

January 14, 2020

#### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Scott Martin called the regular meeting of the Lawrenceville Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. on January 14, 2020.

#### ROLL CALL

Roll was called; Present: Mayor Scott Martin; Council Members: Joyce Bland, H. B. Brockwell, Jr., Phil Gilson, Dora Hardy, Robert F. Pecht, III, Alice Talbert and Teya Whitehead. Also present: Town Attorney, W. C. Outten, Jr., Town Manager, C. J. Dean, Police Chief Everett Gibson, Town Clerk, Wanda Johnson, citizens and the press.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chief Gibson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO FY 2019-2020 BUDGET

Mayor Martin opened the public hearing and asked Mr. Dean to review the proposed amendments. State code requires that any amendment that exceeds one percent of the total expenditures in the currently adopted budget be advertised by public notice and a public hearing must be held. The USDA Grant for vehicles and the Meherrin River Intake Project require amendments to the FY2019-2020 budget. Mr. Dean reviewed the proposed amendments which are highlighted in yellow on the financial statement including: Expense increase for Meherrin River Intake Project, \$248,640, Revenue increase from FEMA reimbursement, \$248,640, Revenue increase from USDA Rural Development Grant, \$50,000, Expense increase for the purchase of vehicles, \$125,000, Insurance proceeds from the loss of the ladder truck are shown as CD Fire Truck Insurance Proceeds in the amount of \$300,025.50, and the purchase of the garbage truck and loan, in the amount of \$165,396 is shown on the flow through page. This was already in the budget under monthly payments. There was no public comment. On motion by Mr. Brockwell, seconded by Mrs. Talbert and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to close the public hearing.

#### 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 10, 2019, 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

There were no requests to speak.

#### LAWRENCEVILLE EDA

There was no report.

#### MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Martin reported that the new committee assignments are in the packet. Mayor Martin gave a shout out to Mr. Dean, Mr. Lynch and the guys at the water plant for their work during the recent event there. The Echo World Communications ribbon cutting was held at the old bank building today. Governor Northam attended and spoke at the event, along with Mayor Martin. Chuck Lessin, Pops Diner, catered the ribbon cutting. Mayor Martin thanked Chief Gibson and the town, county and state police for their service at the event.

#### REPORT OF TOWN ATTORNEY

There was no report.

#### REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER

##### OLD SOUTHERN STATES BUILDING

Mr. Dean reported that he and Mr. Dotti met with KASS last week. The smoke detectors need to be installed to obtain an occupancy permit. If the permit is obtained by the end of January,

production and hiring are expected to begin in March and April. They are still waiting for packaging equipment to arrive.

#### CURRENT SIDEWALK PROJECTS

North Main Street Sidewalk – Clary Construction is scheduled to begin February 24, 2020, depending on the weather. Tobacco Heritage Trail/Gazebo Sidewalk – The project is ready to bid out. VDOT has to get federal authorization to advertise.

#### WATER & WASTEWATER COMPARISON

Graph reports are in the packet, using information from the annual water report, to compare water and sewer rates, both average and median, state rates to Lawrenceville rates.

#### WATER POSITION STATEMENT REGARDING AUTHORITIES

A copy of the utilities position statement that was issued to the county was included in the packet. Mr. Brockwell stated that it is vital for council members to be familiar with this information.

#### WATER PLANT EVENT DECEMBER 16, 2019

There was a flood at the water plant that flooded the basement. It caused a boil water notice to be issued. The notice was lifted after required testing. The plant is still being run manually. There is no automation at all. This requires a lot of extra labor to run the samples and tests. Work continues on the repairs. It will probably be February or March before everything is repaired. We are working with Virginia Municipal League Insurance and believe this will be a covered event. It could be a quarter of a million dollars before it is over with.

#### REPORT ON TOWN OF ST. PAUL, VIRGINIA

Mr. Dean and Mr. Gilson visited the Town of St. Paul, Virginia December 19 and 20 to meet with the St. Paul Main Street program staff. Mr. Dean and Mr. Gilson both reported on information they learned from the visit. Mr. Gilson also provided written notes and handouts. A representative from St. Paul, Virginia will visit Lawrenceville on February 15. Chef T, from the Gordon Ramsay television show, is a chef in a restaurant there. She is expected to visit Lawrenceville in March. Mr. Gilson wants to meet with the finance, personnel, police and economic development committees to discuss information and ideas.

#### BUDGET PREPARATION

Mr. Dean reminded Council that it is time to begin work on the budget for the next fiscal year.

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE - PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO FY 2019-2020 BUDGET

On motion by Mr. Pecht, seconded by Mr. Brockwell and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to adopt the proposed FY2019-2020 budget amendments as presented by Mr. Dean during the public hearing. Mr. Pecht requested that a finance committee meeting be scheduled to begin budget preparations and also introduce information to Ms. Whitehead.

#### FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

The December report is in the packet. The fire department responded to 25 calls in December. Of the 25, 4 were in the town limits and 21 were outside the town limits. Also, 16 were in the LVFD First Due area, with 9 being mutual aid to other agencies. Approximately 200.5 man hours were expended. For the year 2019, LVFD responded to 241 calls. Of the 241, 34 were in the town limits and 207 were outside the town limits. Also, 152 were in the LVFD First Due area, with 89 being mutual aid to other agencies. Approximately 1346.7 man hours were expended. Mr. Pecht expressed sincere appreciation for the volunteers. The damaged ladder truck was totaled and the insurance proceeds have been deposited in a CD account for a fire truck. The LVFD truck committee will meet Sunday. They would like to meet with the Town Council Fire Committee soon. Mr. Brockwell commented that is vital to keep the Town's ISO rating up.

#### PERSONNEL

Mr. Brockwell reported that the staff worked tirelessly to get the water situation under control. The staff does an excellent job.

#### POLICE

Ms. Hardy advised that the report is in the packet. Mrs. Talbert thanked Chief Gibson and helpers for the holiday decorations in the storefront windows.

#### PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT

Mr. Brockwell commented that a report has been given on the damaged fire truck. Departments need to keep records on equipment conditions and insurance coverage. Property is being considered that might be declared surplus property.

#### STREETS, LIGHTS & CEMETERY

Mr. Dean reported that Dominion Power has determined that the street lights on Park Street are in Dominion's system and their map will be updated.

#### TOWN DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Brockwell reported that the committee has been meeting regularly. There is information in the packet for Council to review. There has been a meeting with Mr. Dotti regarding the historic tax credits.

#### WATER/WASTEWATER

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

#### SAFETY

The reports are in the packet.

#### HOUSING CODE ENFORCEMENT

There are no updates at this time.

#### PARKS/RECREATION

There was no report.

#### WELLNESS

Ms. Whitehead is the new chair of the Wellness Committee. She shared a folder and handouts with information on programs provided by the Cancer Research and Resource Center.

#### FARMER'S MARKET

Mayor Martin will be meeting in the spring for the new year.

#### LAWRENCEVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION

There was no report.

#### CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Echo World Communications Ribbon Cutting – Tuesday, January 14, 2020, 11:00 a.m.

Capital Stew Day – Wednesday, January 22, 2020

Chamber Career Day – Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Rotary Chili Fundraiser – Thursday, March 5, 2020

#### CONSIDERATION OF ACCOUNTS

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 \$170,123.95 and post to the proper accounts. A number of these bills are associated with the incident that occurred at the plant on December 16, 2019.

#### ADJOURNMENT

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

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Mayor

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Clerk