

February 14, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor LaWanda Tatum called the regular meeting of the Lawrenceville Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on February 14, 2023.

ROLL CALL

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

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

Also present: Town Manager, Everette Gibson, Town Clerk, Wanda Johnson, Special Projects Coordinator, Kimberly Martin, Police Chief John Stith, Officer Natasha Brown, Officer Martisa Stith, Justin Thomas, Barbara J. Harris, Alfreda Reynolds, Mike Dotti, Leonard Rose, citizens and the press.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Tatum led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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 January 10, 2023, as received, suspend the reading and file.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

RECOGNITION OF CITIZENS

LEONARD ROSE

Leonard Rose shared that his caregiver Bruno plans to make a true story movie about the cross. He also spoke about help for domestic violence and abuse.

LAWRENCEVILLE EDA

Mr. Brockwell reported that the LEDA contacted the ALDI grocery store company to inquire about the requirements to locate an ALDI store in a community. A copy of the property requirements is in the add packet.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Tatum thanked those who have made her transition much easier, especially Mr. Brockwell, Mr. Gibson and Mrs. Johnson. Tonight we have Valentine's Day cards from the Country Mouse Nursery School and St. Paul's Child Development Center. She wants us to always focus on our youngest people in this community. The children are our future and they are what we do this for. When we build great things, we build for the future. The children are her passion. She also shared a Valentine's treat for council from a local business.

REPORT OF TOWN ATTORNEY

There was no report.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

CONSIDERATION OF ACCOUNTS

Mrs. Johnson reported the bills total \$226,824.03. 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 \$226,824.03 and post to the proper accounts.

REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER

PEEBLES AND SOUTHERN STATES PROJECTS

Southern States - Mr. Gibson reported that BDX Performance LLC, located in the Southern States building, will hold a ribbon cutting on March 3. Peebles – There was a meeting with Mr. Staats on February 7, along with his architect and sprinkler representative. Part 2 of the Historic Preservation Certification application has been submitted. SPDC is looking into possible grant opportunities to assist Mr. Staats. He has received the commitment letter from his financial institution.

TOBACCO HERITAGE TRAIL MEETING UPDATE

Mr. Gibson reported he and Mrs. Martin met with Chad Neese from SPDC regarding the Trail Master Plan, which coincides with the National Park Service plan. This includes the possible trail expansion to go east from the trailhead behind Kevin Pair's shop on South Street to Pinecrest including potential bike routes and sidewalk connectivity with the trail.

CHRISTMAS DECORATION REPLACEMENT OPTIONS

Mr. Gibson reported representatives from Mosca Design were here on January 18, 2023, to present replacement options for town Christmas decorations. This is the company we have used in the past and they are familiar with our small town needs. Mr. Gibson shared pictures and a quote for proposed Phase 1 decorations. The current quote for merchandise is \$35,164.08 and reflects a 28% discount good through 2/28/2023. Freight will be additional and billed on delivery. These decorations are for the poles that the town owns, not the county owned poles. On motion by Mr. Brockwell, seconded by Mr. Pecht and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to accept and authorize Phase 1 as presented by staff pending current available town development funds and budgeting funds next year.

WATER LINE UPDATE FOR ALBERTA TOWN COUNCIL

Mr. Gibson reported that he, Mr. Brockwell and Mrs. Martin attended the Alberta Town Council meeting last night at the request of Alberta Mayor Hayes regarding a grant opportunity with the VDH and ODW Financial and Construction Assistance Program. The Town of Lawrenceville is applying for this grant, which closes May 5, 2023. The Preliminary Engineering Report for the Alberta water line project has been completed by B&B. It is a 4.9 million dollar project. The Town of Alberta Town Council is considering contributing a portion of its ARPA funds to the Town of Lawrenceville for the proposed project. A contribution from Alberta could represent plus points on the grant. A virtual meeting will be held on February 15 to include Tamera Anderson, Program Director, Bernard Proctor, VDH engineer, SPDC and Lawrenceville and Alberta representatives. Mr. Gibson will have additional information after the meeting tomorrow.

LEDA UPDATE

Mr. Brockwell reported on the LEDA earlier in the meeting.

BUDGET REQUESTS FOR FY2023/2024

Mr. Gibson requested that departments submit items for budget consideration as we are beginning to work on the preliminary budget for FY2023-2024.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Pecht reported the finance committee will be meeting. Budget requests need to be submitted. A draft budget for FY2023-2024 must be presented and tentatively adopted in April in order to schedule a public hearing in May. The budget is formally adopted in June. Work continues on the audit. The tax deadline was extended until February 10, 2023, this year and it is reflected in the tax revenue on the financial statement. The ARPA/COVID funds are included in the general fund and this is distorting the financial statement.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

The fire department responded to 22 calls in January. Of the 22, 2 were in the town limits and 20 were outside the town limits. Also, 13 were in the LVFD First Due area, with 9 being mutual aid to other agencies. Approximately 105.5 man hours were expended.

Fire Chief Justin Thomas reported they received notice of a \$25,000 grant award to update hose and nozzles. The fire department is seeking a grant to restore the old 1952 fire truck. There will be a stew in March, pork chop dinner and cornhole tournament in April and the first golf tournament on May 19, 2023. They have obtained pricing on a lift master garage door opener and two door code keypad locks for the wash bay building. The total price is \$4,503.00. The fire department has two fire engines, a rescue boat and stew pots stored in that building. The LVFD is always in need of volunteers. The Firefighter 1 class program requires over 200 hours. Mayor Tatum thanked them for their service.

PERSONNEL

Mr. Brockwell reported on the current job opening list in the packet. There will be a couple of applicants applying this week. The restructuring has been completed. He advised the job openings are advertised on the Town website.

POLICE

Chief Stith welcomed Officer Martisa Stith, who has completed her six months of training. We are now at full staff with six officers. Chief Stith reported on the FLOCK camera system. Chief Stith said now that we are at full staff; he will revisit the streets and parking. He believes it is paramount to be firm, fair and consistent throughout the town on parking enforcement. He reported that, through ARPA funds, there are plans to protect Mrs. Johnson and her staff by installing a drawer system. The public will conduct business from the lobby through a window and drawer system. The public will not have access to the office space. Mayor Tatum thanked Chief Stith for the service of the police department.

PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT

Mr. Gibson requested to surplus the following vehicles: 2012 Silver Dodge Charger 4 door, VIN#2C3CDXATXCH282901; 1996 Freightliner Fire Truck, VIN#1FUSULCE1UH789651; 2008

Dodge Charger 4 door, VIN#283LA43H18H299879. On motion by Mr. Brockwell, seconded by Ms. Hardy and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to declare the vehicles as surplus as presented.

STREETS, LIGHTS & CEMETERY

There was no report.

TOWN DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Brockwell commented that the committee has met regarding the Christmas decorations, downtown and Main Street activities. The SPDC project list is in the packet.

WATER/WASTEWATER

Mr. Brockwell reported there was a meeting with the county about the water tower. It is offline, but there is value in the water held in the tank. The school system wants the land and the water tank itself.

HOUSING CODE ENFORCEMENT

Mr. Gibson reported that Mr. Veliky is in contact with the owner of the building next door to VCU Massey Cancer and they are working to resolve the issue. The Brunswick Insurance Agency problem has been corrected.

PARKS/RECREATION

Mrs. Talbert reported the committee met with Mr. Gibson.

WELLNESS

Ms. Whitehead provided information on women's heart health and shared a short video. February is heart health awareness month. The VCU Mobile Health & Wellness Program will provide free services every Tuesday from 8:30 – 3:30 p.m. at the SVCC Christanna Campus.

FARMER'S MARKET

The committee plans to meet in March.

LAWRENCEVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION

There was no report.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, April 8, 2023, 11:00 a.m.

Plans are underway for a Fireworks Show to be held at the ballpark on Saturday, June 24, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, Mayor Tatum adjourned the meeting.

LaWanda Tatum, Mayor

Wanda Johnson, Clerk