

July 13, 2021

#### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Scott Martin called the regular meeting of the Lawrenceville Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on July 13, 2021.

Mayor Martin announced that this meeting is being held using electronic means under an Emergency Ordinance adopted on April 14, 2020, and re-adopted on June 9, 2020, August 11, 2020, October 13, 2020, December 8, 2020, February 9, 2021, April 13, 2021, and June 8, 2021, to allow for the continuity of government operations during the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic. The public may also attend in person following physical distancing and face mask requirements.

Public access has been made available through the web address: [www.zoom.us/join](http://www.zoom.us/join)  
Meeting ID: 850 1665 3046.

#### ROLL CALL

Roll was called. Present physically: Mayor Scott Martin; Council Members H. B. Brockwell, Jr., Robert F. Pecht, III, Alice Talbert, Teya Whitehead and Anne Williams.

Present electronically: Council Member Dora Hardy.

Absent: Council Member Joyce Bland.

Also present physically: Town Attorney, W. C. Outten, Jr., Town Manager, Everette Gibson, Town Clerk, Wanda Johnson, Police Chief, John Stith, Assistant Police Chief, Natasha Brown, Police Officer, Brian Glover, Chris Stephenson, citizens and the press.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Assistant Chief Brown led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion by Mr. Brockwell, seconded by Mrs. Talbert and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on June 8, 2021, as received, suspend the reading and file. Motion: Mr. Brockwell. Second: Mrs. Talbert. Roll call vote: Mrs. Bland, absent; Mr. Brockwell, aye; Ms. Hardy, aye; Mr. Pecht, aye; Mrs. Talbert, aye; Ms. Whitehead, aye; Ms. Williams, aye.

#### 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. Motion: Mr. Pecht. Second: Mrs. Talbert. Roll call vote: Mrs. Bland, absent; Mr. Brockwell, aye; Ms. Hardy, aye; Mr. Pecht, aye; Mrs. Talbert, aye; Ms. Whitehead, aye; Ms. Williams, aye.

## RECOGNITION OF CITIZENS

### BIRDIE FYFFE

Ms. Fyffe moved to Lawrenceville six weeks ago and lives on South Main Street. She said she moved here to start a market farm and provide organic food. She has experience with markets and has attended the Lawrenceville Farmer's Market. She suggested citizen involvement and a volunteer manager to create more traffic and vendors. Mayor Martin said Ms. Whitehead and Ms. Williams are managers this year. He asked Ms. Fyffe to leave her name and contact information with the Town Manager. He thanked her for her interest and welcomed her to town.

### CHRIS STEPHENSON, ST. PAUL'S COLLEGE 4 LIFE

Mr. Stephenson is with the organization St. Paul's College 4 Life. They want to purchase the St. Paul's property and re-open the college. They want to be good neighbors. He invited everyone to a Unity Day to be held at the St. Paul's Memorial Chapel on Saturday, July 17, 2021. He would like to make arrangements to give a formal presentation at a later date.

### LAWRENCEVILLE EDA

The EDA has not met due to a lack of a quorum. Ms. Williams asked how to force a meeting of the EDA. Mayor Martin suggested she contact the Chair, Ms. Brown or Ms. Wright to ask about a called meeting.

### MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Martin reported that the POPS Grand Re-opening was held. He would like for everyone to support our local merchants in town. The parking lot construction is underway, curbs are in place. Sidewalk projects will be coming up soon. There have been grass complaints. There was a structure fire at the Lawrenceville Brick plant. Mayor Martin thanked all the fire departments for their response to the fire. Mayor Martin sent prayers to the family of Tracy Powell, a member of the LVFD, who passed away recently.

### REPORT OF TOWN ATTORNEY

Mr. Outten reported on the changes in the state law regarding compensatory leave. He advised Town Council that employees are to be paid at time and one-half for hours worked over forty hours in a work week. No compensatory leave is allowed. The issue is expected to be addressed and clarified when the General Assembly meets in August.

Ms. Williams asked Mr. Outten about the status of the Clarke-Smith building. She asked why it has not gone to public auction. Mr. Outten stated there is a tax suit pending against the property and the town has a lien against the property. It may be fall before it goes to public auction.

### REPORT OF THE TREASURER

#### CONSIDERATION OF ACCOUNTS

Mrs. Johnson reported the bills total \$109,947.97. 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 \$109,947.97 and post to the proper accounts. Motion: Mr. Pecht. Second: Mr. Brockwell. Roll call vote: Mrs. Bland, absent; Mr. Brockwell, aye; Ms. Hardy, aye; Mr. Pecht, aye; Mrs. Talbert, aye; Ms. Whitehead, aye; Ms. Williams, aye.

REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER  
MUNICIPAL PARKING LOT UPDATE

Mr. Gibson reported the parking lot curbing is under construction.

UPDATE ON SIDEWALK PROJECT

Mr. Gibson has talked to Jorg Huckabee-Mayfield at VDOT regarding the sidewalk projects. Some of the paperwork had to be updated. The funds are anticipated to be available mid-August to September.

GRASS MOWING NOTICES

Ten notices have been sent out since the last council meeting. Most have been taken care of at this time. Mr. Gibson has talked to David Lu concerning the grass at the college site. Grass contractors are so far behind in mowing, it has been hard to find someone to mow the grass. He thinks he has found someone to take care of the grass. The Town employee who held a chemical spraying license retired. We do not have anyone to spray the grass in the sidewalks at this time. There is not a class available until 2022. The retired person might come back part-time.

CABOOSE UPDATE

Mr. Gray will provide guidelines for a historically correct renovation of the caboose.

UPDATE ON SEARCH GRANT

Mr. Gibson reported the grant funds for the mixers should be available mid-August.

CORONAVIRUS STATE AND LOCAL RECOVERY FUNDS

The first installment of the recovery funds was received on June 30, 2021, in the amount of \$529,133.00. The second installment in the same amount is expected to be distributed in approximately 12 months. We have until December 2024 to expend the funds. The funds can be used for infrastructure.

STAKEHOLDERS' MEETING

The water and wastewater stakeholders' meeting has been re-scheduled to July 28, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. at the Southern States building.

RESOLUTION FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOR INCURRENCE OF DEBT FOR A 2021 DCI FIRE TANKER TRUCK

On a motion by Ms. Williams, seconded by Mr. Brockwell and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to approve the resolution to incur debt in the principal amount of \$225,800.00 and to accept a grant in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.00 from the USDA Rural Development for the purchase of a fire tanker truck and authorized the Mayor and Town Manager to execute the required documents on behalf of the Town Council. Motion: Ms. Williams. Second: Mr. Brockwell. Roll call vote: Mrs. Bland, absent; Mr. Brockwell, aye; Ms. Hardy, aye; Mr. Pecht, aye; Mrs. Talbert, aye; Ms. Whitehead, aye; Ms. Williams, aye.

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE – AUDITOR ENGAGEMENT LETTER

Mr. Pecht reported there is a letter of engagement from Creedle, Jones & Associates in the packet. He recommends approval of the engagement letter. On a motion by Mr. Pecht, seconded by Mr. Brockwell and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to authorize the Mayor and Town Manager to sign the auditor letter of engagement from Creedle, Jones & Associates. Motion: Mr. Pecht. Second: Mr. Brockwell. Roll call vote: Mrs. Bland, absent; Mr. Brockwell, aye; Ms. Hardy, aye; Mr. Pecht, aye; Mrs. Talbert, aye; Ms. Whitehead, aye; Ms. Williams, aye.

#### FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

The fire department responded to 18 calls in June. Of the 18, 1 was in the town limits and 17 were outside the town limits. Also, 14 were in the LVFD First Due area, with 4 being mutual aid to other agencies. Approximately 44.5 man hours were expended. Work on the application for 501 (c) 3 status is ongoing.

#### PERSONNEL

Mr. Brockwell reported we continue to accept applications and still need to fill operator positions. We may need to look at compensation and benefits.

#### POLICE

Ms. Hardy advised the report is in the packet. Ms. Williams requested a month to month fiscal report on fines to be included in the police report. There is already a line item in the budget report. She wants to see what the speeding revenue is from month to month. Chief Stith advised the funds go through the county clerk's office. There is a delay from the time the tickets are written until the fines are paid and then a share of the fines transferred to the town.

#### PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT

Mr. Gibson reported that the surplus car sales are going well. The revenue from the sale of the first car was received in June.

#### STREETS, LIGHTS & CEMETERY

Mrs. Talbert is concerned about the grass on the sidewalks on Windsor Avenue. Mr. Gibson reported they tried out a heater today as a way to kill the grass. There are plans to repair and paint street lights.

#### TOWN DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Brockwell expects to hear from the historic resources report soon.

#### WATER/WASTEWATER

Our staff has been working very hard on the 61 miles of pipe in the system. There will not be a committee meeting following the council meeting tonight.

#### HOUSING CODE ENFORCEMENT

There was no report.

## PARKS/RECREATION

Mr. Brockwell reported the minor league ball team did a good job at the district and the coach pitch team was competitive at the state level and came in fourth. He said we have a ballpark of dreams down the hill; a lot goes on down there.

## WELLNESS

Ms. Whitehead shared information on the Virginia Living Well Research and Registry study. VCU is also recruiting participants for a focus group study the HPV vaccine.

## FARMER'S MARKET

Ms. Whitehead thanked Ms. Williams for her efforts on the puppet show and Double Dutch. She also thanked Birdie and Cal for their efforts. She would like to add them as volunteers for the farmer's market. Ms. Whitehead provided a report on the market and has collected an additional \$30.00 in fees. Ms. Williams said more signage is needed so people can find the market. She said bringing people downtown is a good thing. Fees were discussed. We need to be more competitive with other markets.

## LAWRENCEVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION

There was no report.

## CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

National Night Out will be held Tuesday, August 3, 2021, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

## TURNTABLE PROJECT

Ms. Williams asked about the historic turntable project. She will meet with Mr. Gibson about the project.

## LOVE SIGN

Ms. Hardy asked about the LOVE sign. Mayor Martin has talked to Mr. Gilson about the sign. Mayor Martin plans to get the LOVE sign from Mr. Gilson and secure it in a town building.

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, a motion was made by Mr. Brockwell, seconded by Ms. Williams and carried by all ayes to adjourn the meeting. Motion: Mr. Brockwell. Second: Ms. Williams. Roll call vote: Mrs. Bland, absent; Mr. Brockwell, aye; Ms. Hardy, aye; Mr. Pecht, aye; Mrs. Talbert, aye; Ms. Whitehead, aye; Ms. Williams, aye.

Scott E. Martin, Mayor

Wanda Johnson, Clerk