

In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, the news media and the public were 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

February 8, 2021

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 Member Etheredge, Gambrell, Lemon, Mitchell, Wise, Prouse, and Hall. Council Member Cain arrived at 7:07 P. M.

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Pastor Kent Suits.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge Allegiance to the American Flag was led by Council Member Gambrell. Council Member Gambrell asked everyone to stand and place their hand over their heart.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Council Member Hall with a second by Council Member Gambrell to approve. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 8 Approved 0 Denied

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Council Member Gambrell with a second by Council Member Hall to adopt the minutes of the January 11, 2021 Regular Council Meeting. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 8 Approved 0 Denied

A motion was made by Council Member Gambrell with a second by Council Member Etheredge to adopt the minutes of the January 25, 2021 Council Work Session. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 8 Approved 0 Denied

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Shull reported the next Regular Council Meeting will be March 8, 2021.

CENTRAL MIDLANDS COG – Council Member Hall

Council Member Hall reported there was a CMCOG meeting held via zoom on Thursday, January 29, 2021 and a quorum was present according to Zoom “sign ins.” Reported the following on the Consent Agenda was adopted:

- December 10, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes
- Resolution to apply for Federal and State Grants
- 2020-2027 TIP Amendment – Senior Transportation

Stated the major points of the meeting were:

- An official change to the 208 Plan to include approval of the changes for the Town of Lexington to take over Granite Sewer.
- Discussion of the beautification of the Regional Gateways, which are the interchanges along the various interstates serving the Columbia area. The project is funded by various businesses in the CMA with the exception being I-20 378 interchange which is funded by the Town of Lexington. A request was submitted to fold that into the Regional Gateway Plan as well as the I-20 SC6 interchange. No action taken pending additional research.

The next scheduled meeting will be February 25, 2021.

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Council Member Prouse

Council Member Prouse reported EPAC met on January 13, 2021. The Town of Lexington is requesting a minor 208 Plan Amendment to recognize the Town's recent acquisition of the Blue Granite – Watergate WWTP and associated service area. The amendment will acknowledge the Town's plans to eliminate the WWTP and change the 208 Map to reflect the Town of Lexington as the service provider for this area.

Council Member Cain arrived during the EPAC report.

THE COMET ADVISORY COMMITTEE - Council Member Cain

The Comet Advisory Committee met and one of the things we are working through is communication between the contractors and our administrators. Reported the Budget looks good and sometime soon we will be asked to vote on the permanent funding for the Comet.

JOINT MUNICIPAL WATER/SEWER COMMISSION – Mayor Shull

Mayor Shull reported the Commission held their regular meeting in January by zoom with the office remaining on COVID-19 rotation. They were doing some recruitment but have paused due to the rise of COVID-19 cases. They continue with growth at nearly 4% for the year 2020. Water taste/odor complaints have remained relatively nonexistent this year. Preliminary Engineering Report and ozone pilot study continue for the plant. Wooden Company continues work on the Pelion waterline replacement project. DS Utilities continue making progress on the Water Plant Transmission Main with the Mulberry extension in Pelion being complete. Old Barnwell/Red Bank Creek Sewer Project bids have been received.

B-L CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – Mike Taylor, President

Reported the Chamber continues to post on the website and Facebook page all information received from SBA, SC Chamber of Commerce and US Treasury on COVID-19 updates and the Payment Protection Plan. Last month I reported that there were posts on our website and Facebook page the opportunity for those 70 years of age to register for the COVID-19 vaccine beginning Wednesday, January 13th. Unfortunately, that posting had added frustration to many, including myself.

We are anxiously waiting to hear the decisions made tonight during the SC Poultry Festival meeting. The Chamber receives all toll-free calls pertaining to registration for vendors and participants. We have been receiving calls for almost two months wanting information. Their decision also affects some of the Chamber events.

The Chamber is preparing to go before the Lexington County Accommodation Tax Refunding Requests Committee this Thursday. Due to COVID- 19 and all the cancelled

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CONT'D.

events since last February, there is not a lot to share regarding tourism. Thanks to you, the Master Plan, and our Hospitality Tax we can talk about "Looking to the Future."

PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA – None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. 2nd Reading – Ordinance Establishing "No Through Trucks" Designation for a Portion of North Peachtree Street was held. A motion was made by Council Member Prouse with a second by Council Member Hall to adopt. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 9 Approved 0 Denied

NEW BUSINESS

A. Presentation of Fiscal Year 2019/2020 Financial Audit by McGregor & Company
Assistant Town Manager Jay Hendrix introduced Neal Crider with McGregor Company to present the 2019/2020 Financial Audit. Mr. Crider stated the Town received an unmodified or clean opinion. He presented the following:

- Report of the Financial Statements
- Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements
- Auditor's Responsibility
- Opinions
- Required Supplemental Information
- Other Information
- Internal Control over Financial Reporting – Material Weakness, Significant Deficiency
- Material Weaknesses Found include:
 1. Taxes Receivable
 2. Other Postemployment Benefits ("OPEB") Liability
 3. Capital Assets
 4. Accounts Payable
- Significant Deficiencies may exist that have not been identified but during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be significant deficiencies.
- Financial Highlights

- Overview of Financial Statements
- Stated the Town had well-designed internal controls

VOTE: 9 Approved 0 Denied

VOTE: 9 Approved 0 Denied

VOTE: 9 Approved 0 Denied To Resurface North Oak Street

VOTE: 9 Approved 0 Denied

VOTE:

7 Approved	1 Denied – Council Member Cain 1 No Vote – Council Member Mitchell
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NEW BUSINESS CONT'D.

F. Discussion Regarding a Request by Council Member Cain to Utilize Council Training & Travel Funds Towards the Purchase of New Books for Children was held. A motion was made by Council Member Cain, which he withdrew after Attorney Spradley read the possible motion, that read "I move to donate \$1,500 from Mr. Cain's Training and Travel budget to Lexington School District 3, to be used for the purchase of books for underprivileged children as the District finds appropriate." A new motion was made by Council Member Cain to use his \$1,500 Training and Travel budget for the purchase of books from First Books for kids in the community with a second by Council Member Lemon. After discussion a vote was taken.

VOTE: 4 Approved 5 Denied – Council Member Gambrell, Wise, Prouse,
Hall, Mayor Shull

MANAGER'S REPORT – Assistant Town Manager Jay Hendrix

The Assistant Manager gave the report since Manager Luckadoo was out sick.

2021 SC Ethics Commission Statement of Economic Interest

- Just a reminder that Council members need to complete their annual Statement of Economic Interest if they haven't already done so.
- Each Councilmember is required by law to file the SEI by March 30, 2021 or it will result in a penalty starting at \$100 if the report is not filed within five (5) days. SEI's must be filed using the Commission's electronic filing system, available at <http://ethics.sc.gov>.

Project Updates

- **Infiltration/Inflow Study** – Frazier Engineering has received several good rainfall events that has given them quality data to analyze. They are reviewing the data and expect to review with staff middle of this month. Once that is complete, they will start the next phase of the study, which is manhole inspections and smoke testing, which may begin as early as March.
- **WWTP Improvements** – We received our construction permit from SCDHEC this past week for the floating aeration project. Now that we have that, we have posted RFP's for both the floating aeration project and headworks projects to the Town website and SCBO. This bid closing date is March 4th for both of these projects.

MANAGER'S REPORT CONT'D.

- **H-Tax Projects** – Since our last Council meeting, we have made great progress on moving forward with many of the approved items by Council:
 - **Wilson Street Park/Leesville College Park** – Geotechnical services have begun at these properties and the surveyor should be on-site very soon.
 - **Town Entrance Sign Engineering** – The landplan group will be beginning their full design of construction documents.
 - **Pine Street Location** – We have held on-site planning meetings with SCDOT, utility providers, and The Landplan over the past couple weeks. We are very pleased with the response from SCDOT at this point. The surveyor has been on-site doing surveying and geotechnical has been performed at the location. Once survey has come back, we will be working with Dominion Energy on the plan for their utility line relocations. SCDOT has indicated that once we close on building, demo the building, they intend to come in immediately to make the intersection improvements.

Monthly Account Balances for Fiscal Year 2020/2021

	Jan-21	Dec-20	Nov-20	Oct-20	Sep-20	Aug-20	Jul-20
General Fund Checking	\$ 1,184,406.58	\$ 874,897.00	\$ 936,076.96	\$ 1,222,560.33	\$ 1,464,391.88	\$ 1,587,048.12	\$ 1,773,743.00
General Fund Savings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Police Donations	\$ 7,030.06	\$ 5,155.06	\$ 5,155.06	\$ 5,155.06	\$ 5,155.06	\$ 5,155.06	\$ 4,655.06
Fire Department 1%	\$ 21,917.69	\$ 25,385.07	\$ 26,135.07	\$ 26,629.34	\$ 26,629.34	\$ 17,581.74	\$ 14,740.23
Municipal Court	\$ 32,884.14	\$ 29,942.02	\$ 31,247.14	\$ 35,178.40	\$ 31,459.27	\$ 32,906.28	\$ 32,584.93
Victims Assistance	\$ 429.40	\$ 349.79	\$ 1,240.47	\$ 812.96	\$ 1,359.56	\$ 1,073.76	\$ 714.00
Total (Non-Utility Funds)	\$ 1,246,667.87	\$ 935,728.94	\$ 999,854.70	\$ 1,290,336.09	\$ 1,528,995.11	\$ 1,643,764.96	\$ 1,826,437.22
Utility Fund Checking	\$ 413,544.84	\$ 408,886.93	\$ 338,021.79	\$ 282,177.69	\$ 240,621.22	\$ 149,392.83	\$ 92,722.75
Utility Fund Reserve	\$ 767,833.59	\$ 767,827.12	\$ 767,814.76	\$ 767,789.54	\$ 767,756.97	\$ 767,725.47	\$ 767,683.46
Capital Improvement Project/Impact Fe	\$ 1,547,282.05	\$ 1,512,698.79	\$ 1,544,929.45	\$ 1,551,894.04	\$ 1,517,168.04	\$ 1,520,775.86	\$ 1,483,730.95
USDA Debt Service Reserve	\$ 564,811.16	\$ 564,806.43	\$ 564,797.36	\$ 564,778.85	\$ 564,754.97	\$ 564,731.85	\$ 564,700.97
USDA Depreciation	\$ 3.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 3.00
Senior Assistance	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00
Total (All Utility Funds)	\$ 3,293,476.64	\$ 3,254,224.27	\$ 3,215,568.36	\$ 3,166,645.12	\$ 3,090,306.20	\$ 3,002,631.01	\$ 2,908,843.13
Hospitality Tax Checking	\$ 930,701.19	\$ 890,031.96	\$ 850,525.68	\$ 850,064.91	\$ 806,007.87	\$ 761,699.34	\$ 731,740.64
Total All Funds	\$ 5,470,845.70	\$ 5,079,985.17	\$ 5,065,948.74	\$ 5,307,046.12	\$ 5,425,309.18	\$ 5,408,095.31	\$ 5,467,020.99

MANAGER'S REPORT CONT'D.

BLPD End of Year Report for 2020 – Chief Wallace Oswald

Chief Oswald gave the 2020 Crime Statistics which consisted of:

- Incidents Reports – Five Year Statistics
- Accident Reports – Five Year Statistics by Batesburg & Leesville
- Traffic Tickets – Five Year Statistics
- Detention Center – Five Year Statistics
- 2020 Breakdown by Race
- 2020 Breakdown by Gender
- Calls Dispatched – Five Year Statistics
- Citizens Assisted in Person by Dispatch

Reported the Police Department received 3 full MRAP of toys for the children at Christmas. KJ's gave the Police Department donations of food and along with the toys 70 families were able to have a nice Christmas. Also 5 families received heaters and blankets.

BLFD End of Year Report for 2020 – Chief Josh Frye

2020 Highlights

- Received a Thermal Imager donation from House of Raeford
- County-wide fire service “play book”
- Started an out-of-area program
- DOT approved a Class E driver's license route
- Added NARCAN to medical bags
- Blood drives collected 158 units of blood

Further reports were on:

- Covid-19
- Average Personnel Response to Calls
- 2020 Call Volume Peaks
- Response Times
- Training
- 2020 Calls – 851 total calls
- Call volume by area
- 2016-20 call Comparison
- Calls by month

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Council Member Prouse with a second by Council Member Gambrell to go into Executive Session at 8:31 P. M. to discuss the following items.

A. Discussion of Contractual Matters Relating to Indigent Defense Services

B. Discussion of Negotiation Incident to Proposed Contractual Arrangements for Possible Purchase of Property Along West Church Street

With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 9 Approved 0 Denied

Council Member Mitchell did not go into Executive Session.

A motion was made by Council Member Gambrell with a second by Council Member Hall to return to Regular Council Meeting at 8:51 P. M. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 9 Approved 0 Denied

POSSIBLE ACTIONS BY COUNCIL IN FOLLOW-UP TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Discussion of Contractual Matters Relating to Indigent Defense Services

No action taken.

B. Discussion of Negotiation Incident to Proposed Contractual Arrangements for Possible Purchase of Property Along West Church Street

A motion was made by Council Member Prouse with a second by Council Member Etheredge to approve the contract as presented in Executive Session to purchase property along West Church with funds to come from Hospitality Tax. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 9 Approved 0 Denied

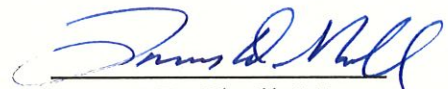
POTENTIAL AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MONTH'S MEETING – March 8, 2021

ADJOURNMENT


A motion was made by Council Member Gambrell with a second by Council Member Prouse to adjourn at 8:53 P. M. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 9 Approved 0 Denied

Approved this 8th day of March 2021.


Lancer D. Shull, Mayor

Attest:


Town Clerk