

June 10, 2025

#### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor LaWanda Tatum called the regular meeting of the Lawrenceville Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on June 10, 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 and Town Attorney, W. C. Outten, Jr.

Also present: Town Manager, Randy Lynch, Town Clerk, Wanda Johnson, Accounting Clerk, Patti Lewis, Special Projects Coordinator, Kimberly Martin, Interim Police Chief, Demetrie Coles, Officer Everette Gibson, Police Chief, Clay Clary, Police Officer, Darryl Davis, Bettie Vaughan, Hilda Caldwell, Glenda Jackson Gilliam, Chris Suber, Leonard Rose, Michael Tatum, citizens and the press.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Tatum 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 May 13, 2025, as received, suspend the reading and file.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

#### RECOGNITION OF CITIZENS

##### CHRIS SUBER, PROJECT WHITEHOUSE DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Suber stated he is a member of the Project Whitehouse Development. They have met with the Wyndham Hotel Group. They are working to bring a Microtel brand hotel with 81 rooms to Lawrenceville. They are working through a feasibility study and last-minute hurdles. Ms. Williams commented that a hotel in the Rawlings area had to close due to problems with drugs and prostitution. She also said locals can't rent without proof of housing problems. Ms. Williams asked what Mr. Suber's plans are to ensure there are no illegal activities. Mr. Suber said the intent is for families and workers. He said at the end of the day it will come down to management. Mr. Brockwell said he has stayed in a Microtel and believes it is very appropriate to our area. Ms. Grimes commented that she would love to be able to rent locally for visiting family members. Mayor Tatum stated she has full confidence in our law enforcement officials, and we hope to have a fully staffed department by the time the hotel opens.

##### GLENDIA JACKSON GILLIAM

Ms. Gilliam stated that she is a citizen of Rawlings in Brunswick County. She said the Nottoway Restaurant and Motel was not condemned because of the mentioned illegal activities. The restaurant closed due to COVID 19. She said the Harrison family believes in community. Ms. Gilliam said North Brunswick and all five districts in the county believe in community and putting people first. She said we still miss that business today.

##### LEONARD ROSE

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

#### LAWRENCEVILLE EDA

Mr. Brockwell reported that the Town Attorney has been asked to review issues regarding the LEDA bylaws, ownership, insurance and reorganization. The LEDA recommends that the Massey Cancer Center be sold. Mr. Brockwell presented the individuals recommended by the LEDA for appointment: Caren Brown, Current Chair; Tarek Ibrahim, Current Member; Buck Brockwell, Town Appointed Member; Shawn Lucy, Past Member and Store Owner; Jackie Carrington, New Member and Owner Operator of Businesses in Lawrenceville; Ray Ferguson, New Member and soon to be a new owner of a business in Lawrenceville. There is one

remaining position to be appointed. The former secretary/treasurer, Christine Gerg, has sold her house in town and is no longer living in Lawrenceville. Her position needs to be reappointed as part of the reorganization. Mr. Brockwell stated he is resigning from Lawrenceville Town Council, but he would like to remain on the LEDA. On motion by Mr. Pecht, seconded by Mrs. Talbert, and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to appoint the six members to the LEDA, as presented by Mr. Brockwell.

#### MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Tatum reported that Bridget Charles is moving forward with plans for the mobile food store. The food will not be free. There will be an opportunity to purchase healthy food. This type of grocery has been operating in Petersburg. Mayor Tatum also applauded the Town of Alberta for the kick-off of their farmer's market. Mayor Tatum met a man who was taking pictures of buildings in town on Sunday. Dale Neal is very interested in coming here in the next year.

#### COMMUNITY THRIVERS AWARD

##### LAWRENCEVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

This award is to honor entities in our community who go above and beyond. The first recipient is the Lawrenceville United Methodist Church who open their playground to the entire community. During COVID the playground was a safe haven to our community and it continues to be that way. Mayor Tatum presented a certificate and a plant to Bettie Vaughan and Hilda Caldwell, LUMC committee members. Mayor Tatum also recognized Bettie Vaughan for her work with children in the community. Mr. Brockwell commented that Mrs. Vaughan was the recipient of the Jaycees Educator of the Year Award in the seventies.

#### REPORT OF TOWN ATTORNEY

There was no report.

#### REPORT OF THE TREASURER

##### CONSIDERATION OF ACCOUNTS

Mrs. Johnson reported the bills total \$84,960.85. 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 \$84,960.85 and post to the proper accounts.

#### REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER

##### ADOPTION OF THE FY2025-2026 BUDGET

Mr. Lynch reported the Town has completed the public hearing requirement for the FY2025-2026 Budget. The final budget is in the packet for Town Council approval. On motion by Mr. Brockwell, seconded by Mr. Pecht and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to approve and adopt the proposed FY2025–2026 Budget as presented in the packet tonight.

#### HAZARDOUS DUTY RESOLUTION

The Enhanced Hazardous Duty Benefits Resolution is in the packet. The resolution will provide full-time law enforcement officers with Virginia Retirement System hazardous duty benefits, including the retirement multiplier of 1.85%, effective July 1, 2025. On motion by Mr. Brockwell, seconded by Mrs. Talbert and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to adopt the Enhanced Hazardous Duty Benefits Resolution as presented in the packet.

#### JUSTIFICATION REPORT FOR THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY PERMIT REVISION

Mr. Lynch reported he received via email the preliminary approval to reclassify our 1.2 MGD Wastewater Treatment Facility to 1.45 MGD during the 2025 permit update. We are currently working with B&B Consultants to submit the final Certificate to Operate (CTO) for final approval. Mr. Brockwell commented this is not an easy process. The Town of Lawrenceville is the first in the state of Virginia to complete this process. Mr. Brockwell and Mr. Pecht thanked Mr. Lynch, Mrs. Martin and Mr. Townes, along with B&B Consultants. Mr. Pecht said this facility capacity increase represents the equivalent of a \$5 million investment, without spending the money.

## BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES ON MAIN STREET (BOOMS) STUDY PILOT PROJECT UPDATE

The BOOMS Project was approved through the Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission. The Commonwealth Regional Council will contact the Town to move forward with this project. The study will allow a consultant to collect and analyze data for the BOOMS Tracker.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Pecht reported the FY 2025-2026 was adopted tonight. He also commented the monthly financial statement shows we are staying close to budget.

## DHCD SOUTHERN STATES BUILDING

Mr. Pecht reported on the outstanding balance of \$125,000 owed to DHCD on the Southern States Building project. He said we have fought this for years now. The last written communication is a letter dated December 22, 2022. The letter recaps the events and requirements since 2010. A copy is in the packet. Ms. Amanda Healy with DHCD is retiring. She is aware of the good faith efforts the town has put forward to resolve this. The concern now is that if the Town does not pay the outstanding balance of \$125,000, it may negatively impact funding for future projects. Mr. Pecht asked Town Council to approve to pay off the lien/outstanding balance due to DHCD for the Southern States Building project in the amount of \$125,000. On motion by Mr. Pecht, seconded by Mr. Brockwell and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to approve a payment of \$125,000 to DHCD to fulfill the Town's obligation to DHCD and in exchange for DHCD releasing the lien on the Southern States Building.

## FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

The May fire report is in the packet. The fire department responded to 27 calls in May. Of the 27, 2 were in the town limits and 25 were outside the town limits. Also, 13 were in the LVFD First Due area, with 14 being mutual aid to other agencies. Approximately 152.5 man hours were expended.

## PERSONNEL

Mr. Brockwell stated the report is in the packet. We have received some applications and they are going through processing. Mr. Brockwell announced this is his last Council meeting as he is retiring from Town Council. Town Council will need to appoint someone from District 2 in his place. Mayor Tatum thanked him for all he has done for Town Council. She also said she appreciates him taking her under his wing and teaching her about water and wastewater. She did not just gain a Council Member, she gained a friend. Mr. Lynch thanked Mr. Brockwell as Mr. Brockwell talked him into taking an apprentice class in 1986 to start his career.

## POLICE

Ms. Whitehead said she is excited to introduce and welcome to the police department family a new Police Chief and a new Police Officer. She invited Police Chief Clay Clary to speak. Chief Clary said he is excited and thankful to be in his hometown as Chief and he looks forward to serving the community. Officer Darryl Davis said he started at the Sheriff's office in 2002 and this is like coming back home. Mayor Tatum welcomed them both back home. Ms. Williams asked that they make the noise ordinance a priority. Ms. Williams also thanked the police for enforcing the commercial vehicles parking on residential streets. Mayor Tatum reminded Council Members to take questions and concerns first to the Chair of the Police Committee. We are solution driven and we want to bring solutions to the meetings. Mr. Brockwell thanked Officer Gibson for coming to assist him when he had car trouble yesterday.

## PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Mr. Brockwell reported that contracts have been submitted on two properties. The Town Manager and Town Attorney will review and work out the details.

## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Interim Chief Coles presented a request for Town Council to donate \$300 to the National Night Out to be held on August 5, 2025. On motion by Mr. Pecht, seconded by Mr. Brockwell and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to support the National Night Out in the amount of \$300. Mr. Pecht thanked Interim Chief Coles for all his good work.

#### STREETS, LIGHTS & CEMETERY

Mrs. Talbert said the Committee, Mayor and Town Manager will be meeting to address concerns presented in a letter from a concerned individual.

#### TOWN DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Brockwell said there was a comprehensive plan committee meeting last month. He said BOOM will be looking at the unoccupied property. The comprehensive plan is coming along well. He asked that Brunswick County and IDA be kept on the agenda in this space in case they have needs to discuss. Mr. Brockwell would like a \$1000 donation be made to the ballpark for use for Sparks in the Park. He would also like for two signs to be paid, one for each field. Please continue to review the SPDC project list.

#### WATER/WASTEWATER

Mr. Brockwell said we owe Mr. Lynch and our engineers. Water and wastewater are our life blood. We owe a debt to Mac Bugg and that company. They are community oriented.

#### HOUSING CODE ENFORCEMENT

Mr. Pecht said he is hopeful that the BOOM study will help the downtown and be a springboard for grants. Mr. Brockwell said we will have to address cost recovery regarding enforcement.

#### PARKS/RECREATION

Mr. Brockwell said the ballpark has wrapped up their regular season. They had seventeen teams this year. They are getting ready for a girls' softball tournament.

#### WELLNESS

Ms. Whitehead shared safety tips on fun in the sun with a short video.

#### FARMER'S MARKET

Ms. Whitehead shared a flyer on Good2Grow drinks and snacks that focus on nutrition. Mayor Tatum said Ms. Whitehead will be the point of contact with Ms. Charles and the mobile grocery project.

#### LAWRENCEVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION

There was no report.

#### CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

FY 2025 – 2026 Town Council Meeting Dates

Remote Area Medical (RAM), Greenville High School, June 21-22, 2025

Retirement Celebration for Wanda Johnson, Thurs., June 26, 2025, 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

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

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

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

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

##### SOUTHERN STATES BUILDING

Ms. Williams said the trash has not been removed from the Southern States building.

##### VCU MASSEY CANCER CENTER

Ms. Williams said this has been addressed with plans to sell the Massey Cancer Center building.

#### ELECTRONIC SIGNS

Ms. Williams said the electronic signs could be better used to address issues in the town.

#### RETIREMENTS

Mr. Pecht said both Mr. Brockwell and Mrs. Johnson have made so many contributions over the years. A lot of things are done behind the scenes. They have meant a lot to the Town and will always be appreciated. Mrs. Johnson said the Town has meant a lot to her and she appreciates the opportunity she has had to be here. Mayor Tatum also expressed her appreciation.

## NEW BUSINESS

### APPOINTMENT OF TOWN ATTORNEY

On motion by Mrs. Talbert, seconded by Mr. Pecht and carried, Town Council voted to appoint W. Curtis Outten, Jr. as Town Attorney for the term July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026. Ms. Williams voted nay.

### APPOINTMENT OF TOWN MANAGER

On motion by Mrs. Talbert, seconded by Mr. Pecht and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to appoint Randall W. Lynch as Town Manager for the term July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026.

### APPOINTMENT OF TOWN CLERK/TREASURER

On motion by Mrs. Talbert, seconded by Mr. Pecht and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to appoint Patti Lewis as Town Clerk/Treasurer for the term July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2027.

### APPOINTMENT OF TOWN SERGEANT

On motion by Mrs. Tabert, seconded by Mr. Pecht and carried by all ayes, Town Council voted to appoint Clay Clary as Town Sergeant for the term July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2027.

### ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Tatum adjourned the meeting.

LaWanda Tatum, Mayor

Wanda Johnson, Clerk