In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, the news media and the public 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 outdoor bulletin board at the Batesburg-Leesville Town Hall and the Town's website no later than twenty-four hours prior to the meeting.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 14, 2019

The Regular Council Meeting for the Town of Batesburg-Leesville, held in Building B of the Town Hall Complex, was called to order by Mayor Shull at 7:00 P. M. Members present were Mayor Shull, Council Members Etheredge, Gambrell, Simpkins, Mitchell, Whittle, Prouse, and Hallman. Council Member Cain was absent.

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Rev. Kent Suits, Christ Community Church.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was led by Council Member Gambrell, retired veteran.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Council Member Prouse with a second by Council Member Hallman to approve the agenda. With no discussion, a vote was taken by the show of hands.

VOTE:

8 Approved

0 Denied

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Council Member Gambrell with a second by Council Member Hallman to adopt the minutes from the November 12, 2018 Regular Council Meeting. With no discussion, a vote was taken by the show of hands.

VOTE:

8 Approved

0 Denied

A motion was made by Council Member Gambrell with a second by Council Member Prouse to adopt the minutes from the November 26, 2018 Council Work Session. With no discussion, a vote was taken by the show of hands.

VOTE:

8 Approved

0 Denied

ADOPTION OF MINUTES CONT'D.

A motion was made by Council Member Prouse with a second by Council Member Gambrell to adopt the minutes from the December 17, 2018 Special Council Meeting. With no discussion, a vote was taken by the show of hands.

VOTE:

8 Approved

0 Denied

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Shull reported the next Regular Council Meeting will be February 11, 2019.

CENTRAL MIDLANDS - Council Member Gambrell

Council Member Gambrell reported there was no meeting.

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING & ADVISORY COMMITTEE (E. P. A. C.)

Council Member Prouse reported there was no meeting in December.

JOINT MUNICIPAL WATER/SEWER COMMISSION - Mayor Shull

Mayor Shull reported the Commission met Wednesday, January 9, 2019, a pretty lengthy meeting, with a lot of different things in that meeting. The number one being a press release and decision by all of the Commissioners including himself to purchase land on Lake Murray at the end of Counts Ferry Road, 47 or 44 acres, with the intention of building a water plant on that site, within the next 10-20 years.

B-L Chamber of Commerce - Mike Taylor, President

- ≈ Congratulated Ms. Etheredge and Mrs. Whittle on their election to the B-L Town Council.
- ≈ Reported the Chamber has three new Board Members: Lacy Ridgell with Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative, Leigh Ann Rikard with AllSouth Federal Credit Union, and Adam Korycki with Ridge Manufacturing Co.

Chamber Report Cont'd.

- ≈ Thanked the Town, it's departments and employees, for their participation during the Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting. The weather was questionable but held off for this function and the turnout was good.
- ≈ The Batesburg-Leesville Ministerial Alliance conducted an inspirational Community Thanksgiving Service in November and have started planning for their Community Good Friday Service.
- ➤ The Mission of the Dream Catchers is to "Create resources to help our youth become leaders and responsible citizens." They are studying Roberts Rules of Order and will attend as many Town Council Meetings as possible.
- ≈ During our Summer of Excellence Program, we plan to make a mock government structure of Batesburg-Leesville, elect a mayor and a council person from each district and appoint several town employee positions.
- ≈ The Dream Catchers will hold a Meet and Greet for parents on January 17th.
- ≈ Arts on the Ridge elected new officers and board members during their December meeting and will be meeting this Thursday.
- ≈ Each January the Chamber submits a request for Accommodation Tax funds and if we are successful with the request, the Chamber will explore the possibility of using some of these funds to promote our community and events.
- ≈ Congratulated the B-L Animal Hospital on their expansion.

PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Presentation of Fiscal Year 2017/2018 Financial Audit by Dooley & Company was presented by Ms. Amy Ely. Ms. Ely stated she was going to report on the financial condition of the Town of Batesburg-Leesville for the year ending June 30, 2018.

- The Town received a good opinion and we found no issues for that year.
- During the audit year ending June 30, 2018, the Town did not issue any new bonds or become obligated for any new leases, however, payments did continue on the capital equipment lease from 2016 and 2015 bonds.
- The general revenues for the Town, which includes property taxes, state revenue and licenses and permits, account for around \$3.8 million in revenue.

2017/2018 Audit Cont'd.

- Program revenue, which includes grants and payment for services are about \$3.5 million. The total revenue for the Town and Utility was approximately \$7.3 million.
- The Town and Utility had total expenses of approximately \$6.7 million. Revenues were adequate to cover expenses for the year.
- On the Statement of Net Position the Town had assets of \$19.7 million and liabilities of \$7.6 million. Included in the total liabilities is something fairly new called net pension liability, which accounts for \$5.3 million of the Town's liabilities. This is basically the Town's proportionate share of the State & Police Retirement System's pension liability.
- The net position of the Town was approximately \$11.7 million, an indicator of a
 government's financial position. The net position of the Town increased by
 \$573,000 which is about a 5% increase from the prior year. This is a clear
 indicator that financially the Town is in a much better position than it was the
 prior year.
- In the prior year we recommended the Town implement a cash reserve policy
 and the cash reserve for the Town has improved since last year and did exceed
 the recommended amount of 25% of the budget expenses.
 Ms. Ely congratulated the Mayor and Town Council on improving the overall net
 financial position of the Town and look forward to seeing great things to come.

A motion was made by Council Member Simpkins with a second by Council Member Gambrell to accept the audit as presented. After a brief discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 7 Approved 1 Denied - Council Member Mitchell

B. Proclamation - Adopting the Municipal Association of SC 2019 Advocacy Initiatives

A motion was made by Council Member Simpkins with a second by Council Member Hallman to adopt. Town Manager Luckadoo stated the Municipal Association identified three advocacy initiatives based on the feedback from local officials including updating the Local Government Fund formula, expanding flexibility for using accommodations and hospitality taxes, and reducing the wait time for law enforcement hires to be trained. This Proclamation supports the initiatives set forth by the MASC Board of Directors for city and town councils to govern effectively and efficiently. After discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE:

8 Approved

0 Denied

C. First Reading - Ordinance Establishing a Budget of Local Hospitality Tax

A motion was made by Council Member Gambrell with a second by Council Member Prouse to approve first reading. Manager Luckadoo stated this budget would run from January 20, 2019 to June 30, 2019 for \$200,000 in revenues and \$200,000 in expenses. This money is 2% on prepared food and beverages within the Town limits of Batesburg-Leesville and will go into a separate bank account. Attorney Spradley stated another Ordinance has to be done in order to spend these funds. After discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE:

8 Approved

0 Denied

D. First Reading - Ordinance to Amend the Business License Ordinance to Reflect Changes to the MASC Model Ordinance

A motion was made by Council Member Simpkins with a second by Council Member Prouse to approve first reading. Manager Luckadoo stated that the Municipal Association recently finalized a series of revisions to the Model Business License Ordinance to streamline, clarify, and standardize the business license process for SC municipalities. There are NO changes to rates, classes, or other structures that will change the fees assessed to businesses; the model changed the business license year period to May 1 through April 30 with no grace period. After discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE:

8 Approved

0 Denied

E. First Reading - Ordinance to Adopt Low Income Senior Assistance Program

A motion was made by Council Member Prouse with a second by Council Member Simpkins to approve first reading. Council Member Simpkins stated the Town is looking to codify the Senior Assistance Program into an ordinance and establish a mechanism for the poverty rate to coincide with the annually adjusted federal poverty rate. Low income is defined as someone who has an income of less than or equal to 130% of the Federal Poverty Level which will be recalculated each January. All other parameter of the program in the ordinance are derived from the Council adopted 2012 guidelines and are in use today. After discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE:

8 Approved

0 Denied

MANAGER'S REPORT - Ted Luckadoo

A. Update from Maurice Lindsay

Manager Luckadoo recognized Maurice Lindsay, Outreach Coordinator for the Midlands Fatherhood Coalition. Mr. Lindsay shared with Council the work that the Fatherhood Coalition does in the County. He stated the fatherhood program helps men become the responsible, engaged, and empowered fathers their children need them to be. They are a part of a statewide network of local fatherhood programs helping fathers, children, and families grow strong. The fatherhood program helps men overcome the obstacles keeping them from being the material, emotional, and spiritual providers their children need. Mr. Jermaine Johnson, Site Director, was also present to share with Council the Impact and Outcomes of the Midlands Fatherhood Coalition. Reports were given out for Lexington County and also the Midlands.

B. Information from Donna Ciriello, B-L Branch Librarian

Manager Luckadoo recognized Donna Ciriello, Librarian from the B-L Library who gave an update on new programs available at the library as well as current services the library provides. All of the programs available at the library are free and open to the public and you don't have to have a library card or live in the county to participate. Also present to address Council was Matt Steinmetz, Patron Training and Technology Coordinator for the Lexington County Library system. One of his jobs is to promote new adult programs for the library system. One of these new programs will be offering free tax assistance to lower income and seniors in the Batesburg-Leesville area through AARP. Currently we don't have a volunteer to do that and are asking if anyone could volunteer they would need to sit in once a week for about two months after getting some training to help provide some free tax service. If you know of anyone that is interested they can call me at 803-785-2637.

C. - F. Manager's Report Attached as Part of the Minutes

At the end of his report, Manager Luckadoo stated there will be a Work Session January 28 at which time we will be discussing the RFQ's for consulting services related to the water study.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Council Member Simpkins with a second by Council Member Gambrell to go into Executive Session at 8:00 for:

A. Discussion Regarding Economic Development Opportunity in Relation to Project Covenant

With no discussion, a vote was taken by the show of hands.

VOTE:

8 Approved

0 Denied

Return to Regular Council Meeting

A motion was made by Council Member Gambrell with a second by Council Member Hallman to return to the Regular Council Meeting at 8:39 P. M. With no discussion, a vote was taken by the show of hands.

VOTE:

8 Approved

0 Denied

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

POTENTIAL AGENDA ITEMS FOR FEBRUARY 11, 2019 MEETING

Council Member Simpkins stated he would like to place on the agenda for next month an item for Executive Session dealing with a contractual matter.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Council Member Gambrell with a second by Council Member Hallman to adjourn at 8:40 P. M. With no discussion, a vote was taken by the show of hands.

VOTE:

8 Approved

0 Denied

Approved this 11th day of February 2019.

ADJOURNMENT CONT'D.

Lancer D. Shull, Mayor

ATTEST:

Patricia G. Saeed