

January 14, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor LaWanda Tatum called the regular meeting of the Lawrenceville Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on January 14, 2025.

ROLL CALL

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

Also present: Town Attorney, W. C. Outten, Jr., Town Manager, Randy Lynch, Town Clerk, Wanda Johnson, Special Projects Coordinator, Kimberly Martin, Assistant Police Chief, Demetrie Coles, Barbara J. Harris, Alfonzo Seward, Michael Tatum, Leonard Rose, citizens and the press.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Tatum led the Pledge of Allegiance. She welcomed everyone and wished them a Happy New Year.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion by Mr. Brockwell, seconded by Mr. Pecht and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on December 10, 2024, as received, suspend the reading and file.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion by Mr. Pecht, seconded by Mrs. Talbert and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to approve the agenda as presented.

RECOGNITION OF CITIZENS

LEONARD ROSE

Mr. Rose talked about his caregiver, Bruno, the Channel 12 Act of Kindness Award and about a book he recently read.

LAWRENCEVILLE EDA

The LEDA has a meeting scheduled for tomorrow.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Tatum welcomed new Town Council Member Jeanette Grimes. Mayor Tatum expressed concern that she found out that Everette Gibson is the new part-time police chief by reading about it in the paper. (This information was not correct. A correction should be made in the next newspaper). She found out about a committee meeting from a private citizen. She stated she needs information to lead successfully. She wants to be notified if any committee is having a meeting. Mayor Tatum plans to begin a recognition program called Community Thrivers. The first to be recognized with a certificate will be Lawrenceville United Methodist Church. Members of the community enjoy using the church playground. There will be others in the future.

REPORT OF TOWN ATTORNEY

There was no report.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

CONSIDERATION OF ACCOUNTS

Mrs. Johnson reported the bills total \$95,598.60. On a motion by Mr. Brockwell, seconded by Mrs. Talbert and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to pay the bills in the amount of \$95,598.60 and post to the proper accounts.

REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER

WATER TANK REPAIRS

The water tank repairs and refilling have been completed. Quality control samples will be taken tomorrow, January 15, 2025. Pending approved results, the tank could be back online by the end of the week. One of the elevated storage tanks will be taken out of service for cleaning and repairs once all telemetry has been tested.

PRETREATMENT PROGRAM MEMORANDUM OF COMMITMENT

DEQ is in receipt of all requested documents to date. DEQ is now requesting an estimated annual budget, as presented in the memorandum of commitment. A copy of the memorandum is in the packet. Mr. Lynch requested that Town Council approve this commitment for continuing annual funding and approve for Mayor Tatum to sign the document to be submitted to DEQ. On motion by Mr. Pecht, seconded by Mr. Brockwell and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to approve that Mayor Tatum sign the Pretreatment Program Funding Memorandum of Commitment as presented.

ALBERTA WATERLINE GRANT FUNDING STATUS UPDATE

The Town is in receipt of an email from VDH regarding the Alberta Waterline Phase 1 Project 2024 Funding application in the amount of \$3,250,113. The email indicates that the application for Phase 1 funding was not approved. The Town is waiting for the official notification that this project was not funded. The next application cycle is in May if Council wants to apply. The Town will work with SPDC to determine the next steps and funding sources.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Pecht reported the financial statement in the packet represents the halfway point of the fiscal year. At this point, we are ahead of last year, favorable to the budget.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

The December fire report is in the packet. The fire department responded to 31 calls in December. Of the 31, 7 were in the town limits and 24 were outside the town limits. Also, 20 were in the LVFD First Due area, with 11 being mutual aid to other agencies. Approximately 279.5 man hours were expended. An annual report for call totals for 2024 is also in the packet. The department responded to 288 calls in 2024. Of the 288, 48 were in town and 240 were outside the town limits.

Ms. Grimes asked about Council committee assignments. Mayor Tatum advised that she will be meeting with Council members to review committee assignments and possibly making changes.

PERSONNEL

Mr. Brockwell congratulated Ms. Grimes on her election to Town Council and welcomed her. He would like to meet with Ms. Grimes after this meeting to discuss the committees he is in charge of. Mr. Brockwell commented that a retraction is expected to be made regarding the article in the paper. Generally, for a police position, the recommendation is made from the police committee to the personnel committee and goes on from there. Job descriptions for the positions to be filled are included in the packet. He and Mr. Lynch will schedule a personnel committee meeting to be held on Tuesday or Wednesday of next week. Mr. Brockwell discussed the recent water problems in Richmond and how they relate to the operations in Lawrenceville.

POLICE

Ms. Hardy wished everyone a Happy New Year. She advised the November and December police reports are in the packet. Ms. Hardy reported that Chief Natasha Brown submitted a letter of resignation that was effective December 27, 2024. Regarding the information printed in the Brunswick Times-Gazette, Ms. Hardy has no idea where that came from. The information did not come from her or the police committee. The Police committee plans to meet. Ms. Whitehead shared police employment opportunities as posted by Brunswick, Mecklenburg and Emporia for comparison information. Ms. Hardy stated that she wants to focus on LEO benefits for law enforcement for 2025. She will be working with the Town Manager on the benefits. Mr. Lynch reported that he contacted the newspaper and requested a correction to be printed regarding the error.

PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Mr. Brockwell wants to be sure we are insuring Town property and equipment at replacement cost.

STREETS, LIGHTS & CEMETERY

Mrs. Talbert expressed thanks to the Town crew for being out early on Saturday and Sunday in the cold and messy weather. They also got the trash picked up on Monday.

TOWN DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Brockwell commented that there are minutes in the add packet from the Town Development committee meeting. Off-street parking and parking codes were discussed.

Holiday decorations were discussed. The committee recommends the purchase of twelve pole lights, as pictured in the add packet, at a cost of \$10,890.95. These are sale prices good in January. This will also require electrical connections to be made to the poles by Dominion and costs charged by Dominion. On motion by Mr. Brockwell, seconded by Mr. Pecht and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to purchase twelve pole lights at the cost of \$10,890.95 from Mosca Designs, pending budget funds.

Vacant buildings were discussed. Samples of VEDP building data sheets are in the add packet.

VDOT will hold a Design Public Hearing on February 5, 2025, 5 -7 p.m., at the Brunswick County Conference Center, regarding US 58 improvements at the Brunswick Square intersection.

Volunteers are working on the LOVE sign.

WATER/WASTEWATER

Information was discussed earlier in the meeting.

HOUSING CODE ENFORCEMENT

There was no report.

PARKS/RECREATION

There was no report.

WELLNESS

Ms. Whitehead provided a short video on mental health. Mayor Tatum reported Southside Behavioral Health is planning a mental health and wellness summit in May.

FARMER'S MARKET

Ms. Whitehead and Mayor Tatum are working together on a community event for March.

LAWRENCEVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION

There was no report.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no additional announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Tatum adjourned the meeting.

LaWanda Tatum, Mayor
Wanda Johnson, Clerk