

November 15, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Scott Martin called the regular meeting of the Lawrenceville Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on November 15, 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, Special Projects Coordinator Kimberly Martin, Police Chief, John Stith, Justin Thomas, Alfreda Reynolds, Christina Cochran, Leonard Rose, citizens and the press.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Police Chief John Stith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion by Mrs. Talbert, seconded by Ms. Hardy and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on October 11, 2022, 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

Leonard Rose spoke about senior and youth community centers. He shared that he has written to President Joe Biden and John Walsh.

LAWRENCEVILLE EDA

Ms. Williams commented that the garden property at 313 High Street is owned by the EDA. Ms. Williams attended the Brunswick County Garden Club meeting. The club is interested in participating in the garden project. The sign needs to say park and community garden in order to be eligible for grant funds.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Martin thanked Zach Gibson for moving a desk that was donated by Farm Bureau to the public works and maintenance shop. Mayor Martin volunteered three nights at the haunted house. Mayor Martin thanked everyone who participated in the haunted house. The Halloween parade and Trunk or Treat was a success with about 500 kids in attendance. He thanked the State Police, Lawrenceville Police Department and Lawrenceville Volunteer Fire Department and Ladies Auxiliary for their assistance. Mr. Martin, Mrs. Martin and Mr. Gibson attended the SPDC annual meeting and dinner that was held at the Brunswick County Conference Center. Three 10' x 16' storage sheds that are needed for storage have been ordered. Mr. Martin said he

will not be Mayor in 2023, but he will continue to volunteer and assist on projects. There has been discussion about having a mural painted on the park side of the E. E. Vaughan building. A local artist and school art teacher will work on a sketch. He would like input from Town Council on what they would like to see. We will also need to get cost information.

REPORT OF TOWN ATTORNEY

Mr. Outten advised there is no formal report.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER CONSIDERATION OF ACCOUNTS

Mrs. Johnson reported the bills total \$189,794.57. On a motion by Mr. Brockwell, seconded by Mrs. Talbert and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to pay the bills in the amount of \$189,794.57 and post to the proper accounts.

REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER PEEBLES AND SOUTHERN STATES PROJECTS

Mr. Gibson reported that he, Mrs. Martin and Mr. Martin have been in contact with Stephen Staats regarding the Peebles Building. On November 7, 2022, Mr. Staats and Mrs. Martin completed the Historic Preservation Certification Application Part 1 and sent it to the Department of Historic Resources for review. Mr. Staats, along with his architect and general contractor, will be in Lawrenceville on November 21, 2022, to view the building. The lease on the Southern States property was signed on October 31, 2022, by the owner of BDX Performance LLC. The business plans to have the necessary equipment moved into the building by the end of December 2022.

MAIN STREET APPLICATION AND RESOLUTION

Zachary Whitlow with the Main Street Program visited the Town on November 14, 2022. He will be assisting the Town with training and resources as we move forward with the Main Street Program.

PECHT PROPERTY GIFTS – SHOP AND WASH BAY

Mr. Pecht and Pecht Properties would like to gift their shop and wash bay to the Town. They are on the same tract and are being surveyed by Julian Moore to separate the property from the office building. The easement will be split down the middle of the driveway. Mr. Gibson requested that Town Council make a motion to accept the conveyance to the Town of Lawrenceville. The shop can be used by the new town maintenance crew. Mr. Lynch and Mr. Matthews have viewed the area. Mr. Brockwell and the property committee endorsed acceptance. Ms. Williams questioned the condition of the buildings. They are very well maintained and in fantastic shape. They have heating, cooling and three phase electricity. On a motion by Mrs. Talbert, seconded by Ms. Hardy, and carried, Town Council voted to accept the gift of the shop and wash bay to the Town of Lawrenceville from Pecht Properties. Mr. Pecht abstained.

GARBAGE CARTS

New garbage carts have been distributed to both residents and businesses. Mr. Lynch also distributed documents with the carts outlining the dos and don'ts regarding the care and use of

the carts. The old carts are being picked up. The Town of Alberta is interested in some of the old garbage carts.

LAWRENCEVILLE BRICK

Chris Suber, President of Construction Development Services, Inc. has submitted a revised offer for the purchase of parcels known as the Lawrenceville Brick and Tile Property, parcel page 52, lots 20 and 20A, parcel page 52, lot 26. The offer also includes a parcel separate from Brick and Tile, parcel page 52A2-(3)2 which is the corner sloping lot going down towards Elm Acres. B & B surveyed out 150' from the water plant in order for the Town to retain that property around the water plant. The offer for the Brick and Tile property is in the amount of \$185,000. Mr. Suber also asked for first right of refusal on the Southern States building at the end of the current two year lease on that building. On a motion by Mr. Brockwell, seconded by Ms. Hardy, and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to accept the offer in the amount of \$185,000. for parcel page 52, lots 20 and 20A, parcel page 52, lot 26 and parcel page 52A2-(3)2 as presented. Mr. Outten stated the motion does not include the right of refusal for Southern States.

DHCD EMAIL PEBBLES/SOUTHERN STATES LIENS

Mr. Gibson shared copies of emails from DHCD regarding the liens on the Peebles and Southern States properties. The lien on the Peebles Building is for \$125,000. The lien on the Southern States property is for \$200,000. Different options for satisfying the liens have been discussed by DHCD representatives by phone and email. Mr. Outten advised Town Council to wait for an official formal letter from DHCD before taking any action.

HOTEL ELLE

Mr. Gibson asked Alfreda Reynolds to report on the site plans for a hotel. She first thanked Mr. Martin for his support and leadership in working collaboratively to build a stronger relationship between the Town and County. Ms. Reynolds reported that site plans have been received for Hotel Elle to be located in Lawrenceville beside Food Lion. The property is located in Lawrenceville. The Town and County will be working together on building code and planning to make this happen. They are looking to break ground by the end of February. The plans are for an eighty room hotel with a restaurant.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Pecht reported the financial statement is in the packet. The staff is currently working on tax bills and the audit. The correction on page 11 of the financial statement changed a number that printed in red to the color black. There was no change in dollar amounts.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

The fire department responded to 14 calls in October. Of the 14, 1 was in the town limits and 13 were outside the town limits. Also, 13 were in the LVFD First Due area, with 1 being mutual aid to other agencies. Approximately 60.5 man hours were expended. The LVFD will have its annual Christmas Banquet and Dance on December 3, 2022. The Castaways will perform. Chief Thomas reported the LVFD participated in the Haunted House and Trick or Treat. They look forward to the tree lighting and Christmas parade. Mrs. Martin and Mr. Wesson are working on grants for additional equipment. We are always looking for volunteers.

PERSONNEL

Mr. Brockwell reported on positions to be filled. We still have issues with operators for both plants. Unfortunately we lost a long time employee this past month due to cancer. We will miss this individual and the dedication he had for the job. Water and wastewater operators are credentialed positions. The restructured maintenance department is shown on the job openings report. The positions are being advertised.

CHRISTMAS BONUS

Mr. Brockwell reported the Christmas Bonus funds are included in the budget each year. On motion by Mr. Brockwell, seconded by Mrs. Talbert and carried by all ayes, Town Council approved the 2022 Christmas Bonus for employees as budgeted.

POLICE

The police report is in the packet. Chief Stith reported that our new officer at the academy will graduate soon. Chief Stith reported to Council on a FLOCK camera system. The camera system can be programmed to read license plates and also can be programmed to locate a specific car description. The police department will use ARPA funds to purchase two cameras. Once a part of the camera system, Lawrenceville Police Department will also be able to access the cameras in other localities. Chief Stith thanked Council for accepting the generous donation from the Pecht family. It will provide an intelligence hub to help monitor the trail park area.

PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT

The dump trucks have been down causing a delay in leaf collections. Two street employees went to look at two possible dump trucks to be purchased. The trucks should be in service soon. Mr. Brockwell reported there will be very few properties for sale if the current offers go through. Mr. Brockwell thanked the Pecht family for the property they donated.

STREETS, LIGHTS & CEMETERY

Mrs. Talbert commented that the cemetery looks good and the streets will eventually get cleaned.

TOWN DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Brockwell commented that with the addition of the special projects coordinator, things are better planned out to include the Main Street Project. He thanked Ms. Reynolds for giving the report on the hotel tonight.

WATER/WASTEWATER

Mr. Brockwell reported we still have equipment and operator issues. Having a Chief Water Operator at the plant has really helped and stabilized that position. Costs for upcoming projects continue to increase. Sewer plant improvements have gone from \$9 million to \$17 million. The project for the Alberta water lines has gone from \$2 million to \$5 million. Our current water rates will have difficulty in us qualifying for loans.

HOUSING CODE ENFORCEMENT

Mr. Gibson reported he and Mr. Veliky will meet with a contractor to discuss the best way to take care of the VCU building. Later in the month they will look at the old Dollar

General/theater building. The Cinnamon Café building problem has been worked out and is no longer affecting the neighbor.

PARKS/RECREATION

There was no report.

WELLNESS

Ms. Whitehead shared that November is Lung Cancer Awareness Month. She presented information on a project called We Can Quit and a short video on smoking cessation. There is information available online provided by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation that breaks down the impact of lung cancer by cities and counties in Virginia.

FARMER'S MARKET

There was no report.

LAWRENCEVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION

There was no report.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Second Annual Deck the Storefronts Contest, enter by Tuesday, November 22, 2022

Second Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony, November 30, 2022, 7:00 PM

Old-Fashioned Hometown Christmas Parade, Friday, December 2, 2022, 7:30 PM

Employee Christmas Luncheon, Wednesday, December 7, 2022, 12:00 PM

ADJOURNMENT

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

Scott E. Martin, Mayor

Wanda Johnson, Clerk