

July 11, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor LaWanda Tatum called the regular meeting of the Lawrenceville Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on July 13, 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, Randy Lynch, Town Clerk, Wanda Johnson, Special Projects Coordinator, Kimberly Martin, Police Chief, John Stith, Assistant Chief, Natasha Brown, County Administrator, Lezlie Weddington, Leonard Rose, citizens and the press.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Tatum led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING–CONVEY ADDITIONAL PROPERTY TO BRUNSWICK CO. SCHOOL BOARD

As this time had been advertised for a public hearing on the proposed conveyance of property to the Brunswick County School Board, Mayor Tatum opened the public hearing. The property is a portion of Tax Map #53-20B, being a 0.01 acre parcel shown as Parcel C on the plat and adjacent to the 65 ft. by 65 ft. parcel with a water tower previously approved to be conveyed to the School Board on May 9, 2023. The additional 0.01 parcel was discovered during the title search. Lezlie Weddington, County Administrator, addressed Council and requested that the additional property be conveyed to the School Board. This property is also needed as part of the site where the School Board plans to build the athletic complex. A ground breaking ceremony for the athletic complex is tentatively scheduled for July 31, 2023. Town Council members are invited to attend. On motion by Mr. Pecht, seconded by Mrs. Talbert and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to close the public hearing.

On motion by Mr. Pecht, seconded by Mr. Brockwell and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to convey the additional portion of Tax Map #53-20B, being a 0.01 acre parcel shown as Parcel C on the plat, to the Brunswick County School Board.

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 June 13, 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

Mr. Rose spoke about the upcoming National Night Out event. Mr. Rose also said a prayer for Ms. Whitehead and the healing of her leg.

TREAVOR STEVENS

Mr. Stevens announced the Kountry Boy Swagg Motorcycle Club will hold a stop the violence rally and bike run on Saturday, July 15, 2023. Following the bike run to Clarksville and back, there will be speakers, fellowship and games for children in the parking lot behind the library.

ANNE WILLIAMS

Ms. Williams spoke about the excitement for the garden at 313 High Street as an example of vision. She then voiced concern about projects including the Peebles building, caboose, Turntable Park, LOVE sign and challenged all of us to do better.

LATESHIA GILLIAM

Ms. Gilliam introduced herself; a licensed professional counselor, licensed substance abuse treatment practitioner, and owner of Omni Addiction & Mental Health Services. She shared information about her business located at 102 E. Hicks Street.

LAWRENCEVILLE EDA

There was no report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Tatum thanked everyone for their support of the Red, White and Blue parade, Sparks in the Ballpark and Arts in the Park. She said she could not have been more proud. It was a beautiful day and very well planned from start to finish. Mayor Tatum reported she attended a Main Street meeting and FOIA meeting. She responded to concerns about the local laundromat, dollar store, and the conditions of the Lawrenceville sign. There is someone willing to help with the flowers around the sign, if the garden club needs assistance. Eleven businesses have opened in the former Perkinson building since COVID. She sees a lot of growth. There was the opening of a new restaurant. We have a lot to be proud of. An organization has contacted her about a different type of giveaway. It would be drive up and pre-packaged. She will contact council members when she has more information.

REPORT OF TOWN ATTORNEY

There was no report.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

CONSIDERATION OF ACCOUNTS

Mrs. Johnson reported the bills total \$72,471.19. 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 \$72,471.19 and post to the proper accounts.

REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER PEEBLES UPDATE

Mr. Lynch reported Mr. Staats continues to wait for approval from the National Park Service for the Historic Preservation Application. The next phase will take 30 – 45 days. There was discussion concerning the pending sale and the time it is taking to close. Any interested, viable entities are welcome to contact the town.

CODE COMPLIANCE NOTIFICATIONS

Eleven grass notices were mailed out and the certified mail receipts are coming in. We expect to enter action mode next week.

CHLORINATION UPGRADE PROJECT UPDATE

The chlorination upgrade project is completed and in operation.

ELEVATED WATER TANK MIXER PROJECT UPDATE

The contractor is waiting for delivery of the equipment. It will be a quick installation once the equipment arrives.

LAWRENCEVILLE MUNICIPAL BUILDING GENERATOR UPDATE

The project was re-bid and there will be a bid opening on August 2, 2023, at B & B Consultants for the municipal building generator.

RED, WHITE & BLUE STOREFRONT DECORATING CONTEST WINNERS

The first place winner was Butterfly Rose Florist, second place was Citizens Insurance and third place was Divine Care. Each of the winners received a trophy, ribbon and gift card.

RED, WHITE & BLUE CELEBRATION HIGHLIGHTS

Mrs. Martin shared a presentation of pictures from the Red, White & Blue celebrations.

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 30, 2023. On a motion by Mr. Pecht, seconded by Mr. Brockwell and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to accept, approve and authorize the signing of auditor letter of engagement from Creedle, Jones & Associates.

Mr. Pecht reviewed the June financial statement in the packet. He would like to have a committee meeting before the next council meeting.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

The June fire report is in the packet. The fire department responded to 13 calls in June. Of the 13, 1 as in the town limits and 12 were outside the town limits. Also, 11 were in the LVFD First Due area, with 2 being mutual aid to other agencies. Approximately 57 man hours were expended. Chief Thomas is attending the ESAB meeting tonight.

PERSONNEL

Mr. Brockwell reported a position has been tentatively accepted, pending screening results. He said the market rate has come into play. Re-structuring of the maintenance department is ongoing. He would like to schedule a committee meeting.

POLICE

The police report is in the packet. Chief Stith is working with the BCSO Public Safety Discovery Camp being held this week. Chief Stith encouraged everyone to drop by one day and attend the graduation if possible. There are 41 participants and it is awesome. Ms. Hardy's daughter is attending the camp.

PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT

There was no report.

STREETS, LIGHTS & CEMETERY

There was no report.

TOWN DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Brockwell reported that when searching for a location for the fireworks, and looked into using the ballpark, it was indicated that a donation would be made for the use of the ballpark. On motion by Mr. Brockwell, seconded by Mr. Pecht and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to donate \$1,000.00 to Brunswick Dixie Youth League for the use of the ballpark for the fireworks.

Mr. Brockwell said we need to meet as a group regarding the Main Street program. Mrs. Martin will keep us updated. He discussed how a partnership between the ballpark and the town could be beneficial.

WATER/WASTEWATER

Mr. Brockwell reported there are issues to plan in working with our partners. The Alberta project is ongoing. The project list is in the packet.

HOUSING CODE ENFORCEMENT

Mr. Pecht asked about the former Barkley house and the Clarke Smith building. Mr. Lynch said there is no update at this time.

PARKS/RECREATION

Mr. Brockwell reported the state Babe Ruth baseball tournament will be held at the high school. The Little League teams did well. The Midget and Mites are getting ready for play. These are all volunteer groups.

WELLNESS

Ms. Whitehead advised everyone to respect the heat, stay hydrated and know your limits.

FARMER'S MARKET

Information to be announced.

LAWRENCEVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION

There was no report.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

National Night Out, Tuesday, August 1, 2023, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

APPOINTMENT OF TOWN MANAGER

On motion by Mr. Brockwell, seconded by Mrs. Talbert and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to appoint Randall W. Lynch as Town Manager for the term July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

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

LaWanda Tatum, Mayor

Wanda Johnson, Clerk