

In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, the news media was notified of the time, date, and place along with a copy of the agenda of this meeting and a notice was posted on the front door of the Batesburg-Leesville Town Hall no later than twenty-four hours prior to the meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING

MARCH 9, 2015

Mayor Crapps opened the Public Hearing at 7:00 P. M. to receive citizen input on the *Ordinance for the Sale of the Current Town Hall Facility Located at 244 W. Columbia Avenue to AllSouth Federal Credit Union*. Since no one spoke, Mayor Crapps closed the Public Hearing at 7:01 P. M.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The Regular Council Meeting for the Town of Batesburg-Leesville, held in the courtroom of the Batesburg-Leesville Judicial Complex, was called to order by Mayor Crapps at 7:01 P. M. Members present were Mayor Crapps, Council Members Taylor, O'Dell, Simpkins, Penick and Ricard. Council Members Cain, Mingo and Fox were absent.

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Rev. Geraldine Walters.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was held.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Council Member O'Dell with a second by Council Member Penick to approve the agenda. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 6 Approved 0 Denied

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Adoption of the minutes from the February 9, 2015 Regular Council Meeting was held. A motion was made by Council Member Penick with a second by Council Taylor to approve. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

Regular Council Meeting
March 9, 2015
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ADOPTION OF MINUTES CONT'D.

VOTE: 6 Approved 0 Denied

Adoption of the minutes from the February 19, 2015 Special Council Meeting was held. A motion was made by Council Member Taylor with a second by Council Member Ricard to approve. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE 6 Approved 0 Denied

Adoption of the minutes from the February 24, 2015 Special Council Meeting was held. A motion was made by Council Member Penick with a second by Council Member O'Dell to approve. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Crapps reported the next Regular Council Meeting would be April 13, 2015 here in the courtroom.

CENTRAL MIDLANDS - Council Member O'Dell

Council Member O'Dell had no report.

**ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING & ADVISORY COMMITTEE (E. P. A. C.)
Council Member Penick**

Attended a meeting last week on a non-action item concerning information from Palmetto Utilities, a contracted water treatment service for northeast Columbia.

JOINT MUNICIPAL WATER/SEWER COMMISSION - Council Member Penick

Council Member Penick reported debt collection policies were changed slightly and had a few personnel issues to handle at the meeting with Joint Water.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - Council Member Simpkins

Council Member Simpkins reported the committee met on March 5, 2015. Discussion was held on Dr. Floyd's retirement and the process of the new superintendent coming in. Talked about a survey that went out that everyone could have participated in and give their opinions of what they would look for in a new superintendent. The school board is now in the process of making that selection. Recaps of projects going on in the Town were discussed.

FIRE DEPARTMENT - Chief Hendrix

Chief Hendrix appeared before Council to give an update involving the Batesburg-Leesville Fire Department, along with the City of Columbia and USC, West Columbia, Lexington County and Irmo. These fire services are a part of a \$25,000 Grant through the Firehouse Subs Foundation. This grant will provide B-L Fire Department 200 carbon monoxide alarms that will be installed in various homes throughout the Town. Tentative blitz dates are April 11th and May 2nd.

PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

None received.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The second reading on the *Ordinance for the Sale of the Current Town Hall Facility located at 244 W. Columbia Avenue to AllSouth Federal Credit Union* was held. Council Member Simpkins made a motion to approve the current Town Hall sale to AllSouth Federal Credit Union for \$250,000 with a second by Council Member Ricard. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 6 Approved 0 Denied

NEW BUSINESS

The first reading on an *Ordinance to Amend Section 7-1-21 of the Business License Ordinance Relating to Declining Rates* was held. Manager Luckadoo explained that after amending the 24 year old Business License Ordinance, which was quite extensive,

NEW BUSINESS CONT'D.

we determined that there were a few higher grossing businesses that would see larger impacts in what they had to pay. As the larger businesses began to receive their renewals, calls began coming in that the increase was way more than they had ever anticipated or imagined. Stated he was asked by several business owners if there was any solution to reducing the burden that has come with the adoption of the new ordinance. After doing some calculations and focusing on the declining rate section, one thing we can do is reduce the declining rate factor from \$5 million to \$1 million. Once a business hits \$1 million, they will begin to pay less per \$1,000 on a declining scale. As before, the declining rate factor would not have started until \$5 million. A motion was made by Council Member Taylor with a second by Council Member Simpkins to approve. After discussion, Council Member Taylor withdrew her motion on the *Ordinance to Amend Section 7-1-21 of the Business License Ordinance Relating to Declining Rates* and Council Member Simpkins withdrew his second until Council could consult with Attorney Spradley. A motion was made by Council Member Simpkins with second by Council Member O'Dell to recess for five minutes in order to consult with Attorney Spradley. All members were in favor. After recess, a motion was made by Council Member Simpkins with a second by Council Member Penick to return to the Council Meeting. All members were in favor. After receiving a legal opinion from Attorney Spradley, a new motion was made by Council Member Taylor to adopt the *Ordinance to Amend Section 7-1-21 of the Business License Ordinance Relating to Declining Rates* with a second by Council Member Simpkins. After discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 6 Approved 0 Denied

Mayor Crapps read the *Resolution Supporting Fair Housing & Declaring the Month of April as Fair Housing Month*. A motion was made by Council Member Simpkins with a second by Council Member Penick to adopt the Resolution. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 6 Approved 0 Denied

MANAGER'S REPORT - Ted Luckadoo

Manager Luckadoo reported Council received the February Financial Statements on Friday.

MANAGER'S REPORT CONT'D.

Manager Luckadoo reported the Town's Ordinances are now online at MuniCode's website. The cost of the re-codification was reduced by \$1,400 making the final cost of \$10,250.

The website is receiving the final touches. The content is almost complete with photographs of Council Members and staff still to be added. The new website should be up and running within the next few weeks.

Reminded Council to file their Statement of Economic Interest by March 30th at ethics.sc.gov.

Introduced Seth Duncan who became the Assistant Town Manager on February 23, 2015. Seth served as the Business Services Manager for the Berkley, Charleston, Dorchester Council of Governments. Seth's background includes Community Development, workforce development, and Economic Development and we look forward to what Seth has to offer and bring to the Town of Batesburg-Leesville.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - No

POSSIBLE ACTIONS BY COUNCIL IN FOLLOW UP TO EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

POTENTIAL AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MONTH'S MEETING - None

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Council Member Simpkins with a second by Council Member Ricard to adjourn at 7:49 P. M. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

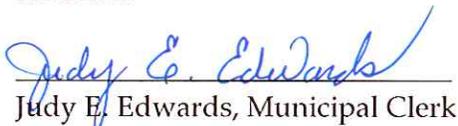
VOTE: 6 Approved 0 Denied

Approved this 13th day of April 2015.



Marguerite Crapps, Mayor

ATTEST:



Judy E. Edwards, Municipal Clerk