

August 10, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Scott Martin called the regular meeting of the Lawrenceville Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on August 10, 2021.

ROLL CALL

Roll was called. Present: Mayor Scott Martin; Council Members Joyce Bland, H. B. Brockwell, Jr., Robert F. Pecht, III, Alice Talbert, Teya Whitehead and Anne Williams.

Absent: Council Member Dora Hardy.

Also present: Town Attorney, W. C. Outten, Jr., Town Manager, Everette Gibson, Town Clerk, Wanda Johnson, Police Chief, John Stith, Assistant Police Chief, Natasha Brown, Police Officer, Brian Glover, Kimberly Martin, Scott Brandt, Tarek Ibrahim, Alfreda J. Reynolds, Mike Dotti, Phil Gilson, James Wesson, Justin Thomas, citizens and the press.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chief Stith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion by Mr. Brockwell, seconded by Mrs. Talbert and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on July 13, 2021, as received, suspend the reading and file.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

RECOGNITION OF CITIZENS

SCOTT BRANDT – KNOB HILL TRAILER PARK

Mr. Brandt addressed Council to request an adjustment on his water bill for the trailer court at 43 Ruth Lane. He said there was a leaking toilet in one of the trailers and the tenants did not realize how much it could increase the water bill. He said he passes his water bill charges on to his tenants based on meters he has installed on his side of the Town's metered connection. He said the water charges become part of their rent. Mr. Brandt said if the additional charges are not forgiven by the Town, he will have to evict his tenants for not paying their rent/water bill. Mr. Brandt also commented on there not being a commercial rate for his account. Mr. Pecht commented that the Town's water rates are well below the median rates for the entire state. Mr. Brockwell commented that the Town's bills to Mr. Brandt do not add up to what he says the tenants owe. Mayor Martin thanked Mr. Brandt for coming to the meeting and referred the matter to the water/sewer committee.

TAREK IBRAHIM – PINO’S PIZZA

Mr. Ibrahim requested, on behalf of his customers, that the Town reserve a couple of parking spaces in front of Pino’s Pizza for pickup of takeout orders. Mayor Martin said Town Council will look into this and get back to Mr. Ibrahim.

MIKE DOTTI, DIRECTOR, BRUNSWICK IDA

Mr. Dotti reported that the lights in the IDA parking lot have been repaired. He requested that the Town work with the IDA on directional parking in town for better directions and access to parking lots. Mr. Dotti also reported that the Town and IDA joint Historic District project has been approved. There were two grand openings in town last week.

LAWRENCEVILLE EDA

Anne Williams reported that the EDA met earlier this evening. The EDA is requesting a meeting with Town Council to discuss the Clarke Smith Building problem that is causing water damage to the Bloom Building.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Martin reported there were ribbon cuttings at the Power of One and Kindred Medical Transportation. The National Night Out was a good time with good weather and was well attended. The Stakeholders meeting had a good turnout. The parking lot spaces will be striped soon. We will have a carport from the IDA to be moved at the Town’s expense. The We Are the World event was postponed from last Saturday to this coming Saturday due to rain.

REPORT OF TOWN ATTORNEY

There was no report.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

CONSIDERATION OF ACCOUNTS

Mrs. Johnson reported the bills total \$149,105.69. 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 \$149,105.69 and post to the proper accounts. Mr. Pecht noted that \$61,000.00 on the list is to be paid from the Infrastructure account for a payment on the parking lot construction.

REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER

STAKEHOLDERS’ MEETING

The water and wastewater stakeholders’ meeting was held on August 4th at the Southern States/KASS building. It was well attended with representatives from the Brunswick Board of Supervisors, Lawrenceville EDA, Town of Lawrenceville, Town of Alberta and the SPDC. Randy Lynch, Director of Public Works was the speaker. He shared the presentations on the water and wastewater systems that were previously shown at a council meeting.

MUNICIPAL PARKING LOT UPDATE

The parking lot is complete except for the parking space lines to be painted. The wiring for future lighting is in place.

UPDATE ON SIDEWALK PROJECT

The SPDC has advised that VDOT approved the project and we hope to have funds in the next thirty days. Clary Construction will be the contractor on the project.

UPDATE ON SEARCH GRANT

Mr. Gibson reported that \$30,000 was awarded through the USDA for preliminary engineering for mixers at the Food Lion and Mayfield water tanks. B & B Consultants will be the engineers on the project.

DEEDS OF TRUST

The DHCD sent two deeds of trust for the Peebles and Southern States/KASS buildings for the Town to sign and record. Mr. Outten advised these had to be returned to the state for state signatures before the Town can sign and record them.

SPDC PROJECTS/INFRASTRUCTURE

An ad has run in the paper for engineering services. They are due on August 20, 2021. B & B Consultants will manage the RFP openings. Mr. Gibson will be on vacation at that time.

SURPLUS ITEMS

We are working to get surplus items back on the website in an effort to get more bids on the last three vehicles.

VISITORS – ST. PAUL’S COLLEGE PROPERTY

Mr. Gibson reported that David Lu, George Shen and Zhi Ming Guo visited the Town Office and the SPC property last Friday. There are additional families planning to visit and tour the property. They are potential investors interested in using the property for education. They are proposing to teach IT and trades. The grass is currently being cut by Jason Bottoms. Mr. Lu is paying Mr. Bottoms for his services. Ms. Reynolds advised that the County is in the process of vetting the potential investors. The SPC4Life organization is also interested in the future use of the property. Mr. Lu was previously legal counsel for the owner; now he is becoming an investor.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Pecht reported Mrs. Johnson and her staff are preparing material for the audit and sharing it with the auditors. There will be a finance meeting later this month. We hope to have more guidance regarding overtime this month.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

The fire department responded to 24 calls in July. Of the 24, 5 were in the town limits and 19 were outside the town limits. Also, 15 were in the LVFD First Due area, with 9 being mutual aid to other agencies. Approximately 129 man hours were expended. LVFD President James Wesson and Chief Justin Thomas are with us tonight to give an update. Mr. Thomas reported that the ladder truck is in Alabama now. LVFD will send representatives to inspect the truck. The tanker truck is half finished. LVFD representatives will also travel to inspect that truck. The LVFD applied for a grant from the Greenville Memorial Foundation for extrication equipment. The South Hill Fire Department is selling a 2005 Spartan/Hackney rescue support

truck with equipment. The LVFD plans to submit a sealed bid on that heavy duty truck. They plan to use funds from the CD savings to pay for the truck, if they are successful in bidding. The truck would also increase points toward the ISO rating. There will be an ISO rating visit on Friday. They will come back in October to view the new trucks before determining the ISO rating. Work on the application for 501 (c) 3 status is in the final stages. The cornhole tournament will be held on September 18, 2021.

PERSONNEL

Mr. Brockwell reported that the special projects coordinator position has been filled. The town still needs a chief water operator and a water operator. One operator employee is training online through a grant opportunity. The training should prepare the operator to sit for a Class III license exam.

POLICE

The report is in the packet. Chief Stith reported that Demetrie Coles is our new officer. There are only nine summons listed in the report. This is due to the focus on being more visible in high traffic areas in town. New radar units have been ordered. Officer Capps is doing well in school.

PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT

Mr. Brockwell reported that Mr. Lynch is evaluating the equipment inventory and possible ways to use the infrastructure grants.

STREETS, LIGHTS & CEMETERY

Mr. Gibson reported a part time employee with a chemical license will be coming in to spray weeds and grass. The herbicide had been ordered and is finally available.

TOWN DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Brockwell has completed a survey for the VDEP. A well respected member of the VDEP has retired and is now part of a consulting firm. That firm will be exploring ways they might be able to help the Lawrenceville EDA and Town Council with existing properties. This will involve a team effort between the Town, EDA, IDA and County. The VDEP protocols will be shared with council. Mr. Brockwell commented that one solution to the parking issues could be for businesses to use back entrances for access to additional parking. Mr. Brockwell was very happy with the stakeholders meeting. He provided IDA members with materials reviewed at the meeting. These will also be posted on the town website. Mr. Brockwell shared that he wished the song "Small Town" by John Mellencamp could be played before every meeting. He feels that song has positive words.

WATER/WASTEWATER

Mr. Brockwell reported an interesting situation came up at the stakeholders meeting and we will be taking a look at it. It has to do with infrastructure and the age of our system. We have 61 miles of water lines and 51 miles of wastewater pipe in the system. Most of the system in Lawrenceville has been taken care of. There will be a committee meeting following the council meeting tonight.

Ms. Williams brought up a concern about a chemical, PFA or polyfluoroalkyl that she reported is used in firefighting foam and gets into soil and aquifers. She said it can cause cancer. Mr. Pecht commented that the Virginia Department of Health should lead the way on that. Ms. Williams said that the Department of Health has come out with a report and brought it up as a concern and she would like for the town to get ahead of it.

HOUSING CODE ENFORCEMENT

There was no report.

PARKS/RECREATION

Mr. Brockwell commented that it is almost time for fall ball.

WELLNESS

Ms. Whitehead shared information on Project COLESCE and an event coming up on August 12th. Please contact Ms. Whitehead if you would like an invitation to attend. A Lunch and Learn will be held on August 31st celebrating Henrietta Lacks. Several research projects are underway and survivors and volunteers are invited to participate in them.

FARMER'S MARKET

Ms. Whitehead thanked Ms. Williams for her efforts and also Birdie and Cal for their efforts. Ms. Williams reported a puppet show is held at 10:00 a.m. every Saturday. Ms. Williams said the Meherrin library and SVCC are interested in the puppet show as well because it is very important to reading.

LAWRENCEVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION

There was no report.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no additional announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, a motion was made by Mr. Brockwell, seconded by Mrs. Talbert and carried by all ayes to adjourn the meeting.

Scott E. Martin, Mayor

Wanda Johnson, Clerk