

TOWN OF BATESBURG-LEESVILLE
AGENDA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
June 9, 2014
7:00 P. M.
COURTROOM
PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX
660 West Columbia Avenue

PUBLIC HEARING - Proposed Amendment to the Zoning Map: Changing the zoning district designation for property owned by Gordon May at 442 East Railroad Avenue, Tax Map No. 006025-03-009, consisting of 0.30 acres from C-2, Transitional Commercial, to C-1, General Commercial. New uses permitted in the proposed district are: To allow a restaurant establishment.

I CALL TO ORDER

II INVOCATION

III PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Budget Workshop - May 8, 2014
- B. Regular Council Meeting - May 12, 2014
- C. Special Council Meeting - May 21, 2014
- D. Special Council Meeting - June 2, 2014

V MAYOR'S REPORT

- A. Next Regular Council Meeting – July 14, 2014
- B. Letter of Appreciation from Lexington School District Three
- C. Council/Department Heads Committee Report
 - 1. Central Midlands - Council Member O'Dell
 - 2. Environmental Planning Advisory Committee – Council Member Cain
 - 3. Economic Development – Council Member Simpkins
 - 4. Police Department - Chief Oswald
 - 5. Fire Department - Chief Hendrix

VI MANAGER'S REPORT

VII UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VIII NEW BUSINESS

- A. First Reading - Proposed Amendment to the Zoning Map: Changing the zoning district designation for property owned by Gordon May at 442 East Railroad Avenue, Tax Map No. 006025-03-009, consisting of 0.30 acres from C-2, Transitional Commercial, to C-1, General Commercial.
- B. First Reading - Set Tax Millage at 99.50
- C. First Reading - 2014-2015 Proposed Budget for the Town of Batesburg-Leesville
- D. Gilbert-Summit Water Agreement Amendment
- E. Approval of quote for removal of trees in both parks

X ADDRESS COUNCIL

- A. Pansy Buzhardt - Leadership, Budget, Taxes, Economic Development

X ADJOURNMENT

XI MEDIA & CITIZEN'S QUESTIONS

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

The Public Hearing was deferred until the July 14, 2014 Regular Council Meeting.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

JUNE 9, 2014

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 7:00 P. M. Members present were Mayor Crapps, Council Members Taylor, Cain, Simpkins, Penick, Mingo, Ricard and Fox. Council Member O'Dell was absent.

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Council Member Simpkins.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was held.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the minutes from the May 8, 2014 Budget Workshop was held. A motion was made by Council Member Simpkins with a second by Council Member Penick to approve. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 6 Approved 2 Denied - Council Member Cain, Mingo

Approval of the minutes from the May 12, 2014 Regular Council Meeting was held. A motion was made by Council Member Simpkins with a second by Council Member Taylor to approve. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 7 Approved 1 Denied - Council Member Mingo

Approval of the minutes from the May 21, 2014 Special Council Meeting was held. A motion was made by Council Member Simpkins with a second by Council Member Penick to approve. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 7 Approved 1 Denied - Council Member Cain

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES CONT'D.

Approval of the minutes from the June 2, 2014 Special Council Meeting was held. A motion was made by Council Member Penick with a second by Council Member Simpkins to approve. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 6 Approved 2 Denied - Council Member Cain, Mingo

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Crapps stated the next Regular Council Meeting will be July 14, 2014 here in the courtroom.

Mayor Crapps read into the minutes a letter of appreciation from Lexington School District Three thanking the Town for allowing the District to use the Leesville College Park for their first "*Panthers in the Park*" event on June 3, 2014. (attached)

CENTRAL MIDLANDS - Council Member O'Dell

Council Member O'Dell was absent.

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (E. P. A. C.) Council Member Cain

Council Member Cain stated there was no meeting.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - Council Member Simpkins

Council Member Simpkins gave an in-depth report on the June 5, 2014 meeting of the Economic Development Committee.

POLICE DEPARTMENT - Chief Oswald

Reported the third and final year for the Criminal Domestic Violence/Child/Elderly Abuse Grant was approved for \$57,000 which is a 90/10% grant.

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POLICE DEPARTMENT CONT'D.

Reported the department asked for replacement cameras for the patrol cars and a thermal imager under this grant but these were denied. Stated there is a law requiring each marked police car be equipped with a working camera in the car. Presently, the patrol cars are equipped with VHS cameras and need replacing with digital cameras. The cost for these cameras range from \$3,100 - \$3,200 per car and the department has 18 cars. The money use to come from ticket assessment fees but this is no longer available and we are trying to figure out a way to replace the VHS cameras.

FIRE DEPARTMENT - Chief Hendrix

Chief Hendrix reported Batesburg-Leesville is the first department in Lexington or Saluda Counties to receive a Class 3 rating. This rating applies to the municipal limits of Batesburg-Leesville and the area which B-L is contracted to protect in Saluda County. He reported properties within 1,000 feet of a hydrant will receive the Class 3 rating and should see a slight reduction in their homeowner's insurance which should start after September 1, 2014. Further information was given concerning the ISO Class 3/3Y rating. (attached)

MANAGER'S REPORT - Joan Taylor

Manager Taylor reported Council has received all the financial reports and check registers for the month of May.

Reported there will be a Public Hearing here at 7:00 P. M. June 23, 2014 on the Municipal Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 and also the second reading.

Updated Council on the progress to date for the Industrial Park site, which was received from Kyle Clampitt as follows:

- Surveying is in progress and will be 100% this month.
- Geotechnical Exploration is in progress and will be 100% this month.
- The design phase is in progress and will be completed in July.
- The permitting process is in progress and will be completed in August

In Mr. Clampitt 's email he stated "as we progress through the design and permitting process then we will continue to keep you updated. In summary we should be through

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BUDGET CONT'D.

Council Member Simpkins: We are raising the millage from 90.05 to 99.5, a 10.2% increase. Dr. Floyd informed us at the Economic Development Committee Meeting that the school district is going to raise their taxes by 5.9%, the county is asking the citizens to raise the county taxes by 1% which will be...

Mayor Crapps: You are talking about the bond referendum, that is one cent not 1% to one cent sales tax.

Council Member Taylor: One cent

Council Member Simpkins: That is one cent on the dollar.

Mayor Crapps: Right, that is not 1% of the overall budget, that's sales tax.

Council Member Simpkins: I thought you were talking about percentages

Mayor Crapps: One cent

Council Member Simpkins: That's a total, if everything, well, we just approved the 99.5 and the school board is planning to raise 5.9 and if the voters vote the one cent, the 1% penny tax on the dollar that will be 17.1% increase to the citizens of Lexington County and Batesburg-Leesville community. *At this point the sound system goes crazy!* Now the businesses...

Council Member Mingo: Excuse me, what was the total, I could not hear it.

Council Member Simpkins: 17.1%

Council Member Mingo: Ok, 17.1% for the Town of Batesburg-Leesville

Council Member Simpkins: Tax increase this year

Council Member Taylor: You can't add..(someone talked over her)

Mayor Crapps: 16.1%, a penny is not at percentage

Council Member Simpkins: Ok, 16.1% plus a penny, a penny on the dollar

Council Member Mingo: A penny on the dollar; one cent on the dollar

Council Member Simpkins: 16.1% plus the one cent County tax

Council Member Taylor: Sales tax

Council Member Simpkins: Sales tax, right, in the entire County. Most of the grants that we receive in the Batesburg-Leesville area, including the school district, based upon lower income families and I think that 16.1 is putting an undo burden on the already strapped low income household's budget and I just think it is not fair that we do that, there are other ways that we can raise the revenue that we need other than burden the lower income, which are struggling now to pay their bills as it has been addressed in this Chamber people are struggling to pay their water bills, struggling to pay their taxes. I've seen foreclosures on homes, even in my district, of homes that taxes have not

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BUDGET CONT'D.

been paid or what not, and I just think that is an undo burden. But nevertheless we have already approved our 10.2% increase.

Council Member Cain: We have done just the first reading.

Council Member Simpkins: Right, we did the first reading, right, which was approved.

Mayor Crapps: That is what this is.

Council Member Simpkins: Right, right. And also every department received at least some of what they asked for except Council. Council asked for increases in certain areas and I won't even get into details but we know what those were and those seemed to not even be considered but I checked the record and looked up other towns our size. Every town in the State of South Carolina in the size population category of Batesburg-Leesville takes care of their Council better than Batesburg-Leesville does. It was just a few years ago that we got what we receive now \$84 a month stipend; \$975 for training and travel and training, which is not nearly enough for Council to get the information and the training that they need to be effective Council individuals and it is reflected in this Council. It is obvious that more training is needed and for this Council to neglect the governing body I think is just a mistake on our part to do that because we need the knowledge and the experience and the training and I believe that is why there is such a high turnover on Council why people do not take Council seriously and why even sitting Council members would not even come to Council meetings which they are committed to doing because it's not that important to them. It's not because of any compensation but is the way that Council is treated here in the Batesburg-Leesville area and I think that needs to change if we are going to move forward as a progressive town and a town that wants to put forth the image that it wants to grow and prosper. We're going to have to take care of the head, which is the governing body, and that is sitting Council and we are the only Town that doesn't do that in this entire state if you will check the numbers. Thank You.

Mayor Crapps: Thank you sir.

Council Member Cain: May I ask my question now?

Mayor Crapps: Yes sir you sure may.

Council Member Cain: In the Enterprise Fund, Ms. Taylor, what is the total cost for the water project.

Manager Taylor: I am going to say 19 million.

Council Member Cain: Ok

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BUDGET CONT'D.

Manager Taylor: Ok, don't hold me to that please Council Member Cain but I am just saying 19, ok.

Council Member Cain: Let's say that it is 19 million. How you going to pay for it?

Manager Taylor: If Council will look in their departmental reserve account, and I think this has been brought up before, there is reserve money in there that the payment will be approximately \$58-59,000.

Council Member Cain: What do we use our reserve money for now?

Manager Taylor: The consent order items that DHEC has put us under as far as the water tanks, some upgrades to the water plant.

Council Member Cain: Go ahead, you said you were going to tell us how you were going to pay for it.

Manager Taylor: It is in the reserve if Council will look in their DPW non-departmental reserve account.

Council Member Cain: How much of that reserve are you going to use to service the \$19 million loan?

Manager Taylor: Do what now sir?

Council Member Cain: How much of the reserve money are you going to use to service the \$19 million loan to pay back?

Manager Taylor: I think that after we looked at it, after we made the payment we would still be able to put \$11,000 still into the reserve account.

Council Member Cain: How much is that amount, the payment, roughly?

Manager Taylor: I just said probably \$58-59,000 a payment.

Council Member Cain: That's about \$59,000 per month?

Manager Taylor: Yes

Council Member Mingo: 69. You said that, did you not say the payment would run about 58,000, right?

Manager Taylor: Right

Council Member Mingo: 58-59,000 and after when we would have to stop making the water payments then we would still have \$11,000 left in there?

Manager Taylor: To keep in the reserves

Council Member Mingo: Right, to keep in the reserves, so at this point right now we're putting approximately 69,000 away per month, is that what I am hearing?

Manager Taylor: Something like that, right.

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BUDGET CONT'D.

Council Member Mingo: Yes, that's how I got 69.

Council Member Cain: So am I now still on the floor?

Council Member Mingo: Yes, I'm sorry.

Council Member Cain: No, no, no that's good information, I'm glad you said that. So now we are going to have \$11,000.

Manager Taylor: There about, ok.

Council Member Cain: About, how much? You say about, how much? We are short.

Manager Taylor: I don't know that for now.

Council Member Cain: Let's use your number, 59,000. If you take 59,000 how much will be left?

Manager Taylor: Per month?

Council Member Cain: Yes

Manager Taylor: I just said approximately 11,000 that we would still be able to put in the reserve, approximately.

Council Member Cain: You can show in the budget \$11,000, you can show in the budget \$66,000 per month?

Manager Taylor: Do what now?

Council Member Cain: You can show in the budget \$66,000 per month, roughly?

Manager Taylor: It is in the reserve account sir.

Council Member Cain: Right, you can show that, that's in there?

Manager Taylor: It's in there.

Council Member Cain: So we have \$11,000 per month. How much are you spending now per month on the consent order?

Manager Taylor: I'd have to go back and look at that. We've done

Council Member Cain: Is it more than \$11,000 per month?

Manager Taylor: I don't know that; we've done upgrades to the water plant so I can't answer that.

Council Member Cain: Upgrades to the water plant, was it more than \$11,000?

Manager Taylor: I can't answer that.

Council Member Mingo: But, are we paying as we go with the repairs?

Manager Taylor: Yes

Council Member Cain: My concern is this, alright, we are already clearly maxed out on the General Fund side because we are raising taxes to pay for normal operating expenses. When we pay the \$19 million for the water plant and we are using reserve

BUDGET CONT'D.

funds to pay that, \$60,000 per month, now we've maxed out on our Enterprise Fund and our General Fund and that means in the real world scenario, we are broke. If we do that, you can't raise taxes again next year to do operating expenses. If anything goes wrong, if that Enterprise Fund, if that 19 million turns into 22 million you don't have enough money in your reserve fund to pay the note, ok, we are teetering on disaster right now with this budget. We need to do something other than what we are doing folks, that's my point and that's my concern and I can see by the faces up here it is not their concern, it's not staff's concern, but the citizens should be very concerned that we are maxed out. We can sit here and pretend like that's not true or I don't know or I wasn't here, I'm new, but that's the reality everybody understands what she just said. After discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 5 Approved 3 Denied - Council Members Cain, Simpkins, Mingo

GILBERT-SUMMIT WATER AGREEMENT

Mayor Crapps stated we received an **Amendment to the Water Purchase Agreement** from Gilbert-Summit increasing our wholesale rate for water Batesburg-Leesville purchases, going from \$1.80/1,000 gallons with a base rate of 100,000 gallons, \$180.00 to \$2.00/1,000 gallons with a base rate of 100,000 gallons, \$200.00; that's \$.20/1,000 gallons increase. This increase is the result of the widening of U. S. #1, which placed a huge burden of expense on the district and they had to increase the water rates in all categories, including our wholesale rate. Manager Taylor stated there will be a rate increase for water purchased by Ridge Spring this year; from \$1.93/1,000 gallons to \$2.12/1,000 gallons. A motion was made by Council Member Penick to adopt with a second by Council Member Fox. Manager Taylor stated this increase will not affect the citizens of Batesburg-Leesville. After further discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 7 Approved 1 Denied - Council Member Cain

APPROVAL OF QUOTE FOR REMOVAL OF TREES IN BOTH PARKS

Mayor Crapps stated we need to approve the expense of tree removal and limb maintenance in the Leesville Park and Wilson Street Park. Manager Taylor stated after the storm came through on the Wilson Street Park and we had to have those trees

TREE REMOVAL CONT'D.

removed and while he was here I had him give us a quote on doing an inspection on the rest of the park and also the Leesville Park. The quote to trim dead wood from 22 trees, cut and remove 3 trees, grind 3 stumps at the Leesville Park; cut down and remove one tree and grind one stump at the Wilson Street Park. This is what he found during his investigation of the two parks after the ice storm. The total cost from Buzhardt Tree Care, Inc. is \$8,100.00. A motion was made by Council Member Penick with a second by Council Member Mingo to accept the quote. After discussion, a motion was made by Council Member Penick to table his motion with a second by Council Member Mingo in order to send this work out for bids. The bids will be presented at the June 23, 2014 Special Council Meeting.

ADDRESS COUNCIL - Pansy Buzhardt

Mrs. Buzhardt was present to address Council concerning leadership, budget, taxes and Economic Development.

At this point Council Member Cain asked that the discussion from the Budget to be recorded verbatim.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Council Member Simpkins with a second by Council Member Ricard to adjourn at 8:07 P. M. All Members were in favor.

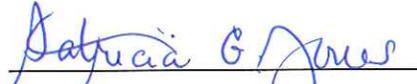
MEDIA & CITIZENS' QUESTIONS

Approved this 14th day of July 2014.



Marguerite J. Crapps, Mayor

ATTEST:



Patricia G. Jones