

August 9, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Scott Martin called the regular meeting of the Lawrenceville Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on August 9, 2022.

ROLL CALL

Roll was called. Present: Mayor Scott Martin; Council Members H. B. Brockwell, Jr., Dora Hardy, Robert F. Pecht, III, Nakai Peterson, Alice Talbert and Anne Williams.

Absent: Council Member, Teya Whitehead.

Also present: Town Attorney, W. C. Outten, Jr., Town Manager, Everette Gibson, Town Clerk, Wanda Johnson, Police Chief, John Stith, Officer Brian Glover, Officer Chad Clary, Special Projects Coordinator, Kimberly Martin, Nicole Lewis, Katie Matthews, Justin Thomas, Leonard Rose, citizens and the press.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Police Officer Brian Glover led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion by Mrs. Talbert, seconded by Ms. Hardy and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on July 12, 2022, as received, suspend the reading and file.

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.

RECOGNITION OF CITIZENS

NICOLE LEWIS, PRESIDENT, BDYL

Nicole Lewis, President of the Brunswick Dixie Youth League, shared information on the BDYL program participation and facility needs. 148 children signed up in the spring. The handout she shared indicated 48% are from Lawrenceville and 52% are from other areas of the county. 52% of the participants are African American and 43% are Caucasian. The league operates on revenue from fund raisers, registration fees and concessions. Ms. Lewis advised they manage regular expenses. The historic grandstand is in need of foundation repairs estimated to cost \$56,000. The historic grandstand and ballpark was once home to the St. Louis Cardinals farm team. She requested assistance from the town in preparing grant applications and possibly grounds keeping. Several possible grant opportunities were suggested. She will also request assistance from Brunswick County. Mayor Martin said he and Mr. Gibson will check with the SPDC for possible grant and assistance sources.

LEONARD ROSE

Leonard Rose spoke about the National Night Out that was held last week. He said it is important to educate kids about safety.

ANNE WILLIAMS

Anne Williams thanked everyone for contributions to the 313 High Street garden project. There are participants from the town and county and it will be a tourist attraction. Ms. Williams also discussed the caboose and would like for the community to work together for grant funding and t-shirt sales for repairs. She commented that the ones in South Hill and Alberta are in beautiful condition. Ms. Williams commented that we also need to work on the Turntable Project. UTZ is expanding, thriving, helpful and supporting the garden project. Together, as a community, we can move mountains.

LAWRENCEVILLE EDA

Mayor Martin reported that the LEDA met earlier tonight and he spoke to the new members. He thanked the LEDA for purchasing the new banners. They have come in and are on display tonight. Mrs. Martin will coordinate with Mr. Lynch to have the banners installed.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Martin commented that the LVFD cornhole event was well attended and thanked Gary Edwards for the use of his facility. He thanked Mr. Gibson for attending the ribbon cutting for JMG Beauty School. National Night Out was held last week. He thanked the Town Police, Lawrenceville Fire Department, Alberta Fire Department, Town employees and Brunswick County Sheriff's Department. The attendance and donations were the best ever. He also commented that Mrs. Martin did a fabulous job. He thanked everyone involved in caring for the individual that required medical attention.

REPORT OF TOWN ATTORNEY

There was no report.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

CONSIDERATION OF ACCOUNTS

Mrs. Johnson reported the bills total \$146,478.39. On a motion by Ms. Williams, seconded by Mr. Brockwell and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to pay the bills in the amount of \$146,478.39 and post to the proper accounts.

REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER

CINNAMON CAFÉ & VCU MASSEY CANCER CENTER BUILDING UPDATES

Mr. Gibson reported that Mr. Veliky, Building Code Maintenance Enforcer, met with Mr. Dobbs on July 29, 2022, and was able to confirm that everything was dry now and appears to be on the right track for repairs to the Cinnamon Café building. Mr. Veliky will be meeting with a representative for the VCU Massey building and the new owner of the Clarke Smith building next week.

PEEBLES AND SOUTHERN STATES PROJECTS

Mr. Gibson reported that Mr. Outten is working on a draft lease for the 4P Foods project for the Southern States building. Mr. Gibson also reported he received a written notice from a prospect regarding interest in the Peebles building. The prospect has been to visit twice and met with Mr. Gibson and Mrs. Martin once. The prospect advised he plans to work on a business plan and he will be back in contact after the end of September.

SURPLUS UPDATE

Mr. Gibson reported all of the surplus vehicles from last year have been sold via GovDeals. The sales totaled \$23,218. The fire department plans to surplus the old engine 72 and the old Charger. A representative with GovDeals advises the best time to post surplus items for the best sales.

BANNER PROJECT

The LEDA purchased banners and brackets to display on the light poles in Town. The seasonal banners are on display tonight in the Council Chambers.

ROANOKE RIVER RAILS-TO-TRAILS UPDATE

Mr. Gibson reported the Alberta Trail Project has been completed. New signage is being purchased and displayed. Up-to-date brochures have been purchased. Bridge inspections will begin immediately. The National Parks Service representative will present a master plan update at the next meeting.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

The National Night Out was very successful. Mr. Gibson thanked everyone for their support and participation. It was very well attended by the community. Mrs. Martin shared pictures from the event.

COMMITTEE MEETING

A personnel and water/wastewater meeting will be held tomorrow, Wednesday, at 2:00 p.m.

CABOOSE

Mr. Pecht asked for an update on the caboose. Mr. Gibson said he was given contact information for someone who worked with Crewe on their caboose. That person was away on vacation, he will try again later. The man who never came here due to COVID has not returned any attempts to contact him.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

ENGAGEMENT LETTER CREEDLE JONES AND ASSOCIATES

Mr. Pecht reported there is a letter of engagement from Creedle, Jones & Associates in the packet. He recommends approval of the engagement letter for the fiscal year ended June 20, 2022. On a motion by Mr. Pecht, seconded by Mr. Brockwell and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to authorize the Mayor, Town Manager and Clerk, as needed, to sign the auditor letter of engagement from Creedle, Jones & Associates.

Mr. Pecht reported the committee met for a review of finances for last fiscal year. The second installment of ARPA funds was received for \$529,000. That distorts the financial statement balance. We will be looking at infrastructure needs. We have until December 20, 2024, to expend the ARPA funds.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

The fire department responded to 18 calls in July. Of the 18, 3 were in the town limits and 15 were outside the town limits. Also, 17 were in the LVFD First Due area, with 1 being mutual aid to other agencies. Approximately 50.5 man hours were expended.

Fire Chief Justin Thomas reported Truck 7 is still at Atlantic. The phone system on the truck was missing parts. It is being repaired now and we hope to have it back Friday. The LVFD enjoyed participating in National Night Out. The new Engine 72 and Chief 7 were on display tonight. He would like Council to approve the surplus sale of the old Freightliner and the Dodge Charger. Mr. Brockwell commented GovDeals and Virginia surplus are both possibilities for surplus sales. It was also discussed that selling with equipment brings more value. Mr. Gibson advised they will list the items proposed for surplus for Council approval at the next meeting. The cornhole tournament was a huge success.

PERSONNEL

Mr. Brockwell reported the committee will meet tomorrow as discussed earlier. We have checked with similar surrounding localities to get ideas to attract and keep employees. We have a plan to be considered regarding skilled labor and the market rate. The open positions list is in the packet.

POLICE

The police report is in the packet. Ms. Hardy welcomed Officer Chad Clary. Ms. Hardy thanked Chief Stith for using the Haunted House fundraiser funds for the games truck for National Night Out.

PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT

Mr. Brockwell shared a list of the currently insured tangible property insured through VRSA, not including vehicles. The insurance company will be asked to review and possibly update the values and coverage.

STREETS, LIGHTS & CEMETERY

Mrs. Talbert commented the streets still have not been swept.

TOWN DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Brockwell commented the Turntable Park project was set up in phases. The first phase was completed and records are available. The other phases were not done due to funding. Ms. Williams commented the Turntable project should not be abandoned. It is an important part of the history of the town and could attract tourism.

WATER/WASTEWATER

Mr. Brockwell hopes good things will happen and will have more to share once the committee has met.

HOUSING CODE ENFORCEMENT

This was covered in the Town Manager's report.

PARKS/RECREATION

There was no report.

WELLNESS

There was no report.

FARMER'S MARKET

Ms. Hardy reported Ms. Whitehead posted information on Facebook for the Farmer's Market street layout on Main Street.

LAWRENCEVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION

There was no report.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Remote Area Medical, Greenville High School, August 20-21, 2022

ADJOURNMENT

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

Scott E. Martin, Mayor

Wanda Johnson, Clerk