

September 14, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

President of Council Robert F. Pecht, III called the regular meeting of the Lawrenceville Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on September 14, 2021.

ROLL CALL

Roll was called. Present: Council Members Joyce Bland, H. B. Brockwell, Jr., Dora Hardy, Robert F. Pecht, III, Alice Talbert, Teya Whitehead and Anne Williams.

Absent: Mayor Scott Martin.

Also present: Town Attorney, W. C. Outten, Jr., Town Manager, Everette Gibson, Town Clerk, Wanda Johnson, Retired Police Sgt. William T. Moody, Jr., Police Chief, John Stith, Leonard Rose, Chris Stephenson, Shirley Penn, Alfreda J. Reynolds, James Wesson, citizens and the press.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Retired Police Sgt. William T. Moody, Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance.

RECOGNITION OF SERVICE - WILLIAM T. MOODY, JR.

Mr. Pecht and Mr. Gibson presented a plaque to William T. "Tommy" Moody, Jr. in appreciation and recognition for his 18 years and 6 months of service to the Town of Lawrenceville and the Lawrenceville Police Department. Mr. Moody was employed in the police department from March 2003 until his retirement on September 1, 2021.

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 August 10, 2021, and the called meeting on August 30, 2021, as received, suspend the reading and file.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion by Mr. Brockwell, 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 spoke about Dr. Bruno Caporriomo, the Joseph Global University, and plans for a Saint Paul's University.

CHRIS STEPHENSON, ST. PAUL'S COLLEGE 4 LIFE

Mr. Stephenson thanked council for the opportunity to talk about the organization, St. Paul's College 4 Life, as they develop plans for the St. Paul's property. They are talking to David Lu about the property.

SHIRLEY PENN

Ms. Penn addressed council about an ongoing issue she is having at 419 W. Fifth Avenue and at 409 Walnut Street. She said she has been terrorized by children all summer. They have kicked in her front and back doors and vandalized property, beating up bricks on the corner of a house. She called the Chief of Police and he did come over and assist her. She wanted to bring this issue to the attention of Town Council. She said these children have parents and children need something to do besides vandalizing property. She said something needs to be done.

LAWRENCEVILLE EDA

There was no report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mr. Gibson gave the Mayor's Report on behalf of Mayor Scott Martin. Mayor Martin is out of town on business. Mayor Martin spoke with a business owner about additional trash cans. He spoke with Mr. Gibson and Mr. Lynch about updating the older trash cans with a newer style that would be easier to pick up. Mayor Martin spoke at the We Are the World event at the middle school. He attended the ISO luncheon meeting at the LVFD. He spoke to concerned citizens about the lights in the parking lot behind Pino's. These are owned by the IDA. They have been repaired before but there is a short that the electrician has not been able to find. They blow out as fast as they are fixed.

REPORT OF TOWN ATTORNEY

There was no report.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

CONSIDERATION OF ACCOUNTS

Mrs. Johnson reported the bills total \$120,102.57. On a motion by Mr. Brockwell, seconded by Ms. Hardy and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to pay the bills in the amount of \$120,102.57 and post to the proper accounts.

REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER

MUNICIPAL PARKING LOT UPDATE

The parking lot is complete. The final inspection by B & B is coming up.

UPDATE ON SEARCH GRANT

Mr. Gibson reported that he spoke to Peggy Jordan at USDA. She stated we are waiting for the preliminary engineering report from B & B Consultants for the mixers.

RIVERLINK CONSULTING

The Town Development Committee has asked RiverLink Consulting to come to town on September 21st. The company is owned by Liz Povar. The Discovery Session meeting will be held at the Southern States building. County, IDA and SPDC representatives will also attend. The Town is seeking advice on marketing town property for sale.

MAJOR WATER LINE BREAKS

Mr. Gibson reported that there was a major water line break in Alberta, then a water line in front of the furniture store building, then another water line break near the stoplight. These all occurred within about ten days. He said the guys and the ladies in the office deserve a round of applause and thank you for working on the leaks and keeping the information out to the public and communicating with the office of drinking water.

There is a small leak in the Mayfield water tank. It is scheduled to be patched next week and is covered under a maintenance agreement.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN

Ms. Williams asked if there is an emergency preparedness plan. Mr. Gibson stated that Mr. Lynch starts with getting everyone and everything in place for repairs. We use social media, the website, Facebook and Twitter to get information out. The Town has a dialer system, BEN, which is used to call customers. It is old technology and very slow. We are looking to update to a newer system. Any customers that did not receive a call during these events should call the town office to make sure we have a current phone number on their account.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

TAX RELIEF RESOLUTION 2021

Pursuant to Ordinance #06-01 adopted by Town Council on January 10, 2006, the Town is required by law to set the rate of tax relief at a level that is anticipated to exhaust the PPTRA relief funds provided by the Commonwealth in the amount of \$39,560.51. On motion by Mr. Brockwell, seconded by Mrs. Talbert and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to adopt the tax relief resolution at 66% for tax year 2021 as presented.

Mr. Pecht reported Mrs. Johnson discovered the series 2014A loan was refinanced this year, per the original loan document. The loan originated in 2014 and after 7 years was up for a new rate based on the current LIBOR rate plus 2.08%. This rate change saved about \$27,000 on the recent payment.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

The fire department responded to 22 calls in August. Of the 22, 4 were in the town limits and 18 were outside the town limits. Also, 15 were in the LVFD First Due area, with 7 being mutual aid to other agencies. Approximately 83 man hours were expended. The LVFD was the successful bidder on the 2005 Spartan/Hackney rescue support truck with equipment. A called meeting was held to approve the payment of \$175,000 to the SHVFD for the truck. James Wesson provided updates on the ladder and tanker trucks. He thanked Town Council for supporting the fire department. Work continues on the binder for the ISO rating project. The cornhole tournament will be held on September 18, 2021. A stew is coming up and a letter drive will begin on October 9, 2021.

PERSONNEL

Mr. Brockwell advised the special projects coordinator has a report in the packet. The coordinator has been working with the LVFD on a grant application. A lot of things are being done. Only two members of the department were working at the time of the water breaks. One

of our employees takes a substantial lead when Mr. Lynch is not there. There are openings in the street, water and wastewater departments.

POLICE

Ms. Hardy stated the report is in the packet. There was no additional report.

PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT

Mr. Brockwell reported that we will be working with the insurance people on property values. There has been a rash of breaks in water lines. We have been able to make corrections in Lawrenceville. There are issues in the adjoining Alberta system. We are working on efforts to market property properly.

STREETS, LIGHTS & CEMETERY

Mrs. Bland reported no complaints have been received. The cemetery looks good.

TOWN DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Brockwell advised this has already been covered. Ms. Reynolds said the county is excited to be a part of the Discovery Session.

WATER/WASTEWATER

Mr. Brockwell reported a committee meeting will be held soon. We need to look at grants and determine what we have to do to address the wastewater situation.

HOUSING CODE ENFORCEMENT

There was no report.

PARKS/RECREATION

Mr. Brockwell commented that fall ball starts Friday night.

WELLNESS

Ms. Whitehead reported that Dr. Robert A. Winn will be in town to speak on Sunday, September 19, 2021. Ms. Whitehead thanked Ms. Reynolds and Mr. Thornhill for making this happen. This is Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. CVHS Health Services, Alberta, provided 500 masks to be given out. Vaccinations are available at the CVHS Health Services.

FARMER'S MARKET

Ms. Whitehead reported the farmer's market is under construction. Ms. Williams thanked the town for posting the electronic sign. It increased the participation and we hope to continue use of the sign board. Ms. Williams said the sign increased traffic to the farmer's market, but the market is in need of vendors, as most have left to go to South Hill for their increased sales.

LAWRENCEVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION

There was no report.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Martin family sent a thank you note for a funeral wreath sent for her great-grandmother's funeral service.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ms. Williams expressed concern about the process for applying for water and trash services. She said it should be clear across the board. She said she has had calls concerning confusion about the process. Mr. Gibson advised that the owner should fill out the proper paperwork and follow the instructions. Mrs. Johnson advised that the same application form is given to each applicant and each applicant is asked to present photo identification, a lease or deed, and a deposit based on in or out of town.

CLOSED SESSION – PERSONNEL MATTERS

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 a personnel matter.” Motion: Mrs. Bland. Second: Ms. Hardy. Roll call vote: Mrs. Bland, aye; Mr. Brockwell, aye; Ms. Hardy, aye; Mr. Pecht, aye; Mrs. Talbert, aye; Ms. Whitehead, aye; Mrs. 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.” Motion: Mrs. Bland. Second: Ms. Hardy. The motion was made by Mrs. Bland, seconded by Ms. Hardy 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: Mrs. Bland. Second: Mrs. Talbert. Roll call vote: Mrs. Bland, aye; Mr. Brockwell, aye; Ms. Hardy, aye; Mr. Pecht, aye; Mrs. Talbert, aye; Ms. Whitehead, aye; Mrs. Williams, aye.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Scott E. Martin, Mayor

Wanda Johnson, Clerk