

August 11, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Scott Martin called the regular meeting of the Lawrenceville Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. on August 11, 2020.

Mayor Martin announced that this meeting is being held using electronic means under an Emergency Ordinance adopted on April 14, 2020, and re-adopted on June 9, 2020, to allow for the continuity of government operations during the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic. The public may also attend in person following physical distancing and mask requirements.

Public access has been made available through the web address: www.zoom.us
Meeting ID: 868 5962 2281, Phone dial in: 1-929-205-6099, Passcode: 097316

ROLL CALL

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

Present electronically: Council Members: Dora Hardy and Alice Talbert.

Absent: Council Member Joyce Bland.

Also present physically: Interim Town Manager, Everette Gibson, Interim Chief John Stith, Town Clerk, Wanda Johnson, Officer Brian Glover, Daniel Finz, Polly Cole, Dr. Charlette Woolridge, Alfreda Jarrett Reynolds and the press.

Also present electronically: Town Attorney, W. C. Outten, Jr. and citizens.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chief Stith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCE SETTING TIME FOR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

As this time had been advertised for a public hearing on the proposed ordinance to change the time for the monthly town council meeting, Mayor Martin opened the public hearing. The proposed ordinance changes the monthly meeting time from 7:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. There was no public comment. There was no council comment. Mayor Martin declared the public hearing closed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion by Mr. Pecht, seconded by Mr. Brockwell and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on July 14, 2020, as received, suspend the reading and file. Motion: Mr. Pecht. Second: Mr. Brockwell. Roll call vote: Mrs. Bland, absent; Mr. Brockwell, aye; Ms. Hardy, aye; Mr. Pecht, aye; Mrs. Talbert, aye; Ms. Whitehead, aye; Mrs. Williams, aye.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion by Mr. Brockwell, seconded by Mr. Pecht and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to approve the agenda as presented. Motion: Mr. Brockwell. Second: Mr. Pecht. Roll call vote: Mrs. Bland, absent; Mr. Brockwell, aye; Ms. Hardy, aye; Mr. Pecht, aye; Mrs. Talbert, aye; Ms. Whitehead, aye; Mrs. Williams, aye.

RECOGNITION OF CITIZENS

There were no requests to speak.

LAWRENCEVILLE EDA

There was no report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Martin reported that he and Mrs. Martin worked on the Rails to Trails and took pictures and noted areas that need repair and limbs trimmed. Mayor Martin and the personnel committee have participated in phone calls, meetings and interviews for the town manager applicants. Mayor Martin thanked Ms. Cole, Mr. Jones, Mrs. Martin and Farms to Families for their work to complement the trail. They have ordered hydration stations, benches and trash cans for the trail. He attended the ribbon cutting at the Lake Country General Store and thanked Chris Baird and his family for their investment in the community. Mayor Martin, Mr. Gibson and Mr. Dotti inspected the Southern States building and reported that a cleanup is needed.

REPORT OF TOWN ATTORNEY

ORDINANCE SETTING TIME FOR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Mr. Outten advised that, as the properly advertised public hearing has been held, Council may vote on the ordinance to change the meeting time. On motion by Mr. Pecht, seconded by Mr. Brockwell and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to approve and adopt the ordinance setting the time for the regular monthly town council meeting for the second Tuesday in every month at 7:00 p.m. Motion: Mr. Pecht, Second: Mr. Brockwell. Roll call vote: Mrs. Bland, absent; Mr. Brockwell, aye; Ms. Hardy, aye; Mr. Pecht, aye; Mrs. Talbert, aye; Ms. Whitehead, aye; Mrs. Williams, aye.

EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO ALLOW FOR THE CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Mr. Outten reported that the Emergency Ordinance adopted by Town Council on April 14, 2020, and re-adopted on June 9, 2020, will expire unless readopted by Council. Mr. Outten recommended that Town Council readopt the ordinance and extend it for another sixty days. It will allow Council to meet by electronic means if needed during the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic. On motion by Mr. Pecht, seconded by Mrs. Talbert and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to readopt the Emergency Ordinance and extend it another sixty days as recommended by Mr. Outten. Motion: Mr. Pecht. Second: Mrs. Talbert. Roll call vote: Mrs. Bland, absent; Mr. Brockwell, aye; Ms. Hardy, aye; Mr. Pecht, aye; Mrs. Talbert, aye; Ms. Whitehead, aye; Mrs. Williams, aye.

REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER VPDES PERMIT

Mr. Gibson reported that DEQ has approved the VPDES permit for the wastewater treatment plant. It is a five year permit and it is effective on September 1, 2020.

CABOOSE UPDATE

T.J. Gaffney with Streamline Historic Services has not been able to get to town to inspect the caboose. He is still expected to inspect it and provide an estimate on restoration.

CURRENT SIDEWALK PROJECTS

Tobacco Heritage Trail/Gazebo Sidewalk – The bids came in higher than the VDOT estimates. The project will have to be re-bid.

CARES ACT COVID-19 RELIEF FUNDS

Mr. Gibson reported that he will get prices to purchase computers and other IT equipment for the meeting rooms. This would enable all of Council to meet electronically if necessary during the pandemic. The equipment would also be used for training purposes.

ST. PAUL'S COLLEGE CAMPUS RE-USE PROJECT

Mr. Gibson asked Dr. Woolridge to report on the project. Dr. Woolridge reported that the consultants provided six subject areas for repurposing the college property. The consultants are now exploring funding opportunities. That study should be completed in two to three weeks. Mr. Pecht and Mr. Gibson are the Town's representatives on the St. Paul's College Task Force. The Task Force meets on the first Thursday of each month at 2:00 p.m. Mr. Pecht commented on the tall grass on the property.

ALBERTA WATER SYSTEM INSPECTION

Ms. Prillaman with the Office of Drinking Water, Danville, inspected the Alberta Water System on August 6th.

OLD SOUTHERN STATES BUILDING

Mr. Gibson reported that he, Mayor Martin and Mr. Dotti inspected the Southern States building. The electricity has been off and the contents of the freezer had melted. Mr. Gibson requested permission from Council to have the electricity restored to the building. The condition of the building has been documented. The building needs to be cleaned and prepared for marketing. On motion by Mr. Brockwell, seconded by Ms. Hardy and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to have the electricity service restored to the Southern States building. Motion: Mr. Brockwell. Second: Ms. Hardy. Roll call vote: Mrs. Bland, absent; Mr. Brockwell, aye; Ms. Hardy, aye; Mr. Pecht, aye; Mrs. Talbert, aye; Ms. Whitehead, aye; Mrs. Williams, yes.

CARES ACT COVID-19 RELIEF FUNDS

Mr. Gibson reported that the Town will receive additional relief funds.

FINANCE COMMITTEE PROPOSED BUDGET AMENDMENT

Mr. Pecht reported that the committee met. Two items are recommended to be amended in the budget: Revenue, Rural Development Grant, increase from \$0.00 to \$50,000 and Expense, Sewer, Hospitalization, increase from \$789.52 to \$52,193.40. On motion by Mr. Pecht, seconded by Mr. Brockwell and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to amend the FY2020-2021 Budget as presented. Motion: Mr. Pecht. Second: Mr. Brockwell. Roll call vote: Mrs. Bland, absent; Mr. Brockwell, aye; Ms. Hardy, aye; Mr. Pecht, aye; Mrs. Talbert, aye; Ms. Whitehead, aye; Mrs. Williams, yes.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

The July report is in the additional packet. The fire department responded to 17 calls in July. Of the 17, 3 were in the town limits and 14 were outside the town limits. Also, 10 were in the LVFD First Due area, with 7 being mutual aid to other agencies. Approximately 67.5 man hours were expended.

Mr. Gibson reported that the fire department members voted unanimously on Monday night to apply for 501(c) 3 status. He will contact Kimberly Jackson, CPA for assistance with the budget and application forms. Mr. Pecht reported that he does not anticipate any change in the level of support that the Town provides to the department. The designation will help the fire department obtain grants for trucks and equipment. Mr. Brockwell commented that a ladder truck needs to be replaced to maintain the insurance rating.

PERSONNEL

Mr. Brockwell commented that the committee has been very busy with town manager applications and there is a need for a closed session tonight. No applications have been received for the Chief Water Plant Operator. All open positions continue to be advertised. C. J. Dean is still assisting with reporting requirements.

POLICE

Ms. Hardy advised that the report is in the packet.

PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT

Mr. Brockwell advised that the Brick and Tile property acquired by the Town includes a site on Cattail Drive that was once a Dairy Hut. A business owner is interested in the property. The Town would have to declare it surplus and transfer ownership to the LEDA before the property could be sold. This is for information only and no action is requested at this time.

Mr. Brockwell reported on meeting with Mr. Lynch and learning about a GIS system that he is using to locate town property, lines and hydrants.

STREETS, LIGHTS & CEMETERY

Mayor Martin commented that public works is doing all they can with the help they have. Grass that has been sprayed and died needs to be cleaned up.

TOWN DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Brockwell reported that the public works department is short three people and there is one planning to retire in January.

WATER/WASTEWATER

There will be a committee meeting following the regular meeting tonight.

SAFETY

Mr. Brockwell reported that the information is in the packet. Also, Mr. Gibson has been in numerous meetings learning about training needed for COVID. This will take quite a bit of in service training in the near future.

HOUSING CODE ENFORCEMENT

Mayor Martin reported that this has been on the backburner during the pandemic. Property concerns and tall grass need to be addressed.

PARKS/RECREATION

Mrs. Talbert asked if there has been a report on the LOVE sign project. Mr. Gilson will be contacted about this. Mr. Brockwell reported that there will be a fall league at the ballpark. The sign up day is Saturday.

WELLNESS

Ms. Whitehead provided a list of suggestions for COVID-19 supplies. She also showed a packet that she had received from VCU that contained 3 masks, disinfectant and sanitizer that VCU provided to its employees.

FARMER'S MARKET

Mayor Martin commented that the market did not work out with the conditions this year. We will meet with the new owners of the market site for next year.

LAWRENCEVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION

Timothy Puryear has been advised of his appointment to the commission.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Council contact list was in the July packet. Mrs. Talbert advised that the home telephone number listed for her is not a working number. She may be contacted by her cell phone number.

CONSIDERATION OF ACCOUNTS

On a motion by Mr. Pecht, seconded by Mr. Brockwell and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to pay the bills in the amount of \$91,755.32 and post to the proper accounts. Motion: Mr. Pecht. Second: Mr. Brockwell. Roll call vote: Mrs. Bland, absent; Mr. Brockwell, aye; Ms. Hardy, aye; Mr. Pecht, aye; Mrs. Talbert, aye; Ms. Whitehead, aye; Mrs. Williams, aye.

NEW BUSINESS

LETTER OF CONGRATULATIONS

Mr. Pecht shared that Ed Baine was recently promoted to President of Dominion Energy Virginia. Mr. Baine is the nephew of former Mayor and Mrs. Bill Herrington. Mr. Baine is from Kenbridge, VA. Mr. Pecht will assist in drafting a letter of congratulations from Town Council.

CLOSED SESSION-MOTION TO ENTER THE CLOSED MEETING

“Mr. Mayor, I move the Lawrenceville Town Council enter into a closed meeting pursuant to the provisions of Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended for the purpose of discussing personnel matters.” Motion: Mr. Pecht. Second: Mr. Brockwell. Roll call vote: Mrs. Bland, absent; Mr. Brockwell, aye; Ms. Hardy, aye; Mr. Pecht, aye; Mrs. Talbert, aye; Ms. Whitehead, aye; Mrs. Williams, aye.

MOTION TO EXIT A CLOSED MEETING AND RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

“Mr. Mayor, I move the closed meeting be adjourned and the Lawrenceville Town Council convene again in open session.” Motion: Mr. Pecht. Second: Mrs. Talbert. Roll call vote: Mrs. Bland, absent; Mr. Brockwell, aye; Ms. Hardy, aye; Mr. Pecht, aye; Mrs. Talbert, aye; Ms. Whitehead, aye; Mrs. Williams, aye.

CERTIFICATION

“Be it resolved to the best of my knowledge (i) only public business matters exempted from open meeting requirements, under Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting.” Motion: Mr. Pecht. Second: Mr. Brockwell. Roll call vote: Mrs. Bland, absent; Mr. Brockwell, aye; Ms. Hardy, aye; Mr. Pecht, aye; Mrs. Talbert, aye; Ms. Whitehead, aye; Mrs. Williams, aye.

APPOINTMENT OF TOWN MANAGER

A motion was made by Mr. Brockwell, seconded by Mr. Pecht and carried by all ayes to appoint Daniel Finz to the Town Manager position for the fiscal year period ending June 30, 2021, with the starting salary of \$65,000. Motion: Mr. Brockwell, Second: Mr. Pecht. Roll call vote: Mrs. Bland, absent; Mr. Brockwell, aye; Ms. Hardy, aye; Mr. Pecht, aye; Mrs. Talbert, aye; Ms. Whitehead, aye; Mrs. Williams, aye. Per Town Code, the Town Manager position is appointed annually for a one year, fiscal year term.

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. Motion: Mr. Brockwell, Second: Mrs. Talbert. Roll call vote: Mrs. Bland, absent; Mr. Brockwell, aye; Ms. Hardy, aye; Mr. Pecht, aye; Mrs. Talbert, aye; Ms. Whitehead, aye; Mrs. Williams, aye.

Scott E. Martin, Mayor

Wanda Johnson, Clerk