

September 13, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Scott Martin called the regular meeting of the Lawrenceville Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on September 13, 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 and Anne Williams.

Absent: Council Member, Teya Whitehead and Town Attorney, W. C. Outten, Jr.

Also present: Town Manager, Everette Gibson, Town Clerk, Wanda Johnson, Police Chief, John Stith, Assistant Chief, Natasha Brown, Justin Thomas, Leonard Rose, Mike Dotti and citizens.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Police Chief John Stith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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 9, 2022, 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 seeing angels in the clouds and praying for protection for the police and fire departments.

LAWRENCEVILLE EDA

Anne Williams commented that the EDA owns the garden at 313 High Street. She reported on several donations that have been received for the garden project and thanked everyone for their contributions. The garden club has expressed interest in participating. The press needs to get more pictures for the paper.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Martin commented that he heard the Jazz Festival was well attended. He was not able to be there. He has been in contact with Mr. Gibson regarding personnel and we hope to have new hires soon. Mayor Martin, Mr. Gibson and Mrs. Martin had a productive meeting with a developer today. He has discussed citizen concerns with Chief Stith and Mr. Gibson. Mayor Martin also met with Mrs. Martin and James Wesson for upcoming projects this fall.

REPORT OF TOWN ATTORNEY

There was no report.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

CONSIDERATION OF ACCOUNTS

Mrs. Johnson reported the bills total \$149,897.70. 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 \$149, 897.70 and post to the proper accounts.

REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER BRIGHTLY APP

Mr. Gibson reported that he and Mrs. Martin have been looking at apps to be used for keeping up with maintenance management projects such as water/sewer, vehicles and equipment. They have not looked at pricing yet and are only exploring options. This program is all maintenance related and it is what the school system uses.

PEEBLES AND SOUTHERN STATES PROJECTS

Mr. Gibson reported the Town is currently working with and vetting a very good prospect for the Peebles building. Mr. Outten has prepared a lease agreement for the Town and 4P Foods for the Southern States building. We are still in discussions with 4P Foods.

SHARP STREET PROJECT

The Town is in the process of getting approval from VDOT for bidding out the Sharp Street project. It will probably be bid out in April 2023. The THT Ramp project is expected to be bid out in 2022. VDOT requested additional documentation for the reimbursement request on the project completed by Clary Construction. SPDC and Summit have forwarded that information to VDOT.

MAIN STREET APPLICATION AND RESOLUTION

DHCD has advised that the Town will have to be a part of the Main Street Program in order to be eligible for future grants. SPDC will review the Exploring Main Street Application before submission. Mr. Gibson asked Town Council to adopt the resolution to submit with the Main Street application. On motion by Mr. Brockwell, seconded by Ms. Williams and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to adopt the Main Street Program resolution as presented and authorized the appropriate parties to sign the resolution.

ZONING PARKING VARIANCE

Mr. Veliky has assisted with the variance request and his report is on the desk tonight for Council's review. The BZA will meet Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. to hear the variance request from Cedar Run Capitol, LLC regarding parking spaces at a property on South Hicks Street.

TREE REMOVAL AT MAYFIELD WATER TANK

Mr. Gibson reported on a large tree and four smaller trees at the Mayfield water tank. The trees touch on a house owned by Larry Edmonds. Mr. Edmonds has requested that the Town remove the large tree as it touches on his house and he is concerned that it might damage his property. Mr. Lynch recommends that the Town remove all of the trees. Mr. Gibson reported that Mr. Outten has advised the Town owns the property and could do this. Mr. Gibson will get estimates on the removal of the trees.

VML CONFERENCE

Ms. Williams inquired about attending the upcoming VML conference. Mr. Gibson reported that anyone interested can register to attend.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

ADOPTION OF 2022 TAX RELIEF RESOLUTION

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. Pecht, seconded by Ms. Hardy and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to adopt the tax relief resolution at 45% for tax year 2022 as presented.

Mr. Pecht reported that the personnel committee has been looking at needs for the water and wastewater facilities and departments. Our group has become more complex and stretched. We may need to invest more in

the departments. We will be judging the financial repercussions. Water rates may be changed during the year if needed. Mr. Pecht reported we have been working with Creedle, Jones and Associates to transition the LVFD to a 501 (C) 3. The Town might go to paying the budgeted funds to the LVFD in a lump sum rather than paying the individual bills. The audit is in the beginning stages.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

The fire department responded to 22 calls in August. Of the 22, 10 were in the town limits and 12 were outside the town limits. Also, 16 were in the LVFD First Due area, with 6 being mutual aid to other agencies. Approximately 66 man hours were expended.

Fire Chief Justin Thomas reported that all trucks are in service at this time. A successful boot drive was held Labor Day weekend. The fire department plans to assist with the Haunted House and Trick or Treat. The LVFD will have its annual Christmas Banquet and Dance on December 3, 2022.

PERSONNEL

Mr. Brockwell reported that the personnel and finance committees met and talked about the market rate for water and sewer positions. We are now advertising for a maintenance department. We have 61 miles of pipes and we have pumps and motors. We have lost several operators because they had to do maintenance on top of operator duties. We are in the process of re-designing job descriptions. We have had applications and it will increase expenditures. We have a new wastewater treatment operator coming in part time now and will become full time in October.

POLICE

The police report is in the packet. Assistant Chief Brown reported on the upcoming Domestic Violence Information session to be held on September 22, 2022. Registrations are still being accepted.

PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT

Mr. Gibson reported that the surplus equipment has been sold. Mr. Brockwell advised a list of insured vehicles will be compiled for next month.

STREETS, LIGHTS & CEMETERY

Mrs. Talbert asked if there was a report on the street sweeper. There was no report. Mr. Gibson said someone is lined up to spray weeds.

TOWN DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Brockwell reported the LOVE sign is still being worked on. Contact Mr. Gibson if you have any suggestions or questions about town development. The CEDS projects lists are in the packet each month for our information.

Ms. Williams commented that the property located at Second and Third Streets would make a good recreational site for tennis courts.

IDA PROJECT SUMMARIES

Mr. Dotti reported on 4P Foods, the Southern States building and the project at the Sledge & Barkley building.

WATER/WASTEWATER

Enlarged photos of the water and wastewater plants are on display tonight.

HOUSING CODE ENFORCEMENT

Mr. Veliky will be looking at several other buildings to include the old Cinnamon Café, Clarke-Smith and old Dollar General next to Star Value.

PARKS/RECREATION

Fall ball play has started at the ballpark.

WELLNESS

Ms. Whitehead left information regarding a Men's Health Breakfast to be held on October 1, 2022, and a Ladies Health event to be held on October 15, 2022.

FARMER'S MARKET

There was no report.

LAWRENCEVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION

There was no report.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Domestic Violence Informational Session, September 22, 2022, 6:00 – 7:00PM

Spooktacular Halloween Parade & Trunk or Treat, October 31, 2022, 5:30 PM

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

Scott E. Martin, Mayor

Wanda Johnson, Clerk