

*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.*

## **COUNCIL WORK SESSION**

**NOVEMBER 26, 2018**

The Council Work Session for the Town of Batesburg-Leesville, held in Building B of the Town Hall Complex, was called to order by Mayor Shull at 6:06 P. M. Members present were Mayor Shull, Council Member Gambrell, S. Mitchell, Prouse, and Hallman. Council Member Cain and Simpkins were absent. Districts 1 and 6 are vacant.

## **INVOCATION**

The invocation was given by Council Member Gambrell.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was held.

## **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:                      5 Approved                      0 Denied

## **DISCUSSION TOPICS**

### **A. Discussion Regarding the Town's Senior Assistance Fund Program**

Assistant Town Manager Duncan gave a power point presentation of the Senior Assistance Fund Program since the program's inception in 2007 to date. This program was set up for the purpose of allocating funds collected by the Town from franchise fees to be used to assist low income senior citizens with their B-L water/sewer bill. All thirteen (13) criteria were reviewed and discussed. This program was not set up in the form of a Resolution or Ordinance. When changes were made to the program, it was brought up and voted on by Council with everything included in the minutes.

Manager Luckadoo stated he would like to discuss this with the Town Attorney as to whether we need an Ordinance or Resolution as a protection measure for the program.

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**A. Senior Assistance Cont'd.**

Discussion was held on the application form, the budgeted amount for the program, and the change in the poverty guidelines.

**B. Discussion Regarding Fiscal Year 18/19 Budget Amendment to Adopt Hospitality Tax Budget & Make Mid-Year Adjustments to the Budget**

Manager Luckadoo stated the H-Tax goes into effect January 1<sup>st</sup> and the first payment to the Town will be February 20<sup>th</sup>. At this point the only step we have not taken, which is required by law, is to pass a budget for the hospitality tax. There will be six (6) months left in this budget cycle, January - June 30<sup>th</sup>, that we will be collecting these funds.

Projections were made that approximately \$400,000 in revenue would come in for a year in H-Tax funds and for six months approximately \$200,000. Items to be funded (expenses) by the Local Hospitality Tax were taken from the actual H-Tax Ordinance but specific projects have not yet been identified. Those to be funded are:

- ≈ 1. Revitalization and beautification of the B-L Business Districts - \$100,000
- ≈ 2. Rehabilitation of the Haynes Auditorium - \$40,000
- ≈ 3. Improvements to the Town of B-L owned Parks - \$50,000
- ≈ 4. Town Events - \$10,000

These figures are not set in stone and can be changed but are used to account for the \$200,000 in expenses to offset the revenue of \$200,000. The Master Plan study will give more definitive projects on our downtown business districts, the Haynes Auditorium, and the Town owned parks. After discussion, it was the consensus of Council to not list any items under the Expenses but just have it read "Hospitality-Tax Savings Account." By law, there has to be a separate bank account, a separate budget, and separate checks. Manager Luckadoo stated we will have first reading on the Hospitality Tax Budget at the December 10, 2018 Regular Council Meeting.

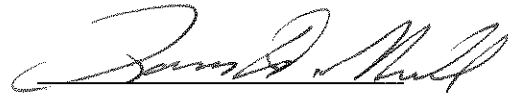
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## ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Council Member Prouse with a second by Council Member Hallman to adjourn at 7:23 P. M. With no discussion, a vote was taken by the show of hands.

VOTE:                    5 Approved                    0 Denied

Approved this 14<sup>th</sup> day of January 2019.

  
Lancer D. Shull, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Judy E. Edwards, Town Clerk