

April 8, 2025

#### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor LaWanda Tatum called the regular meeting of the Lawrenceville Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on April 8, 2025.

#### ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Council Member, Dora Hardy, Town Attorney, W. C. Outten, Jr. and Town Manager, Randy Lynch.

Also present: Town Clerk, Wanda Johnson, Special Projects Coordinator, Kimberly Martin, Interim Police Chief, Demetrie Coles, Police Officer, Everette Gibson, Alberta Mayor, Robert Hayes, Phillip Goode, Ashley Chatlin, Keyonna Mangrum Tatum, Shalita Corley, Darletha Bynum, Pastor Bateman, Leonard Rose and citizens.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Tatum led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion by Mr. Brockwell, seconded by Mr. Pecht and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on March 11, 2025, 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

##### ASHLEY CHATLIN

Ms. Chatlin expressed her interest and plans for working on the community garden and also revitalizing the Lawrenceville Welcome sign.

##### KEYONNA MANGRUM TATUM

Ms. Mangrum Tatum currently works in early childhood education at Stepping Stone Academy in McKenney. She said she is looking to open a family day home to provide early learning for kids in a home on Belt Road in Lawrenceville. She said she has completed a zoning permit application and was approved for four children. She has since completed an application to increase the permit to allow ten to twelve children. She would serve children ages 16 months to 5 years. She has talked to Mr. Lynch about the application. Mayor Tatum said we will follow up with her in a timely manner. She said these services are greatly needed. The Mayor of McKenney also sent a letter of support.

#### LEONARD ROSE

Mr. Rose talked about litter and picking up trash and aluminum cans in town. He also talked about the Channel 12 Act of Kindness Award.

#### ROBERT HAYES, ALBERTA MAYOR

Mayor Robert Hayes said the Alberta planning and zoning commission would like to meet with the Town of Lawrenceville water/sewer committee regarding Alberta planning and zoning and water/sewer needs. He asked that dates be sent to him for available meeting dates to set up a meeting as soon as possible.

#### PHILLIP GOODE

Mr. Goode took this opportunity to introduce himself. He is a resident of Brunswick County and he is interested in a police officer position on the Lawrenceville Police Department. He has served as a coach in the community and in church.

#### LAWRENCEVILLE EDA

Mayor Tatum reported the EDA Social Saturdays has been moved to the high school instead of being held in town. Mr. Brockwell commented he was not aware of that. However, the EDA is an independent group and can act autonomously in this case.

#### MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Tatum has been out and about in the community. She attended the Groove-a-thon at SPC4Life. She also attended the service at St. Andrew's Church on Sunday. She said she loved the connection between St. Andrew's and James Solomon Russell. There was a call for unity in our community and the nation. She attended the SVCC Leadership Summit where young people were able to connect with leaders in the community. Mayor Tatum shared a printout of the criteria for the Community Thrive Award she is planning. The first one will be for the United Methodist Church. Mayor Tatum will cover all costs for this award. Mayor Tatum reported this is prevent child abuse month and there is a walk tomorrow morning at 9:30 a.m. It will start at the Brunswick County Sheriff's Office.

#### REPORT OF TOWN ATTORNEY

There was no report.

#### REPORT OF THE TREASURER

##### CONSIDERATION OF ACCOUNTS

Mrs. Johnson reported the bills total \$79,653.07. 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 \$79,653.07 and post to the proper accounts.

#### REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER

Mrs. Kimberly Martin reported on behalf of Mr. Lynch. A copy of his report is in the packet.

#### PARK STREET COMMUNITY PROJECT CDBG GRANT LETTER OFFER

A CDBG Grant Offer Letter is in the packet for the Park Street Phase I Community Project. A contract negotiation meeting has been scheduled, and representatives from DHCD will meet with

the management team to ensure everyone understands the requirements for getting under contract and implementing the construction portion of the grant.

#### **PARK STREET PHASE II PROJECT CDBG PLANNING GRANT OFFER LETTER**

The Park Street Phase II Project CDBG Planning Grant Offer letter is in your packet. This planning grant is for researching and developing strategies for the project. The Town is currently waiting for DHCD to send the contract for this project.

#### **COST STUDY TO ADD ENHANCED HAZARDOUS DUTY BENEFITS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS**

The Cost Study report, as prepared by actuaries, is in the packet along with additional information in the add packet. The information is for Town Council to determine if enhanced benefits will be offered for law enforcement employees. Mr. Pecht advised that the Finance Committee recommends adding the enhanced hazardous duty benefits and the cost is in the budget for FY2025-2026. A resolution adopting the benefits must be approved before the end of June for an effective date of July 1, 2025. Ms. Williams suggested waiting until the June meeting when the new budget is adopted, before adopting the resolution. A copy of the required resolution will be obtained from the Virginia Retirement System.

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Pecht reported the committee met to put together the draft budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. The draft proposed budget and assumptions are in the packet. He reviewed the assumptions as listed. Revenue: No water and sewer rate increase, no garbage rate increase, no tax rate increase. Expense: three percent raise for employees, Town continues to pay 100% of the eligible employee's individual health insurance premium, Town will pay 20% of the additional premium for dual or family, if selected. Actuarial study and consideration of enhanced hazardous duty benefits for police officers and adjust base salary for police officers. There will be a use of reserves as shown on page 11 of 13 in the amount of -\$82,281.90. A draft budget is presented in April for a public hearing in May and final adoption in June.

On motion by Mr. Pecht, seconded by Mr. Brockwell and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to advertise the proposed FY2025–2026 Budget as presented for a public hearing at the Town Council meeting on May 13, 2025.

#### **FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES**

The February and March fire reports are in the packet. The fire department responded to 24 calls in February. Of the 24, 2 were in the town limits and 22 were outside the town limits. Also, 17 were in the LVFD First Due area, with 7 being mutual aid to other agencies. Approximately 127 man hours were expended. The fire department responded to 24 calls in March. Of the 24, 7 were in the town limits and 17 were outside the town limits. Also, 22 were in the LVFD First Due area, with 2 being mutual aid to other agencies. Approximately 91 man hours were expended. Virginia's 4 PM burning law is in effect from February 15 through April 30 each year. No burning is posted on the electronic sign.

## PERSONNEL

Mr. Brockwell shared a packet that is being used for recruitment for open positions with the Town. Mr. Lynch, Mrs. Martin and Mr. Gibson participated in a job fair at Fort Gregg-Adams last month. They were asked to participate in a recruiting panel this month. There are packets, a tear off sheet, job descriptions for water, wastewater and police officer positions. We have talked to a teacher at SVCC regarding classes relating to water and wastewater. There are also videos for water and wastewater opportunities. The Town Manager and the Police Committee meet and make a recommendation to the Personnel Committee. The positions have been advertised.

## POLICE

Ms. Whitehead thanked Mrs. Martin, Mr. Pecht and Mrs. Johnson for explaining the hazardous duty benefits. Chief Coles and Officer Gibson are processing the police applications and conducting background checks. The monthly police report is in the packet. Ms. Williams discussed ongoing parking issues and concerns. Electric speed signs are in and we are waiting for posts for installation. Mayor Tatum asked about damage at the old Dollar General Store window. The Town crew will secure the window.

## PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Mr. Brockwell commented that equipment and capital projects are planned to maximize available funds. We have been fortunate to get grants. Please review the project lists.

## STREETS, LIGHTS & CEMETERY

The cemetery looks good and the lighting in town is very nice.

## TOWN DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Brockwell discussed the Main Street Program and grassroots projects. Ms. Williams provided a summary of the IDA meeting. The IDA has selected a new IDA Director, Jeffrey Reed from Roanoke, VA. The IDA wants to meet with Mr. Lynch, the water/sewer committee and the Town of Alberta regarding water issues.

## WATER/WASTEWATER

Mr. Brockwell advised that next year we may have to separate our water and sewer rate revenues to report them separately in grant applications and documents. Ms. Williams asked about wastewater from the landfill. Mr. Brockwell said it has to do with leachate. The issue is the chemical composition of the leachate. Contaminated water is expensive to treat.

## HOUSING CODE ENFORCEMENT

Mr. Pecht reported the ultimate resolution for the Dollar General building is demolition. The estimated cost is a minimum of \$150,000 for demolition.

## PARKS/RECREATION

There was no report.

## WELLNESS

Ms. Whitehead shared information on pollen counts and allergy prevention tips.

## FARMER'S MARKET

Ms. Whitehead and Mayor Tatum reported the application has been submitted for the Justin's Heart Foundation fresh produce event. The Town of Alberta will start a farmer's market in May. Mayor Robert Hayes said a planning meeting is this Friday at 10:00 a.m. at the Alberta Town Hall. The kickoff will be May 30, 2025.

## LAWRENCEVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION

There was no report.

## CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comprehensive Plan Committee Meeting, Thurs., April 10, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

Easter Egg Hunt, Elm Acres, Saturday, April 19, 2025, 11:00 a.m., Rain or Shine

Spring Clean Up Week, April 21 – 25, 2025

Sparks in the Ballpark Spectacular, Friday, June 27, 2025, 6:00 – 10:00 p.m.

BCSO Public Safety Discovery Camp, July 21 – 25, 2025

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### SOUTHERN STATES BUILDING

Ms. Williams expressed concerns that the building is not occupied. There are chemicals and waste outside that need to be cleaned up. The building needs to be advertised for lease.

### PARKING PEEBLES BUILDING

Ms. Williams expressed concerns regarding insufficient parking for residents at the Peebles Building Apartments, businesses and potential apartments at the Sledge and Barkley building.

### CABOOSE

Ms. Williams said the IDA owns the turntable park. Would the Town consider donating or selling the caboose, which is located on IDA property, to the IDA?

## NEW BUSINESS

### PARENTS AS TEACHERS

Mayor Tatum introduced Shalita Corley and Darletha Bynum. They are the new parent educators for the Parents as Teachers home visiting program in Brunswick County. Pastor Bateman provides support for the program.

## ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Tatum adjourned the meeting.

LaWanda Tatum, Mayor

Wanda Johnson, Clerk