

June 14, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Scott Martin called the regular meeting of the Lawrenceville Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on June 14, 2022.

ROLL CALL

Roll was called. Present: Mayor Scott Martin; 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, Assistant Police Chief, Natasha Brown, Officer Brian Glover, Special Projects Coordinator, Kimberly Martin, Wendy Wright, Barbara J. Harris, Mike Dotti, Alfreda Reynolds, Justin Thomas, Leonard Rose, citizens and the press.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Town Manager Everette Gibson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED WATER/SEWER/GARBAGE RATE ADJUSTMENTS

As this time had been advertised for a public hearing on the proposed water/sewer/garbage rate adjustments, Mayor Martin opened the public hearing. 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 Mrs. Talbert and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on May 10, 2022, as received, suspend the reading and file.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

RECOGNITION OF CITIZENS

WENDY WRIGHT – RAM REQUEST

Wendy Wright addressed Council on behalf of the Southside Remote Area Medical Event. The RAM event will be held on August 20 and 21, 2022, this year. The event was not held in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19. The three years prior to that, the Town contributed \$1,000 to the RAM event each year. The RAM committee is requesting a contribution from the Town again this year. On motion by Mr. Pecht, seconded by Ms. Peterson and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to support the RAM event with a \$1,500 contribution.

ANNE WILLIAMS

Anne Williams addressed Council as a citizen. She reported she attended a meeting this morning concerning the GEO prison. The current private contract expires July 2023. Ms. Williams said she gets the sense from the public that they would like to have the state take over the prison. It

would be in the best interest of the community for the state to run the prison rather than have it continue as a private prison. It would be better for jobs and the water situation. There are issues with solitary confinement and the treatment of prisoners. She thinks we should consider supporting the state management of the prison. She stated it would be ethically and morally incumbent on us to support this.

LEONARD ROSE

Leonard Rose said Bruno went to court two times and no fault was found that he signed St. Paul's documents. He said Bruno has been preaching the gospel for 39 years doing ministry and outreach and distributing little Bibles. Mr. Rose appreciates that the Sheriff put "In God We Trust" on the Sheriff cars.

LAWRENCEVILLE EDA

The EDA minutes for the June 7, 2022, meeting are in the packet.

EDA APPOINTMENTS

The Lawrenceville Economic Development Board recommended that Christine Gerg be appointed to fill the unexpired term of Wendy Wright that ends March 2026, and that Daniel Wilkins be appointed to fill the unexpired term of Katharine Railey that ends March 2025. There was a question if there would be a conflict as Mr. Wilkins is Ms. Brown's son. Mr. Outten advised he does not believe there is a conflict as they do not reside in the same household. A motion was made by Mr. Pecht, seconded by Ms. Hardy and carried by all ayes to appoint Christine Gerg and Daniel Wilkins to the EDA to fill the stated unexpired terms as recommended by the EDA.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Martin encouraged everyone to attend the Rise & Shine breakfast held on the first Wednesday of each month. Mayor Martin attended the Frito Lay ribbon cutting and the Bowling Alley ribbon cutting. Mayor Martin, Mrs. Martin and Mr. Gibson attended the LEDA meeting and presented a proposal on flags. The flags have since been ordered. He thanked the LEDA for being a part of the project. Mayor Martin participated in the "We are the World" Community Day held at the J. S. Russell Middle School. Mayor Martin, Mrs. Martin and Mr. Gibson met with Chris Stephenson regarding an upcoming job fair to be held at the Bank of America building. Mayor and Mrs. Martin purchased decorations for the float for the Red, White and Blue Parade.

REPORT OF TOWN ATTORNEY

There was no report.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

CONSIDERATION OF ACCOUNTS

Mrs. Johnson reported the bills total \$229,306.12. 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 \$229,306.12 and post to the proper accounts.

REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER VDOT SIDEWALK PROJECTS

Mrs. Martin shared a PowerPoint presentation of pictures of the recently completed sidewalk project. Trucks have already run over the new sidewalk. Extra concrete will be placed underneath the bricks in that area to reinforce the sidewalk. The next project is the gazebo to trail head ramp. B & B will be the engineer for the trail head ramp. Summit will be the engineer for the sidewalk on New Street.

PEEBLES AND SOUTHERN STATES PROJECTS

Monthly reports are being sent to DHCD to remain in compliance. The Peebles storefront windows have been decorated for the 4th of July. The letter of intent for the Peebles building has run out. There has been no new agreement for the Peebles building at this time. Austin, with 4PFoods, checked the equipment at the Southern States building for future operational needs. They plan to salvage and use what they can. Mr. Brockwell reported that Ms. Wright is working on the developer list to send an updated packet out for the Peebles building.

CINNAMON CAFÉ AND CODE ENFORCEMENT

Mr. Gibson reported that Mr. Veliky, Building Code Maintenance Enforcer, has sent letters and documented all communications with Mr. Dobbs, the owner of the Cinnamon Café building. Mr. Veliky advised Mr. Dobbs that the roof is leaking and there is a mold issue. Mr. Veliky is waiting on a response as to what Mr. Dobbs will do to take care of the building issues. Mr. Dobbs has seven days to respond or he will refer to attorneys for prosecution. The problem with the Clarke Smith building and the VCU Massey Cancer building continues as well.

DOWNTOWN BANNER PROJECT

Mr. Gibson thanked the LEDA for purchasing banners for the downtown street lamp posts. We are waiting on proofs for the banners and are excited for this downtown beautification project.

LOVE SIGN UPDATE

The Town has confirmed with individuals who will be working on each letter for the project.

LEAD AND COPPER RULE UPDATE

Mr. Gibson shared information from a report provided by Randy Lynch on the Lead and Copper Rule update.

ELM ACRES PROPOSAL

There is a letter in the packet from Elm Acres Club, Inc. A new manager will be needed for Elm Acres after Ms. Wright retires. Several options are outlined in the letter. Mr. Outten advised that Town Council cannot take any action until all member organizations have responded.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Pecht reviewed the budget process and the budget assumptions. Public hearings were held on the proposed budget and proposed water, sewer and garbage rate adjustments. There were no public comments at either hearing.

ADOPTION OF WATER/SEWER/GARBAGE RATES, ORDINANCE SECTION 78-65

The proposed minimum rate for in town is \$12.00 per month for water and \$12.00 per month for sewer. The proposed minimum out of town rates is \$21.00 per month for water and \$21.00 per month for sewer. The proposed garbage rate for in town is \$11.00 per month for one cart and \$5.50 per month for a second cart. If adopted, the increase will be effective on the August 1, 2022 utility bills. On motion by Mr. Pecht, seconded by Mr. Brockwell and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to adopt the water/sewer/garbage rates as presented to be effective July 1, 2022. The rates will be in effect for the July usage to be billed on August 1, 2022.

ADOPTION OF THE FY2022-2023 BUDGET

The FY 2022-2023 Budget includes: Revenue: 9.09% water and sewer rate increase, 10% garbage rate increase, no tax rate increase. Expense: five percent raise for employees, Town continues to pay 100% of the eligible employee's health insurance premium, Town will pay 20% of the additional premium for dual or family, if selected, outsource the mowing for water and wastewater plants, include \$20,000 estimated cost for redistricting, reinstate building code enforcement position, on an as needed basis. On motion by Mr. Pecht, seconded by Mrs. Talbert and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to adopt the FY2022-2023 Budget as advertised and presented.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

The fire department responded to 28 calls in May. Of the 28, 2 were in the town limits and 26 were outside the town limits. Also, 21 were in the LVFD First Due area, with 7 being mutual aid to other agencies. Approximately 88 man hours were expended.

Fire Chief Justin Thomas reported that all documents have been submitted to Peggy Jordan at USDA, Rural Development for a loan for the 2006 KME fire engine. He reported that Truck 7 and Engine 7 are back at the station. A successful boot drive was held Memorial Day weekend. LVFD participated in the "We are the World" community day. He thanked Mr. Pecht for allowing the fire department to store equipment in the Pecht's wash bay. The department plans to apply for a grant for all new hose and a grant to restore the 1952 fire truck. The cornhole tournament will be held on July 23, 2022, at Gary's Place on Matthews Chapel Rd. Chief Thomas reported he spoke to Mr. Pecht and Mr. Gibson about the fire capital and state fire programs lines in the budget. He believes there is \$32,000 left in those lines and he is requesting that \$32,000 be disbursed to the LVFD for use as principal payments on Truck 7 and Tanker 7. This will be reviewed and Mr. Pecht stated if it is in the budget, it will not need additional formal Council approval.

PERSONNEL

Mr. Brockwell reported that the new chief wastewater operator we were expecting did not work out. We continue to look for someone for that position.

POLICE

Ms. Hardy commented that the police report is in the packet. Ms. Hardy reported the committee interviewed candidates for police officer. Officer Martisa Stith was selected to be hired. She will begin at the Academy tomorrow. Officer Clary will graduate from the Academy tomorrow. Mr. Gibson reported that Chief Stith's daughter, Ayanni, is home from the hospital. She is doing

well and will be receiving physical therapy as an outpatient. Chief Stith appreciates all of the prayers for her.

PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT

Mr. Brockwell commented much of this has already been discussed. He would like to meet with the insurance agent to review some issues.

STREETS, LIGHTS & CEMETERY

Mrs. Talbert commented that the new sidewalks look nice but the old ones do not. They still have not been cleaned. A class is coming up through the Cooperative Extension program and we hope to get an employee certified. Mayor Martin asked Mr. Gibson to check on the street sweeper or an attachment the town bought for the Bobcat for this purpose.

TOWN DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Brockwell reported the representatives from the county are here tonight. Mr. Dotti said developers are aware of the Peebles building and there is some interest. He said there is a lot of interest in Lawrenceville.

WATER/WASTEWATER

Mr. Brockwell stated the lead and copper issue was discussed earlier tonight. There are maintenance issues on control panels. The committee will discuss the possibility of outsourcing some maintenance issues.

HOUSING CODE ENFORCEMENT

There is no additional report.

PARKS/RECREATION

Mr. Brockwell reported on an example of a young man, an athlete who started in our little league ball park. Ben Jones is now the Head Baseball Coach of The Apprentice School. Mr. Brockwell reported there is a softball tournament in town this weekend and invited everyone to come out to the ball park.

WELLNESS

Ms. Whitehead shared materials on June is Men's Health Awareness Month. VCU Massey Cancer Center will present Mancave 101: Know Your Health on June 28, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. Talk and Walk Tuesday will be held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Town Office at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Whitehead thanked Mrs. Martin and Mr. Gibson for coming by her office and brainstorming.

FARMER'S MARKET

Ms. Whitehead shared a draft handout for the Farmer's Market. Vendors will set up on the Main Street sidewalk on Fridays from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Vendor space is free. To reserve your spot, email main_street_marketplace@yahoo.com.

LAWRENCEVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION

There was no report.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deadline for Candidates to file for General Election is June 21, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

FY 2022 – 2023 Meeting Dates List

Red, White & Blue Hometown Parade, Saturday, June 25, 2022, 3:00 p.m.

Employee Appreciation Day Luncheon, June 29, 2022, 12:00 p.m.

Jazz Festival, August 27, 2022

Taste of Brunswick Festival, October 8, 2022

NEW BUSINESS – APPOINTMENTS

APPOINTMENT OF TOWN ATTORNEY

On motion by Mrs. Talbert, seconded by Mr. Brockwell and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to appoint W. Curtis Outten, Jr. as Town Attorney for the term July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023.

APPOINTMENT OF TOWN MANAGER

On motion by Mrs. Talbert, seconded by Ms. Hardy and carried, Town Council voted to appoint Everette Gibson as Town Manager for the term July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Scott E. Martin, Mayor

Wanda Johnson, Clerk