

March 14, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor LaWanda Tatum called the regular meeting of the Lawrenceville Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on March 14, 2023.

ROLL CALL

Roll was called. Present: Mayor LaWanda Tatum; Town Attorney, W.C. Outten, Jr.; Council Members H. B. Brockwell, Jr., Robert F. Pecht, III, Nakai Peterson, Alice Talbert, Teya Whitehead, and Anne Williams.

Absent: Council Member, Dora Hardy and Town Clerk, Wanda Johnson.

Also present: Town Attorney, W. C. Outten, Jr., Town Manager, Everette Gibson, Account Clerk, Patti Lewis, Special Projects Coordinator, Kimberly Martin, Police Officer Demetrie Coles, Justin Thomas, Beverly Ambs, Debbie Burkett, Joseph Blankenship, Chris Stephenson, Tyquan Goode, Alfreda Reynolds, Leonard Rose, citizens and the press.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Tatum led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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 February 14, 2023, 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 shared that his caregiver Bruno plans to make a true story movie about the cross. He also spoke about help for domestic violence and abuse.

DEBBIE BURKETT

Debbie Burkett shared that RAM (Remote Area Medical) is in its Fifth Year of serving Southside Virginia. She gave an overview of all medical and dental services provided, free of charge. She invited everyone to sign up to volunteer, the dates of the event this year, June 24 & 25, 2023. For more information visit RAMUSA.ORG. She also asked for the continued support from the town.

CHRIS STEPHENSON

Chris Stephenson shared information on SPC4LIFE. Mr. Stephenson spoke of the rebirth of St. Paul's, transitioning to become Saint Paul's Leadership Institute. He invited everyone to come the first weekend of each month to the workshop at SPC4LIFE. The platform includes, life skills, financial, and agriculture.

LAWRENCEVILLE EDA

There was no report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Tatum thanked those who have made her transition much easier and stated that it has been an amazing three-month journey. Thankful to all in the community for support. Mayor Tatum also stated that she is excited to learn and understand the water and wastewater process. Mayor Tatum was asked by the advisory board with Virginia State to participate in a community giveaway; to include juices, dry goods, non-perishable items, and home items. The board is in search of space, Mayor Tatum expressed this is an amazing opportunity and asked for support of the town to help make this possible.

REPORT OF TOWN ATTORNEY

There was no report.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER CONSIDERATION OF ACCOUNTS

Mrs. Lewis reported the bills total \$105,341.80. 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 \$105,341.80 and post to the proper accounts.

REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER PEEBLES AND SOUTHERN STATES PROJECTS

Southern States - Mr. Gibson reported that BDX Performance LLC, located in the Southern States building, will hold a ribbon cutting in April 2023. Peebles – Mr. Staats mailed Part 2 amendment this week to DHR for review and approval. Once approved, the Part 2 application will be sent to NPS for review.

WATER LINE UPDATE FOR ALBERTA VDH ODW GRANT APPLICATION FOR ALBERTA WATER LINES

Mr. Gibson and Mrs. Tamera Anderson presented the grant application at the Alberta Town Council meeting on February 27, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. This called meeting was in regards to the VDH ODW Grant application for the water lines in Alberta. After much discussion, it was decided that the Alberta Town Council would allocate \$25,000.00 of their ARPA funding for this grant project. The Southside Planning District Commission has started working on this application, it is due on May 5, 2023.

BUDGET REQUESTS FOR FY2023/2024

Mr. Gibson stated we have started to work on the preliminary budget for FY2023/2024, and stated that he has requested each department to submit items for budget consideration. Mr. Gibson also mentioned that we will need to schedule a Finance Committee meeting as we progress through the formulation of the draft budget.

VML 2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Mr. Gibson shared the dates for the annual VML Conference, to be held October 7-10, 2023. He asked if any members interested in attending to contact the Town Office for more information.

LEDA UPDATE

There was no report.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Pecht reported the finance committee will be meeting. Budget requests need to be submitted. A draft budget for FY2023-2024 must be presented and tentatively adopted in April in order to schedule a public hearing in May.

THE LOCAL CHOICE HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWAL

Mr. Gibson advised that the health insurance premiums have gone up 8.9%. He suggested we continue to cover the employee at 100% and continue the 20% family/dependents that is in place for employees who participate.

Mrs. Williams asked if the town had explored other options for pricing of health insurance. Mr. Gibson and Mrs. Talbert replied that we have in the past, due to the number of employees the Anthem Local Choice has been the best option for the town. At this point the renewal must be processed and we can start looking at other options now for the next renewal date, which is 2024.

On motion by Mr. Pecht and seconded by Mr. Brockwell and carried, Town Council voted to renew participation in the Local Choice Health Insurance Program for the 2023-2024 plan year. Mrs. Williams was opposed and voted nay.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

The fire department responded to 17 calls in February. Of the 17, 4 were in the town limits and 13 were outside the town limits. Also, 13 were in the LVFD First Due area, with 4 being mutual aid to other agencies. Approximately 131-man hours were expended.

Fire Chief Justin Thanked everyone for the support with the stew, held on March 4, 2023.

PERSONNEL

Mr. Brockwell reported that two employees have been hired at the water plant. The restructuring is close to be completed. He advised the job openings are advertised on the Town website.

POLICE

Report is in the packet.

PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT

Mr. Gibson spoke of acquiring grants possibly to help with funding of the wastewater expansion project that is needed.

STREETS, LIGHTS & CEMETERY

There was no report.

TOWN DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Brockwell commented that the committee has met regarding the downtown and Main Street activities.

WATER/WASTEWATER

Mr. Brockwell reported that times are different now in the water/wastewater, operating cost, etc., overall operating. Mr. Brockwell mentioned there is still the situation with the county water tower.

HOUSING CODE ENFORCEMENT

Mr. Pecht asked about the status of the VCU Massey Cancer repairs. Per Ms. Whitehead repairs are in order with the contractor.

PARKS/RECREATION

Mr. Brockwell stated the ballpark will be opening soon.

WELLNESS

Ms. Whitehead provided information on Colorectal Cancer and shared a short video. March is Colorectal Cancer awareness month.

FARMER'S MARKET

Ms. Whitehead says the Farmer's Market is looking for vendors and will plan to be open each Friday, 2-6pm, date to be announced, as they hope to have a trial run. There is no fee for space, an informational layout was included.

LAWRENCEVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION

Mr. Gibson included in the add packet that two members were to be replaced on the LPC, Scott Martin to replace Mr. John Miller and James T. Wesson to replace Mrs. Cherrill Robertson. Also, changes to the Board of Zoning Appeals, two members were to be replaced; Justin M. Thomas to replace Emory Samford and Christine Gerg to replace Wayne W. Talbert.

On motion by Mrs. Talbert, seconded by Mr. Brockwell and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to approve the appointments as recommended.

CLOSED SESSION

CLOSED SESSION-MOTION TO ENTER THE CLOSED MEETING

"Mr. Mayor, I move the Lawrenceville Town Council enter into a closed meeting pursuant to the provisions of Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended for the purpose of discussing legal matters." Motion: Mr. Pecht. Second: Mr. Brockwell. Roll call vote: Mr. Brockwell, aye; Ms. Hardy, absent; Mr. Pecht, aye; Ms. Peterson, aye; Mrs. Talbert, aye; Ms. Whitehead, aye; Ms. Williams, aye.

MOTION TO EXIT A CLOSED MEETING AND RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

"Mr. Mayor, I move the closed meeting be adjourned and the Lawrenceville Town Council convene again in open session." The motion was made by Mr. Pecht, seconded by Mr. Brockwell and carried by all ayes.

CERTIFICATION

"Be it resolved to the best of my knowledge (i) only public business matters exempted from open meeting requirements, under Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting." Motion: Mr. Pecht. Second: Mrs. Talbert. Roll

call vote: Mr. Brockwell, aye; Ms. Hardy, absent; Mr. Pecht, aye; Ms. Peterson, aye; Mrs. Talbert, aye; Ms. Whitehead, aye; Ms. Williams, aye.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, April 8, 2023, 11:00 a.m.

Plans are underway for a Fireworks Show to be held at the ballpark on Saturday, June 24, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

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

LaWanda Tatum, Mayor

Patti Lewis, Account Clerk