

*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**

**SEPTEMBER 9, 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 Member Etheredge, Gambrell, Cain, Simpkins, Whittle, and Prouse. Council Member Mitchell arrived at 7:02 P. M.

**INVOCATION**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

*Council Member Mitchell arrived after the Pledge of Allegiance.*

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made by Council Member Prouse with a second by Council Member Simpkins to approve the agenda. With no discussion held, a vote was taken.

VOTE:                    8 Approved                    0 Denied

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Council Member Simpkins with a second by Council Member Gambrell to adopt the minutes from the August 12, 2019 Regular Council Meeting. With no discussion held, a vote was taken.

VOTE:                    8 Approved                    0 Denied

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Shull reported the next Regular Council Meeting would be October 14, 2019.

### **CENTRAL MIDLANDS - Council Member Gambrell**

Council Member Gambrell reported COG met August 22, 2019 at 12:00 with several items on the agenda dealing with spending money. His report consisted of the following:

- 2020 - 2021 COATS Unified Planning Work Program
- COAT'S 2040 Long-Range Transportation Plan
- Rural Planning Work Program
- Regional Resiliency Plan
- Regional Long-Range Transportation Plan & Travel Demand Model Update
- Regional Congestion Management Plan
- Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan Update
- Rural Planning Projects
- New 5310 Program
- Federal Transit Administration Programs
- September 16-17 there will be a grand management training for anyone interested in management

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

Council Member Prouse reported there was no meeting in August.

### **JOINT MUNICIPAL WATER/SEWER COMMISSION - Mayor Shull**

Mayor Shull reported the Commission met August 14, 2019. He reported on the following:

- The Legislative action in the State House, the utility relocation process for road projects, has begun.
- Construction continues at their main office; operations facility has been completed with the last meeting being held there.
- The purchase of the land for the future tank site along US #1 and Charter Oak Road was closed on July 18<sup>th</sup>.
- The Commissioners all approved to assist the Town of Swansea with utility operations since June 13<sup>th</sup> after their Manager left.
- Moving forward to secure a FERC permit for Lake Murray.

**JOINT MUNICIPAL WATER/SEWER COMMISSION CONT'D.**

- Held an election of officers: Steve MacDougall, Chairman; Andy Gambrell, Vice-Chairman; Joseph Hardee; Jay Nicholson, Treasurer; and Stephanie Morton, Secretary.
- Customers of the Joint Municipal Water continues to grow.

**B-L CHAMBER OF COMMERCE - Mike Taylor, President**

*Due to the length of the Chamber's Report, the attached is an official part of the minutes for September.*

**PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA - None**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A.** The Mayor read the **Proclamation - B. J. Morris 40 Years with the Town of Batesburg-Leesville**. A motion was made by Council Member Gambrell with a second by Council Member Cain to approve. With no discussion held, a vote was taken.

VOTE:                    8 Approved                    0 Denied

**MANAGER'S REPORT - Ted Luckadoo**

**A. - D.** *Due to the length of the Manager's Report, the attached is an official part of the minutes for September.*

**E. Presentation by Rachel Dieter, League of Women Voters**

Ms. Dieter stated the League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. She further stated that **www.VOTE411.ORG** is your one-stop election information hub. It gives the following information:

- Voter Guide to Your Candidates
- Absentee Ballot Information
- Early Voting Options

**E. Cont'd. - Dieter**

- Voter Registration Forms and Deadlines
- Polling Place Locations
- ID Requirements

**F. Lexington County Update - County Councilman Larry Brigham**

County Councilman Brigham gave the following update:

- Batesburg-Leesville has received \$1.4 million in grant funding from Lexington County since 2014
- Progress is slowly moving this way
- Resurfacing projects - some have been completed (Brodie Road, Bedenbaugh Street, Academy Street, Fair Avenue, Blanding Street, Circle Drive, Marion Street, Skyline Drive, Bond Street, Columbia Avenue.) On the docket is Smith Street and Aiken Street. Hwy. #23 is scheduled for next year.
- Hopefully the drainage problem at Shealy's Bar-B-Que has been repaired, but if it rains for 3 days the problem may resurface.
- 2020 Resurfacing Project - Church Street to the forks all the way to Saluda County, it has been approved for 4.12 miles.
- Lexington County has been allocated for 2020 resurfacing projects, 17.87 miles. Batesburg-Leesville received 4.12 miles of that, 23%
- US #1 widening, fall of 2019, bidding process is ready and should be happening right now, spring of 2020 will connect to Broad Street
- Batesburg-Leesville Industrial Park has three occupants; current discussions are under way now about a potential occupant
- Lighting is to be installed, currently we have 23 lights and will have 26 more installed
- We have 165 acres left out of 180 acres; 12 parcels remaining out of 15
- There is a new cemetery in town, the Lexington County Cemetery, on S Lee Street, Hwy #245, right across from the solid waste collection center. It is for indigents and the unclaimed deceased. They will be cremated and placed in marked graves. Stated the county usually has about 30 a year where no one claims the body.
- Lexington County had 834 building permits issued through June and Richland County had 492
- 2018 population is 296,000 and expected to grow to 320,000 by 2023

### **Lexington County Update Cont'd.**

- County Council is currently in discussion on placing a penny back on the ballot in 2020 for road and road infrastructure only because of the growth in Lexington County
- We have agreed as a Council to form a Penny Commission which consists of 6 members; 3 members are appointed by County Council; 3 members are appointed by municipalities. The largest municipality gets 1 appointment, that would be the Town of Lexington, the two others can also make an appointment to that Penny Commission. The bottom line is funding, you can raise taxes or you can share the funding by the penny tax that would include everyone.

### **G. Midlands Technical College Update - Dr. Ronald Rhames, Dr. Barrie Kirk & Eddie Cogdill**

Dr. Rhames was joined at his presentation by the college's Provost, Dr. Barrie Kirk, and local resident, Eddie Cogdill, who serves on a 21-member advisory board for Midlands Technical College. All three spoke to Council and stressed the importance of the college to Batesburg-Leesville's economic future. The college is a forward-thinking, proactive college that believes in real-world experiences and hands-on training in a diverse atmosphere. We are redefining what a technical college is, through the range of programs that are offered, partnerships with local employers and facilities with high-tech equipment. The Batesburg-Leesville College & Career Development Center serves the parents and students of the B-L High School. The Center offers:

- Personalized Service
- Drop-In Career Advising
- Career Options
- Apply to College
- Contacts
- Apply to College
- Financial Resources
- College Readiness Activities

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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**POSSIBLE ACTIONS BY COUNCIL IN FOLLOW UP TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**


**POTENTIAL AGENDA ITEMS FOR OCTOBER 14, 2019 MEETING**

**ADJOURNMENT**

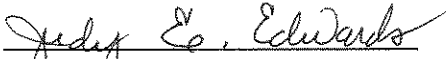
A motion was made by Council Member Gambrell with a second by Council Member Simpkins to adjourn at 8:11 P. M. With no discussion held, a vote was taken.

VOTE:                               8 Approved                               0 Denied

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

  
Lancer D. Shull, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
Judy E. Edwards, Town Clerk

## SEPTEMBER CHAMBER REPORT

The chamber held their 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Auction on Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup> at T & S Farm. Twenty-nine items were donated for the Silent Auction and thirty-seven for the Live Auction. Close to \$15,000.00 was raised for the chamber through the generosity of our membership and individual donations. This is always our major fundraising event of the year.

At our General Membership Meeting in August Ted Pitts, President and CEO of the SC Chamber of Commerce, gave a presentation. The chambers' "Grass Roots Tour" tours the state to collect the SC business community's top legislative priorities that address issues generally affecting all types of businesses in all parts of the state. Information gathered will comprise their 2020 Competitiveness Agenda. Some facts: the largest industry in SC in terms of employment is healthcare with over 270,000 employees, SC ranks 13<sup>th</sup> highest for industrial property taxes, at 7% the SC income tax is the highest in the southeast, and more than half a million South Carolinians lack access to reliable broadband internet.

We launched a new website on Friday, August 30<sup>th</sup>. This new website offers more opportunities for our members and the community. Once fully implemented businesses in our community will be able to post job openings, organizations will be able to post their events, membership will be able to update their information on our directory, and much more. The town's current Strategic Plan and link to the town and county websites are provided. I am still in training but I am very excited about the many opportunities this website will provide.

The Dream Catchers will be providing a meal for the B-L Middle School football team Wednesday night. They will also be meeting to determine the possibility of a Drone Club in Batesburg-Leesville.

# THE TOWN OF *Batesburg-Leesville*

## Manager's Update September 2019

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### HURRICANE COMMUNITY DONATIONS/BLOOD DRIVE

- Interest has been expressed by multiple people to possibly have a donation drive and blood drive with American Red Cross for those affected by the Hurricane.
- We have spoken with Rebecca Jordan, Executive Director of American Red Cross Central SC area, and she has stated they would love to explore the opportunity to possibly hold a community blood drive here in B-L and that blood is in high demand following the hurricane. She is reaching out to one of her account managers and they are supposed to be following up with us on this possibility.
- With regards to donated supplies, the Red Cross has put me in touch with Harvest Hope, who is their community partner for donated items. I have spoken with them about the interest from our community to have a donation drive. They have stated they had quite a bit of supplies remaining from last year's storms and that they are still assessing their needs from this hurricane. They will be following up with me on their needs and the possibility of having a donation drive here in B-L.

### UPCOMING HALLOWEEN & CHRISTMAS EVENTS

- Our Halloween Trick-or-Treat Event will be on Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup> and will run from 6:00pm until 8:00pm. We are planning to again hold the event from Highway 1 @ Main Street to College Street and Main Street. Details are still being organized and we will publish all details once they are finalized.
- This year's Chamber Christmas Parade and Town Tree Lighting will be held on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. We will have more details down the road, just go ahead and mark your calendars.

### UPCOMING HEALTH & WELLNESS FAIR

- Lexington County EMS Community Action Team will be holding their first ever Lexington County EMS Health Fair here in Batesburg-Leesville at Olive Brach Baptist Church.
- The event is scheduled for Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> from 8:00am to 12:00pm.
- The event will consist of informative talks and free health screenings and people can learn how to improve their health and get medical tests for free.
- If you or know of anyone that is interested, please let them know about the event. This is a just show up event and no need for reserving a time.



## TOWN FINANCIAL/BUDGET UPDATE

### Account Balances

	Aug-19	Jul-19
General Fund Checking	\$ 1,272,435.29	\$ 1,591,678.14
General Fund Savings	\$ 37,351.55	\$ 37,351.55
Police Donations	\$ 11,558.00	\$ 13,299.41
Fire Department 1%	\$ 13,875.50	\$ 11,319.35
Municipal Court	\$ 30,975.24	\$ 37,644.57
Victims Assistance	\$ 289.67	\$ 654.70
<b>Total (Non-Utility Funds)</b>	<b>\$ 1,366,485.25</b>	<b>\$ 1,691,947.72</b>
Utility Fund Checking	\$ 256,559.43	\$ 260,914.03
Utility Fund Reserve	\$ 763,671.20	\$ 763,152.55
Capital Improvement Project/Impact	\$ 1,291,512.30	\$ 1,364,853.81
USDA Debt Service Reserve	\$ 561,749.82	\$ 561,368.36
USDA Depreciation	\$ 3.00	\$ 3.00
Senior Assistance	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00
<b>Total (All Utility Funds)</b>	<b>\$ 2,873,497.75</b>	<b>\$ 2,950,293.75</b>
Hospitality Tax Checking	\$ 320,249.72	\$ 288,457.50
<b>Total All Funds</b>	<b>\$ 4,560,232.72</b>	<b>\$ 4,930,698.97</b>

### General Fund Items of Interest

- Revenue – For general fund checking, we are still awaiting reimbursements from Lexington County of \$30,000 for sidewalks, \$32,045.43 for fire fighting gear as part of Safer Grant, and approximately \$140,000 from the State E-911 for the new dispatch system that was installed.
  
- Administration Budget
  - Salaries, SS/FICA & Retirement – Reflecting a higher percentage at this point due to payout of unused annual leave time when Mr. Duncan left for York.
  - Group Insurance – Is reflecting high due to the fact that we must pay an upfront monthly deposit plus the first two months in the month of July. This will level out as the year goes on.

- Workers Compensation – Has gone over due to an adjustment premium based on last year’s actual payroll numbers versus projected numbers when used to pay. Also, workers comp is paid quarterly, so 25% is applied quarterly.
- Fire & Casualty, vehicle insurance and general liability insurances for all departments will reflect close to 50% as only two payments are made annually for these line items.

➤ Fire Department

- Building Maintenance – Is reflecting 56% due to upfront maintenance contracts that are paid for HVAC and Generator Services at Fire Stations.
- Capital – Line item is reflecting \$11,639.61 over budget at \$42,539.61 and was budgeted for \$30,900. This is due to a \$32,045.43 expense to buy 12 sets of bunker gear under the Safer Grant for recruiting & retention. The \$32,045.43 will be reimbursed 100%, so we have actually spent \$10,494.18 of the \$30,900.

➤ Police Department

- Dues & Subscriptions – Is reflecting as fully expensed as all officers dues for SC Police Officers Association is paid at beginning of the fiscal year.
- Uniforms – Is reflecting 45% as uniform purchases are done in bulk a couple times a year.
- General Liability Insurance – Is reflecting a little higher at 61% than normal due to a couple insurance claims in which we have had to pay deductibles on.
- Capital – Is reflecting \$1,358.84 over the \$7,000 budgeted. We became aware and were offered a \$4,000 grant from our MASC insurance for the automated devices for body cams that we budgeted for. In order to utilize the full \$4,000 grant, we increased the number we purchased and took it over \$8,000, as this is a 50/50 grant up to \$4,000. In essence, we have actually expended out of pocket \$4,358.84 of the \$7,000.

➤ Non-Departmental

- IT Services – Is reflecting 53% due to annual maintenance agreements that have been paid for our Town work order management systems and overall IT maintenance.

## Utility Fund Items of Interest

- Revenue
  - Most all line items are trending correctly or higher, but we are in peak season and this should level out some as we enter the winter months.
  
- Non-Departmental
  - IT Services – Is reflecting 53% due to annual maintenance agreements that have been paid for our Town work order management systems and overall IT maintenance.
  
- Water Plant Budget
  - Overtime – Is reflecting at 33% and typically is higher earlier in the budget year due to being peak season and the plant operating longer hours to keep system topped off. This should level back out over the winter months.
  - Annual DHEC-VOC Monitoring – This is our operating permit that is paid in one lump sum at the beginning of the year, so it reflects at 96%.
  - Chemicals – Is reflecting 28%, but chemicals are not purchased at an equal monthly amount and we purchase in bulk, so while its reflecting a higher percentage, we are still on track on this line item.
  
- Wastewater Treatment Plant
  - Lab Supplies – Is reflecting 32%, but like chemicals, lab supplies are not purchased at an equal monthly amount and we purchase in bulk, so while its reflecting a higher percentage, we are still on track on this line item.
  
- Utility Maintenance Crew
  - Water/Sewer Line Materials – Is reflecting 32%, but like lab supplies and chemicals for water and sewer departments, line supplies are purchased periodically and in bulk and the % will not always work out equally across each month.