a motion by Mr. Pecht, seconded by Mrs. Talbert and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to pay the bills in the amount of \$238,826.22 and post to the proper accounts.

REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER

TOBACCO HERITAGE TRAIL RAMP PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. Lynch reported that Clary Construction has started on this project and it is progressing.

TEMPORARY STREET CLOSURE/PARADE PERMIT REVISIONS

Mr. Lynch stated this is in review now and should be available next month.

PROPERTY UPDATE

Mr. Pecht moved to authorize Town Manager, Mr. Lynch to draft and mail a letter for the former Brick & Tile and Former Southern States properties to nullify the original proposal contract, between the Town of Lawrenceville and the named party, seconded by Ms. Hardy and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to proceed with the letter.

FINANCE

TENTATIVE ADOPTION OF FY26/27 BUDGET

Mr. Pecht stated that it has been a difficult year, on the revenue and expense side. The revenue shortage from the prison has been the impact due to the renovation at the facility. There is a change to the tentative budget from purchasing the Hydro Excavator to leasing the unit. Mr. Pecht moved to adopt the tentative budget for FY26/27, seconded by Mr. Martin and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to adopt the tentative FY26/27 budget.

ADVERTISE PUBLIC HEARING FY26/27 RATE INCREASE

On motion by Mr. Pecht, seconded by Mr. Martin and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to advertise FY26/27 Water/Wastewater/Garbage Increase for Public Hearing on June 9, 2026.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

In the month of April 2026, The Lawrenceville Volunteer Fire Department responded to twenty-one (21) calls. Of the total, two (2) were in the town limits, nineteen (19) were outside of the town limits. Also of the call total, sixteen (16) were within Lawrenceville Fire's 1st Due, with five (5) being mutual aid to other agencies. Approximately, forty-seven and a half (47.5) man hours were expended. The following is a breakdown of incidents. Alarm Activation No Fire (1) Brush Fire (3) Disregard (6) Medical Assist (1) MVC w/injuries (4) Smoke Scare/Odor (2) Structure Fire (1) Vehicle Fire (3)

1st Due-16

Mutual Aid-5

In Town-2

Out of Town-19

Total calls-21

Total man hours expended-47.5

PERSONNEL

Openings are listed in packet.

POLICE

Chief Clary's report is in the packet, LPD officers responded to 383 calls for service, issued 84 Virginia uniform traffic summons. Chief Clary attended several meetings during the month of April.

PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

No report.

STREETS, LIGHTS & CEMETERY

Public Works Director, Mr. Michael Brown provided a detailed report in reference works and duties completed since last council meeting.

No formal report for lights and cemetery; signage is in review.

TOWN DEVELOPMENT

No report.

WATER/WASTEWATER

No report; CCR reports to go out next month.

HOUSING CODE ENFORCEMENT

A letter will be mailed out this week to a property owner on North Main in reference to the condition of the building. Grass notices will be processed soon.

PARKS/RECREATION

Mr. Lynch advised that The Trail Head Ramp Project should be complete in 60 days and railings will be installed at Park Street once complete.

WELLNESS

Ms. Whitehead stated May is mental health & skin cancer awareness month, she encouraged all to take breaks in the workplace and remember to wear your sunscreen.

Ms. Grimes stated she would like to see NARCAN training provided, this is free and would like the Fire & Police Department's included.

FARMER'S MARKET

Mayor Tatum, Ms. Whitehead & Ms. Hardy to get together to talk and plan a "Feeding Community" event, such as the City of Refuge in South Hill that currently offers this in the neighboring county.

LAWRENCEVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION

No report.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brunswick Health Ambassadors-Saturday, June 13, 2026; 11am-1pm

Red White & Blue Parade- Friday, June 26, 2026; 6:30pm

Sparks in the Park- Friday, June 26, 2026; 7-10pm

Remote Area Medical- Saturday & Sunday, June 27-28, 2026

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ms. Hardy asked the status of the LOVE sign, Mr. Martin gave an update that Clary Construction will install a concrete slab at the park near completion of the current project, where the LOVE sign will be located.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Tatum adjourned the meeting.

LaWanda Tatum, Mayor

Patti Lewis, Clerk