

January 10, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor LaWanda Tatum called the regular meeting of the Lawrenceville Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on January 10, 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.

Also present: Town Attorney, W. C. Outten, Jr., Town Manager, Everette Gibson, Town Clerk, Wanda Johnson, Special Projects Coordinator, Kimberly Martin, Officer Brian Glover, Officer Chad Clary, Former Mayor Scott Martin, Barbara J. Harris, Cyliene Montgomery, Leonard Rose, citizens and the press.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Tatum led the Pledge of Allegiance.

RECOGNITION OF SERVICE – SCOTT E. MARTIN

Mayor Tatum thanked outgoing Mayor Scott Martin for his faithful service to the Town. Mr. Pecht, on behalf of Council, presented a plaque to Scott E. Martin in appreciation and recognition for his 14 years of service to the Town of Lawrenceville. Mr. Martin served as a Council Member from January 8, 2008, until June 30, 2018. He then served as Mayor from July 1, 2018, until December 31, 2022.

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 December 13, 2022, 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

Leonard Rose spoke about Town of Brodnax Police Chief Joe Carey. Chief Carey died in a traffic accident in December.

ANNE WILLIAMS

Ms. Williams, speaking as a citizen, commented that going into 2023, the following issues need to be addressed: homelessness, maintenance of empty buildings and the Lawrenceville election district map. She stated that she did not have the option to vote for council members in her district, district 2.

LAWRENCEVILLE EDA

There was no report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Tatum introduced herself saying she was born and raised here in Lawrenceville. By occupation, she is a certified parent educator. She is also employed by the Brunswick County Public School System. Mayor Tatum said the Town of Lawrenceville is her heart. It is her goal to work alongside the amazing people here to make the Town as beautiful as it can be and productive as well. Together we can make a difference.

REPORT OF TOWN ATTORNEY

Mr. Outten advised there was no formal report.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER CONSIDERATION OF ACCOUNTS

Mrs. Johnson reported the bills total \$267,510.44. On a motion by Mr. Pecht, seconded by Mrs. Talbert and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to pay the bills in the amount of \$267,510.44 and post to the proper accounts.

REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER PEEBLES AND SOUTHERN STATES PROJECTS

Southern States - Mr. Gibson reported that BDX Performance LLC is still moving in the Southern States building. A ribbon cutting will be announced at a later date. Peebles - Mr. Staats is working on Part 2 of the Historic Preservation Certification - Description of Rehabilitation. He is waiting for a commitment letter for the project from his financial institution. He has contracted an architect in Richmond.

Mr. Pecht asked if employment opportunities with BDX would meet requirements under the DHCD grant obligations. Mr. Gibson advised only new hires that meet median income levels will count. Employees that he brings with him will not count.

DHCD

Mr. Gibson reported that DHCD received the wire transfer of \$200,000 and a copy of the confirmation letter is in the packet.

CABOOSE UPDATE

Mr. Gibson received an email regarding the caboose. The representative will be in town soon and hopes to have a historic restoration plan by the spring.

CHRISTMAS DECORATION REPLACEMENT OPTIONS

Mr. Gibson reported representatives from Mosca Design will meet here on January 18, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. to present replacement options for town Christmas decorations. Council Members are invited to attend.

MAIN STREET 101 TRAINING SESSION

Zachary Whitlow with Main Street will conduct an in-person training session in the Town Office Meeting Room on March 21, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. All Town Council Members are invited to attend.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Pecht reported the finance committee met. A big part of discussion was water and wastewater. We anticipate a rate increase in the upcoming FY2023/2024 budget year. We face a major challenge in hiring operators and the need to create a maintenance department for water and wastewater issues. For years our rates have been too low to qualify for grants. The Alberta water line replacement estimates have increased from \$900,000 to \$4.9 million. We are working on an itemized ARPA project list. The preliminary rate increase is estimated to be 16% - 17%.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Mr. Pecht reported there was a meeting with Chief Thomas and President Wesson regarding needs of the fire department. B&B is working on a bid for an all building generator. Mr. Wesson reported he and Mrs. Martin continue to work on grant applications. They have just received notice of a \$25,000 grant award from Firehouse Subs.

The fire department responded to 26 calls in December. Of the 26, 3 were in the town limits and 23 were outside the town limits. Also, 13 were in the LVFD First Due area, with 13 being mutual aid to other agencies. Approximately 112.5 man hours were expended.

PERSONNEL

Mr. Brockwell reported on the current job opening list in the packet. He advised the job openings are advertised on the Town website. Water and wastewater operators are required to be licensed.

POLICE

The police report is in the packet. Officer Glover welcomed Mayor Tatum. Officer Glover reported that following the recent passing of Chief Carey, Chief Stith has implemented new traffic safety equipment to include LED lights on uniforms and cones and lighting in each of the vehicles.

PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT

Mr. Brockwell reported on the life expectancy of some of the controls and difficulty in obtaining parts.

STREETS, LIGHTS & CEMETERY

There was no report.

TOWN DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Brockwell commented that a lot of the discussion in a council meeting relates to town development. He encouraged everyone to review the reports in the packet.

WATER/WASTEWATER

Mr. Brockwell reported a water and wastewater meeting will be held on January 30, 2023. Participants will include VDH, DEQ, SPDC, streets, water, wastewater and all council members.

HOUSING CODE ENFORCEMENT

Mr. Gibson reported that Mr. Veliky has contacted the new owner of the building next door to VCU Massey Cancer by letter. They have plans to meet and determine how to get the water problem re-routed. The Brunswick Insurance Agency problem has been corrected.

PARKS/RECREATION

Mr. Brockwell reported recruitment for summer ball will begin soon.

WELLNESS

Ms. Whitehead wished everyone a Happy New Year! She provided information on HPV and cervical cancer prevention and shared a short video.

FARMER'S MARKET

To be announced later.

LAWRENCEVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION

There was no report.

COMMENTS

Mr. Brockwell commented that all government agencies have excellent websites for people to access information.

ADJOURNMENT

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

LaWanda Tatum, Mayor

Wanda Johnson, Clerk