November 9, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Scott Martin called the regular meeting of the Lawrenceville Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on November 9, 2021.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Council Members Joyce Bland and Dora Hardy.

Also present: Town Attorney, W. C. Outten, Jr., Town Manager, Everette Gibson, Town Clerk, Wanda Johnson, Police Chief, John Stith, Brian Glover, Kimberly Martin, Leonard Rose, Alfreda J. Reynolds, Mike Dotti, James Wesson, citizens and the press.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Police Chief John Stith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion by Ms. Williams, seconded by Mr. Brockwell and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on October 12, 2021, 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

There were no requests to speak.

LAWRENCEVILLE EDA

Mayor Martin asked for a volunteer to fill the vacant position on the EDA. Mr. Brockwell volunteered to serve. On motion by Mr. Pecht, seconded by Ms. Williams and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to appoint Mr. Brockwell to the EDA to fill the seat vacated by Ms. Williams.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Martin reported Pino’s is back open. Pops, Lake Country and Club House Grill are open and busy. There are flyers in the packet for upcoming events. There will be a first annual tree lighting. Trunk or Treat went very well with over 300 children participating. Mayor Martin thanked the police department, fire department, chamber and all the volunteers. It was a nice night. The Peebles building will be decorated for Christmas again. There are plans for a first annual storefront decorating contest.

REPORT OF TOWN ATTORNEY

There was no report.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

CONSIDERATION OF ACCOUNTS

Mrs. Johnson reported the bills total $106,569.56. 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 $106,569.56 and post to the proper accounts.

REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER

AGRITOURISM CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Mr. Gibson reported that he and Kimberly participated in an agritourism conference through ZOOM. The session demonstrated how the Rails to Trails connects to economic development. Another presentation emphasized the significance of the evolution of Main Street. There was also an asset mapping exercise. A horse riding trail event was held last Saturday.

POST DISCOVERY SESSION SMALL GROUP MEETING

A small group meeting was held on October 16, 2021, with representatives from the Town, LEDA, Brunswick County and the IDA. The group reviewed the recommendations from RiverLink and discussed ways to collaborate on economic development initiatives.

REZONING CONFERENCE CENTER APPLICATION

The rezoning application for the Brunswick County Conference Center requests the property be rezoned to Business General. A joint public hearing with the Planning Commission and Town Council will be held at the December Town Council meeting.

CABOOSE UPDATE

Mr. Gray has not gotten back to Mr. Gibson. We would need to get competitive bids. Mr. Brockwell would like to have a meeting with Rails to Trails before any decision is made.

FARM TO FAMILIES UPDATE

After meeting with Bernard Jones and Herbert Brown, Jr., a location for the hydration station has been determined at the trailhead at the water plant. One spigot will be installed to the side of the hydration station. A memorandum of understanding was signed. There will be four plots. Water usage will be metered.

DEQ INSPECTION OF WASTEWATER PLANT

Mr. Reynolds from DEQ toured the wastewater facility on October 18, 2021, for an inspection visit. Concepts on how to make the plant run smoother were discussed. There will be an after action report from Mr. Reynolds.

VDH INSPECTION OF WATER PLANT

Mr. Proctor with VDH, Office of Drinking Water, toured the water plant. In all, the plant is very efficient. Mr. Proctor will provide a follow-up report.

DRUG TAKE BACK

A successful drug take back was held on October 23, 2021.

NIXLE EVERIDGE TRAINING

Nixle Everidge is the new system to update and replace the BEN dialer system. The staff participated in training on October 26, 2021. Customers can sign up for alerts on our Town website or staff can sign up for them, if requested. Information has been posted on the town website, printed on the water bills, and a notice was sent out from the BEN system.

BUSINESS STOREFRONT DECORATING CONTEST

There will be a storefront decorating contest. Entry forms are due by November 23, 2021. Judging will be on December 2, 2021. Announcement of the first and second place winners will be on December 3, 2021.

TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

The town will host a tree lighting ceremony on December 1, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. There will be entertainment, storytelling, cookies, hot chocolate and a visit from Santa. The Brunswick Cancer Society Memorial tree lighting will be held on November 29, 2021.

SEARCH GRANT

The SEARCH Grant for $30,000 was approved and the engineering has been sent to the VDH-Office of Drinking Water for their approval. The project can start following final approval.

SHOWING OF PROPERTIES

Mr. Gibson and Ms. Reynolds have shown the Butler property and some other town properties together in the past few weeks. The owner of the old Roses store passed away and her daughter is disposing of the contents of the building.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Pecht reported the auditors have everything they have asked for and continue to work on the audit. Town tax bills will go out week after next. The financial report is in the packet. We are four months in and on target. Mr. Brockwell asked about adding a project report. Mr. Gibson will be sharing a CEDS project list from the SPDC. This will come up under town development.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

The fire department responded to 33 calls in October. Of the 33, 4 were in the town limits and 29 were outside the town limits. Also, 26 were in the LVFD First Due area, with 7 being mutual aid to other agencies. Approximately 130 man hours were expended. James Wesson reported that the LVFD was awarded $85,000 from the Greensville Memorial Foundation for extrication equipment. The air packs have been ordered. The 501c3 application has been submitted and we are waiting on the process. The ladder truck should be in around December 23. The committee will travel to Roanoke on Monday to inspect the tanker truck. It should be ready in a week or so. Mr. Wesson, Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Martin met with the ISO representative to go over the paperwork. He was very impressed with the binder and said it could be a model for other departments. He looked at dry hydrants and advised there has to be a 30 year hydrolysis test/study in order for the dry hydrant to be counted. Fund raising continues. The LVFD participated in Trunk or Treat. They will also participate in the tree lighting and Christmas parade. Mr. Martin thanked Mr. Wesson for his volunteer work.

PERSONNEL - CHRISTMAS BONUS

Mr. Brockwell reported the Christmas Bonus funds are included in the budget. On motion by Mr. Brockwell, seconded by Mr. Pecht and carried by all ayes, Town Council approved the 2021 Christmas Bonus in the total amount of $14,250. There will be a personnel committee meeting next Wednesday at 1:00 p.m.

POLICE

The report is in the packet. The welcome to our town message on the sign board has received positive comments.

PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT

Mr. Brockwell reported as a follow up to the Discovery Session, the committee recommends that a commercial appraiser be hired to appraise both the Brick & Tile and Butler Lumber properties. The “new” used 2001 bucket truck is at the shop.

STREETS, LIGHTS & CEMETERY

Mrs. Talbert asked about the previous parking request regarding Pino’s. Mr. Brockwell reported this has been discussed with Chief Stith but there is no formal report. Signage and then enforcement of the signage is needed.

TOWN DEVELOPMENT

A committee meeting will be held on November 17, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. Mr. Brockwell reported we have the format for the projects report as provided by the SPDC for the town and also for the county. The county project report shows projects that reference water needs. Mr. Brockwell thinks it is important to conduct a mock job prospect visit. He would like for the committee to make a recommendation at the next meeting. He advised the funds to pay for the commercial and mock interview could come out of the town development budget. Ms. Williams commented that it is imperative for Town Council to think of things we can do and ordinances we can pass to enforce things to provide better development in the downtown area. It is incumbent on us to take an active role in enforcing things to make it better and all work together.

WATER/WASTEWATER

Mr. Brockwell reported the committee met. Mr. Lynch put together a draft format that shows nine different contracts to be addressed and considered. It is not simple as one contract affects another. Operators are still needed at the plant. Mr. Martin asked about a bill plan for water customers behind on bills. Mr. Gibson reported we have been discussing a possible payment plan as the Governors order has expired. Mr. Brockwell reported we are setting up an advisory committee of our large employers and water users. They are still tweaking how this will be implemented. Ms. Williams asked if there is a contingency plan in the event we lose the private prison. Mr. Brockwell and Mr. Pecht advised the rates would go up. Ms. Williams is concerned about pre-planning to protect from a dramatic increase in bills to avoid sticker shock when rates go up. Mr. Brockwell said this is addressed during budget preparations. Mr. Pecht said if the prison closed, it would free up quite a bit of capacity at the water and wastewater plants. Mr. Brockwell commented that with previous business closings we have done well to maintain our rates.

HOUSING CODE ENFORCEMENT

There was no report.

PARKS/RECREATION

There was no report.

WELLNESS

Ms. Whitehead reported November is Lung Cancer Awareness Month and provided information regarding lung cancer.

FARMER’S MARKET

Ms. Williams advised a meeting will be scheduled to plan for Christmas holiday opportunities for the market.

LAWRENCEVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION

There was no report.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deck the Storefronts Contest Judging – December 2, 2021

Christmas Parade – December 3, 2021

Santa Breakfast – December 4, 2021

Employee Christmas Luncheon – December 15, 2021

ADJOURNMENT

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

Scott E. Martin, Mayor

Wanda Johnson, Clerk