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

**DECEMBER 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 Gambrell, Cain, Lemon, Mitchell, Wise, Prouse, and Hall. Council Member Etheredge was absent.

#### **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.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion to approve was made by Council Member Gambrell with a second by Council Member Prouse and to move the **Presentation by Renwick McNeil**, **U. S. Census Bureau**, **Item A. under the Manager's Report** to **Item D.** under the **Mayor's Report**. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE:

7 Approved

1 No Vote - Council Member Wise

#### ADOPTION OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Council Member Hall with a second by Council Member Gambrell to adopt the minutes of the November 11, 2019 Regular Council Meeting. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE:

7 Approved

1 No Vote - Council Member Wise

A motion was made by Council Member Prouse with a second by Council Member Gambrell to adopt the minutes of the November 25, 2019 Special Council Meeting. 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 January 13, 2020.

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

Council Member Gambrell reported they had no meeting in November.

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

Council Member Prouse reported they did not meet in November.

## JOINT MUNICIPAL WATER/SEWER COMMISSION - Mayor Shull

Mayor Shull reported the Commission met November 13<sup>th</sup> in the newly renovated Joint Municipal Building on Two Notch Road. The bonds were redone saving the Commission a little over a million dollars in interest. The water quality issues caused by the algae is nearly gone; looking at advance oxidation and copper sulfate additives. Brought to our attention a documentary called "Dark Waters" which talks about ground water being exposed to PFAS (teflon).

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

- ➤ Thanked the Town Council for their attendance at the Annual Awards Banquet on November 21<sup>st</sup> at T & S Farm
- ➤ Reported the Batesburg-Leesville Ministerial Alliance held their Community Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup> at Leesville United Methodist Church and believes this was the largest attendance they have had.
- The Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting was extremely successful last night and thanked the many Town employees who made it possible. It was cool but you could not have asked for a better day in December. The theme this year was "It's a Wonderful Life". Grand Marshals were Ms. Corine Johnson, a 1945 graduate of Twin City High, and Ms. Marjorie E. "Oxner" Spears, a 1939 graduate of B-L High School. We are celebrating the 100th graduating class during the school year, so the Chamber wanted to recognize a graduate of both schools. Ms.

### B-L CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CONT'D.

- Johnson will celebrate her 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday on March 14<sup>th</sup> and Ms. Spears is 98 years young.
- Arts on the Ridge will present "An Evening of Holiday Spirit" this coming Friday at Southern Occasions. The event will begin at 6:30 P. M. Featured performances by Mr. Sam Phillips accompanied by Becky Hughes, piano music by Ms. Kyona Lakes, and narration by Rev. Lisa Isenhower will certainly have everyone leaving with the Holiday Spirit.

## Presentation by Renwick McNeil, U. S. Census Bureau

Mr. McNeil presented an update on the 2020 Census. As mandated by the U.S. Constitution, our nation gets just one chance each decade to count its population. The U. S. census counts every resident in the United States. It is mandated by Article 1, Section 2 of the Constitution and takes place every 10 years. The data collected by the census determines the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives (a process called apportionment) and is also used to distribute billions in federal funds to local communities. The next census in 2020 will require counting an increasingly diverse and growing population of around 330 million people in more than 140 million housing units. To get an accurate count, the Census Bureau must build an accurate address list of every housing unit, maximize self-response to the census, and efficiently follow up with those who do not respond. The decennial census is the largest mobilization and operation conducted in the United States and requires years of research, planning, and development of methods and infrastructure to ensure an accurate and complete count. Your information is protected for 72 years. All information on the census is confidential and no one sees your information. Data determines the need and money follows the data. In mid March 2020, census invitations will be sent to your home to complete your census on line. What we want the Town to do is form a Complete Count Committee.

### PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Ms. Eurlee Steadman of 232 Livingston Lane, Leesville District came forward to address Council concerning the replacement of the sewer lines on Livingston Lane and North Lee Street.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

A. First reading on An Ordinance Rezoning Property Located NW of West Columbia Avenue, NE of North Bethlehem Road and SW of Russell Street from I-1 "Industrial District" to C-2 "Transitional Commercial" was held. A motion was made by Council Member Prouse with a second by Council Member Wise to approve. After discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE:

8 Approved

0 Denied

# B. Approval of Funds & Selection of Contractor Relating to Two Sewer Line Replacement Projects

Manager Luckadoo presented the request to approve funding for the replacement of two sections of gravity sewer line appurtenances on North Lee Street and Livingston Lane. These two lines are continuously blocked resulting in sewer back-ups and occasional overflows. North Lee Street and Livingston Lane has approximately 1,390 linear feet of gravity sewer lines; North Lee Street has 519 l.f. and Livingston Lane has 871 l.f. He stated staff is requesting Council to approve funding in the amount of \$149,869.25 and award the construction contract for the sewer repairs to AAA Utility & Construction, LLC. Funding for this would come from the Capital Improvement-Impact Fee account. Manager Luckadoo stated after these repairs are made, the sewer line for Ms. Eurlee Steadman should not give any more problems.

A motion was made by Council Member Hall with a second by Council Member Gambrell to approve. After discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE:

8 Approved

0 Denied

# C. Approval of Regular Council Meeting Dates for 2020

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

VOTE:

8 Approved

0 Denied

# D. Discussion Regarding Town Council Compensation

Mayor Shull stated this item was placed on the agenda at the request of Council Member Etheredge at the November 11<sup>th</sup> Regular Council Meeting. A motion was made by Council Member Gambrell with a second by Council Member Prouse that \$300 a month across the board be paid to Council Members and Mayor. Council Member Hall called for "Point of Privilege" during the discussion. (Vote on this motion was held after the recess\*) A motion was made by Council Member Hall with a second by Council Member Gambrell to have a temporary recess at 7:45 P. M. Council Member Hall stated the purpose of the recess was to restore some order to the Council Meeting.

VOTE:

5 Approved

3 Denied - Mayor Shull, Council Member

Mitchell, Council Member Prouse

\*At 7:55 P. M. Mayor Shull stated they were back in session and for the discussion to resume on Council pay. "Point of Order" was called several times during this discussion. After discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE:

4 Approved

4 Denied - Council Member Cain, Lemon,

Mitchell, Hall

The negative has it and the motion is lost.

A motion was made by Council Member Hall with a second by Council Member Cain to set the Council compensation at \$400 a month and the Mayor at \$200 a month. Council Member Hall amended the motion to include the fact that it is mandatory that you attend one meeting per month unless there are extenuating circumstances. Council Member Cain declined to second this amendment but was seconded by Council Member Prouse. After discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE:

8 Approved

0 Denied

# E. Council Election of Mayor Pro Tem

A motion was made by Council Member Prouse with a second by Council Member Wise to elect Council Member Gambrell as Mayor Pro Tem. After discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE:

6 Approved

2 Denied - Council Member Cain, Mitchell

#### **NEW BUSINESS CONT'D**

## F. Council Appointments

## a. Town Attorney

Council Member Hall asked if they were addressing a contract with this issue and the Mayor replied yes then Council Member Hall made a motion to go into Executive Session to address this issue with a second by Council Member Cain. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE:

6 Approved

2 Denied - Mayor Shull, Council Member Prouse

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

VOTE:

8 Approved

0 Denied

# **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Council Member Cain with a second by Council Member Gambrell to adjourn at 8:33 P. M. After discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE:

5 Approved

3 Denied - Mayor Shull, Council Member Wise

Council Member Prouse

Approved this 13th day of January 2020.

Lancer D. Shull, Mayor

ATTEST:

Judy E. Edwards, Town Clerk