

July 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 July 8, 2025.

ROLL CALL

Roll was called. Present: Council Members, Jeanette Grimes, Dora Hardy, Robert F. Pecht, III, Alice Talbert, Teya Whitehead and Anne Williams.

Absent: Town Attorney, W. C. Outten, Jr.

Also present: Town Manager, Randy Lynch, Town Clerk, Patti Lewis, Special Projects Coordinator, Kimberly Martin, Police Chief, Clay Clary, Officer Everette Gibson, Officer, Martisa Stith, Michael Tatum, Leonard Rose, Shelby McDowney and family, husband Daniel, daughter Mica and son, Daniel. Jr., H. B. Brockwell, Jr., Cyliene Montgomery, Shaleta and Tony Bateman, Margie Drumgold, Judy Walker, Roxanne Thompson, citizens, and the press.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Tatum led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion by Mr. Pecht, seconded by Mrs. Talbert and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on June 10, 2025, as received, suspend the reading and file.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion by Mr. Pecht, seconded by Mrs. Talbert and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to approve the agenda as presented.

RECOGNITION OF CITIZENS

ANNE WILLIAMS, GESTALT

Ms. Williams stated most were familiar with the principal of GESTALT, in reference to the two voting districts, she stated that recent census has revealed the Town is not so fractured. She proposed to get rid of the two-district system and become one.

LEONARD ROSE

Mr. Rose spoke about religion, social concerns and social media.

H. B. BROCKWELL, JR.

Mayor Tatum recognized H. B. Brockwell, Jr. with a plaque in appreciation for his many years on Town Council, September 1994-June 2025, and service to the community.

ROXANNE THOMPSON

Mrs. Thompsen asked town council for consideration to allow her to put a manufactured home on her lots, 13 & 14.

LAWRENCEVILLE EDA

No report

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Tatum thanked Mrs. Lewis for accepting the position of Clerk/ Treasurer.

Mayor Tatum, would like to have a Re-Treat for Council, to make sure everyone understands and is on the same page. To get a "WHY" to what it is we do on council in a small town. Mayor Tatum stated she appreciates everyone and is open to calls, visits and working together. Together we will thrive. Mayor Tatum thanked Mrs. Martin for an amazing fire works show, she stated there was a large crowd, good food and music.

COMMUNITY THRIVERS AWARD THE STORY CAFÉ-SHELBY McDOWNEY

This award is to honor entities in our community who go above and beyond. The recipient is Shelby Brown-McDowney, Mayor Tatum thanked her for opening her space in the Story Café, which host information workshops on credit and home ownership. Mayor Tatum presented Mrs. McDowney with a plant that she stated represented roots, for Lawrenceville, a plaque, a puzzle piece and thanked her for all she does. Mrs. McDowney's family was in attendance. Husband, Daniel, daughter Mica, and son Daniel, Jr.

REPORT OF TOWN ATTORNEY

There was no report.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER CONSIDERATION OF ACCOUNTS

Mrs. Lewis reported the bills total \$144,007.48. 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 \$144,007.48 and post to the proper accounts.

REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER HOUSING REHAB PROGRAM DESIGN FOR PARK ST, PHASE 1 PROJ CIG#24-03 ADOPTION

The information is presented in the packet and Mr. Lynch is requesting for council to approve and adopt the Housing Rehab Program Design for Park Street and authorize the mayor to sign and execute this program. Ms. Williams expressed her opposition on the project, referencing the project as low-income housing. Mr. Lynch went in detail to explain this is not low-income housing, this is for existing home owners to make improvements. Mayor Tatum, stated we can address Ms. Williams concerns. On motion by Mr. Pecht, seconded by Mrs. Hardy, Ms. Williams opposed, all others by all ayes.

VA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM INCOM PLAN FOR PARK STREET COMMUNITY PROJ APPROVAL

The information is presented in the packet and Mr. Lynch is requesting for council to approve and adopt the VA Community Development Block Grant Program. Name corrections need to be updated on the documents, financial page 6. On a motion by Mr. Pecht, seconded by Ms. Talbert, Ms. Williams opposed, all others by all ayes.

WASTEWATER REISSUANCE VPDES PERMIT #VA0020354

The reissuance of the Lawrenceville WWTP Permit has been approved to advertise for public notice. Public notice will start, Wednesday, July 23, 2025 and will continue for 30 days for public comment. Pending public response and satisfying all public comments, the permit will be executed. DEQ can address comments.

TTHM & HAA5 UPDATE

The Town has completed out second quarterly testing for the TTHM and HAA5, and the results were favorable and reflects a significant decrease from the second quarter of 2024. Also, the first quarter results of 2025 reflect a significant decrease from the first quarter results of 2024. Mr. Lynch stated numbers have improved and are back on track. Mr. Pecht stated this is great news and is really encouraging. He thanked all staff.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Pecht wants to walk through the financials with council, a meeting will be set.

DHCD SOUTHERN STATES BUILDING

Payment in the amount of \$125,000.00 has been made, no acknowledgment of receipt has been received as of council meeting.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

No report.

PERSONNEL

Deborah Thompson was hired as Account Clerk, her start date was on July 7, 2025.

POLICE

Ms. Hardy stated she has been on council for sixteen years; she welcomed Chief Clary to the family. Mr. Clary thanked all council for approving the hazardous duty benefit for the department, this will help in keeping the department fully staffed.

PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

No report.

STREETS, LIGHTS & CEMETERY

Mr. Lynch stated a meeting was held on June 24, 2025, by the trustees of Oakwood Cemetery to address the concerns and issues, these were addressed and Mr. Lynch responded to the concerned citizen via email. Mrs. Talbert stated that per town ordinance, the Treasurer must be a member/trusty of Oakwood Cemetery. Mrs. Talbert made the motion to appoint Mrs. Lewis as a trustee of Oakwood Cemetery, seconded by Mr. Pecht, and carried by all ayes.

TOWN DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Williams stated she would like to get the inmates from the county to get the garden back up on High Street.

WATER/WASTEWATER

Consumer Confidence reports (CCR) were sent out. Mr. Pecht stated he and his family drink the water daily.

HOUSING CODE ENFORCEMENT

No report.

PARKS/RECREATION

No report.

WELLNESS

Ms. Whitehead shared the severe weather damage in Texas and offered prayers to all, the damage is devastating and heart breaking. Mr. Lynch asked for a moment of silence. Ms. Whithead shared a Weather 101 tutorial.

FARMER'S MARKET

Ms. Whitehead is working on scheduling.

LAWRENCEVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION

401 Belt Road- Special Exception request, the planning commission met, discussions of advertisement, public hearing and at the next council meeting will have a joint planning commission meeting, Mayor Tatum asked if applicant was aware, Mr. Lynch stating applicant is aware.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comp Plan Committee Meeting-Thursday, July 31, 2025 6:00 p.m.

National Night Out, Tues., August 5, 2025, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Planning Commission vacancy.

CLOSED SESSION –APPOINTMENT

CLOSED SESSION-MOTION TO ENTER THE CLOSED MEETING

“Madam. 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 appointment/council.” Motion: Mr. Pecht. Second: Ms. Grimes. Roll call vote: Ms. Grimes, aye; Ms. Hardy, aye; Mr. Pecht, aye; Mrs. Talbert, aye; Ms. Whitehead, aye; Ms. Williams, aye.

MOTION TO EXIT A CLOSED MEETING AND RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

“Madam. Mayor, I move the closed meeting be adjourned and the Lawrenceville Town Council convene again in open session.” The motion was made by Mr. Pecht, seconded by Mayor Tatum, 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: Mr. Pecht. Second: Mrs. Talbert Roll call vote: Ms. Grimes, aye; Ms. Hardy, aye; Mr. Pecht, aye; Mrs. Talbert, aye; Ms. Whitehead, aye; Ms. Williams, aye.

APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL MEMBER TO FILL VACANCY IN DISTRICT 2

On a motion by Mr. Pecht, seconded by Mrs. Talbert and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to appoint Scott Martin to fill the unexpired term of Mr. H. B. Brockwell. The seat is in District 2 and will expire December 31, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Tatum adjourned the meeting.

LaWanda Tatum, Mayor
Patti Lewis, Clerk