

March 11, 2025

#### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor LaWanda Tatum called the regular meeting of the Lawrenceville Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on March 11, 2025.

#### ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Council Member, Alice Talbert.

Also present: Town Attorney, W. C. Outten, Jr., Town Manager, Randy Lynch, Town Clerk, Wanda Johnson, Special Projects Coordinator, Kimberly Martin, Interim Police Chief, Demetrie Coles, Michael Tatum, Leonard Rose, citizens and the press.

#### 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 February 12, 2025, as received, suspend the reading and file.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

#### RECOGNITION OF CITIZENS

##### LEONARD ROSE

Mr. Rose talked about adopt-a-highway and litter fine signs. He thanked the police officer for protecting him while he picks up trash and aluminum cans in town. He also talked about the Channel 12 Act of Kindness Award.

#### LAWRENCEVILLE EDA

Mr. Brockwell reported that the EDA secretary/treasurer sold their house and moved. The EDA will make recommendations to Town Council for appointments to fill vacant positions. The next meeting has not been scheduled at this time. Mayor Tatum reported Social Saturdays has been pushed out to April.

#### MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Tatum has been planning and connecting with business owners in the community. She attended the ribbon cutting at the Peebles Building Apartments today. The young lady interested in working with the community garden and the Lawrenceville Welcome sign was not able to attend tonight. She is very excited about the garden. Mayor Tatum attended the local viewing of the James Solomon Russell documentary. She encouraged everyone to see it. Mayor Tatum

talked about the Community Thriver Award she is planning. The first one will be for the United Methodist Church. The playground there is so beneficial to the community. She wished all the ladies on Council and in the Town Office happy women in history month.

#### REPORT OF TOWN ATTORNEY

There was no report.

#### REPORT OF THE TREASURER

##### CONSIDERATION OF ACCOUNTS

Mrs. Johnson reported the bills total \$90,084.92. On a motion by Mr. Brockwell, seconded by Mr. Pecht and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to pay the bills in the amount of \$90,084.92 and post to the proper accounts.

#### REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER

##### WATER TANK REPAIR UPDATE

The Mayfield water tank repairs and testing requirements have been completed, and the tank is back in service. The Food Lion water tank is scheduled to be taken out of service for cleaning and repairs this month.

##### WASTEWATER PRETREATMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

DEQ has completed its review of our Wastewater Pretreatment Program. The public notice requirement is the next phase. The draft public notice for the pretreatment program is in the packet. Mr. Lynch requested that Council authorize him to sign and execute the Authorization for Public Notice as presented. On motion by Mr. Brockwell, seconded by Mr. Pecht and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to authorize Randy Lynch to execute the public notice as presented.

##### COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

The SPDC Comprehensive Plan Update is in your packet. The next Comprehensive Plan Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 10, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Town meeting room.

##### PARK STREET PHASE II PUBLIC HEARING

The public hearing for Park Street Phase II Neighborhood Improvement Project is scheduled for Wednesday, March 19, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Town meeting room.

##### DOWNTOWN PARKING UPDATE

SPDC has an Annual Rural Transportation Planning Work Program with VDOT. SPDC plans to propose funds to be approved to conduct a downtown parking study for the Town for FY26. Funding through the SPDC Rural Transportation Planning Work Program would not require matching funds from the Town. This is a study to identify needs and documentation for possible grants. Mr. Pecht said we need to make people more conscious of taking up parking places in front of businesses for long periods of time. Ms. Williams commented we still need to address where residents above commercial buildings will park. She thinks we need to consider permits and grants for deck parking.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Pecht reported the financial statement in the packet. We are running a bit ahead of the budget. The finance committee will meet before the April Council meeting to work on the draft budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. The finance committee will present a draft budget at the April meeting for a public hearing in May. The budget will then be adopted in June.

## THE LOCAL CHOICE HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWAL

Mr. Pecht reported there is a 12% increase in the health insurance premiums for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. The recommendation is that the Town continue to participate in The Local Choice Health Benefits Program and to pay 100% of the single membership in Key Advantage 250 with Comprehensive Dental for active full-time employees. If an employee chooses either dual or family, the Town will pay 100% of the single membership rate plus 20% of the employee's additional cost for dual or family. On motion by Mr. Pecht, seconded by Mr. Brockwell and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to renew participation in The Local Choice Health Benefits and pay the portions as recommended.

## FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

The February fire report is not available at this time.

## PERSONNEL

Mr. Brockwell commented the current job opening list is in the packet.

## POLICE

Ms. Hardy stated the monthly report is in the packet. Ms. Williams reported on ongoing commercial parking issues in residential areas. Parking codes and ticketing were discussed. Ms. Williams is asking for a public hearing. We will consult our Town Attorney regarding this matter. Ms. Williams asked about the electronic signs. Chief Coles reported the signs are displaying no burning in town notices at this time. Chief Coles said only the police can program the electronic signs. Mayor Tatum suggested the committee meet and offer solutions regarding the signs and any other concerns. We would like to be able to present and discuss solutions rather than problems in this and other committees.

## PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Mr. Brockwell asked for all departments to submit equipment and property needs to the Town Manager.

## STREETS, LIGHTS & CEMETERY

There was no report.

## TOWN DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Brockwell asked everyone to please review the projects list in the packet. He said the SPDC has suggested that the Town, EDA, IDA and County all list the same requests, as the projects would have an effect on all of us. This is how we seek project funding sources. Ms. Williams provided a summary of the IDA meeting. An EV charging station is available at the IDA/EE Vaughan parking lot. A joint IDA and Board of Supervisors meeting will be held on April 17,

2025. Ms. Williams would like for the IDA to assume ownership of the caboose due to liability issues.

#### WATER/WASTEWATER

Mr. Brockwell commended our water and wastewater operators for the excellent job they do. We are working to get operator positions filled.

#### HOUSING CODE ENFORCEMENT

Ms. Whitehead reported the committee met on February 11, 2025. Those present were Building Code Official, Mike Veliky, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Brockwell, Ms. Whitehead and Mrs. Martin. Building code concerns and a plan of action were discussed. Mr. Brockwell said there is a cost involved and once you start, there is no stopping. He said grants require a 100% match. Ms. Williams asked if the Building Codes apply to County owned buildings and if the Town could force the County to do something about their buildings.

#### PARKS/RECREATION

Mr. Brockwell commented that the lights are on at the ballpark. Registration and practice have started.

#### WELLNESS

Ms. Whitehead shared a short video in observance that March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. Mayor Tatum represented Lawrenceville at Virginia State University at its Colorectal Cancer Summit. She and her husband are Colorectal Champions for Brunswick County.

#### FARMER'S MARKET

Ms. Whitehead and Mayor Tatum continue to work with Justin's Heart to plan a community event. They are working to bring a fresh produce event to Lawrenceville.

#### LAWRENCEVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION

There was no report.

#### CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peebles Apartments & Commercial Space Ribbon Cutting & Grand Opening,  
Tuesday, March 11, 2025, 11:00 a.m.

Brunswick Health Ambassadors Leadership Forum UPDATES, SVCC Workforce Center,  
Tuesday, March 25, 2025, 5:30 p.m.

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

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

##### LOVE SIGN

Ms. Williams asked about the LOVE sign. There is no update at this time.

#### CABOOSE

Ms. Williams said the caboose is located on IDA property. She asked if the IDA could be given ownership of the caboose. Mr. Lynch said he will poll the Property and Equipment Committee.

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### JAMES SOLOMON RUSSELL DAY DINNER

Ms. Whitehead reported that the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual James Solomon Russell Day Dinner will be held at the Virginia State University Gateway on Saturday, March 29, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. Please see the flyer for ticket information.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Tatum adjourned the meeting.

LaWanda Tatum, Mayor

Wanda Johnson, Clerk