

*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**

**AUGUST 10, 2020**

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 7:01 P. M. Members present were Mayor Shull, Council Member Etheredge, Gambrell, Cain, Lemon, Wise, Prouse and Hall. Council Member Mitchell arrived at 7:04 P. M.

## **INVOCATION**

The invocation was given by Pastor Kent Suits.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

VOTE:        8 Approved                      0 Denied

## **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Council Member Prouse with a second by Council Member Etheredge to adopt the minutes of the July 13, 2020 Regular Council Meeting. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE:        8 Approved                      0 Denied

*Council Member Mitchell arrived while the vote was being taken.*

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Shull reported the next Regular Council Meeting will be September 14, 2020.

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### **CENTRAL MIDLANDS – Council Member Hall**

Council Member Hall reported there was no meeting but there is one scheduled for the end of August.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE Council Member Prouse**

Council Member Prouse reported there was no meeting.

### **THE COMET ADVISORY COMMITTEE – Council Member Cain**

Council Member Cain reported the Board tabled discussion to amend the Intergovernmental Agreement to get additional information from general Counsel. A special meeting was held to discuss the new contractor for the ARTP. A new Chairman, a new Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer were elected; the committee meetings are on Wednesdays and the next Board meeting is August 26<sup>th</sup>.

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

Mayor Shull reported the Commission did not meet and the next meeting will be in two weeks.

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

Mr. Taylor reported the general membership meetings have resumed and are being held now during breakfast hours instead of rotating between breakfast and lunch. During the July Chamber general membership meeting Hitachi was recognized and congratulated on Governor McMaster's Proclamation declaring Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup> as "Hitachi Day" in South Carolina. On that day Hitachi celebrated their 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Roger Williamson, with Hitachi in Batesburg-Leesville, gave those in attendance an overview of Hitachi and our plant in B-L.

In a letter organized by the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce sent Tuesday, August 4<sup>th</sup> to the members of the South Carolina Federal Legislative Delegation, the B-L Chamber of Commerce and nearly 250 businesses, healthcare providers, and

## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CONT'D.

educational institutions called for our delegation to support S.4317, the SAFE TO WORK ACT. This legislation provides a temporary and targeted safe harbor from lawsuits for businesses who acted in good faith to keep their employees and customers safe.

Information that we received from the county at our July board meeting:

- COVID-19 numbers for 29054, 29006, and 29070 had averaged 10-12 people testing positive until June and it had jumped to 38.
- In July it climbed to almost 160. The latest figures as of last Thursday which were 76 so it is definitely going in the right direction.
- Building permits in Lexington County for June were 777 with Richland at 407.
- The unemployment rate in South Carolina dropped from 12.4 in May to 8.7 in June. In May the unemployment in Lexington County was 8.2 dropping to 6.5 in June. In March before COVID-19 unemployment in Lexington County was 2.4

## PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### NEW BUSINESS

A. The Mayor read a **Resolution Supporting & Honoring First Responders, Educators, Health Care Workers & Military Members and their Families of Batesburg-Leesville**. A motion was made by Council Member Gambrell with a second by Council Member Wise to adopt. With no discussion, a vote was taken

VOTE:           9 Approved                           0 Denied

B. **Resolution – Renewing the Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement Between the Town and County of Lexington for the Community Development Block Grant, Home Investment, and Emergency Solutions Grant Programs** was presented. 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:           9 Approved                           0 Denied



## **MANAGER'S REPORT – Ted Luckadoo**

### **ELECTRONIC RECYCLING EVENT**

- Lexington County Solid Waste will be holding an electronic recycling event on August 29<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-1:00pm at the B-L High School parking lot.
- This is a partnership between the Town, Advanced Disposal, Keep America Beautiful, and Mission Lexington.
- Accepted at this event will be up to 8 large electronic items, up to 8 tires (no tractor tires), up to 5 boxes or bags of paper for shredding per household. Mission Lexington has partnered and now accepting clothes, bedding, furniture, books, shoes, and shelf stable foods at this event.
- This is for Lexington County Residents and materials generated from business, along with appliances with Freon will not be accepted.

### **CENSUS 2020**

- U.S. Census has announced that door to door data collection will begin on August 11, 2020 in South Carolina. They have also announced that the Census collection will end on September 30<sup>th</sup>.
- As of 8/6/20, here are the updated statistics for Census 2020:
  - National Response – 63.2% (Up from 62% last meeting)
  - South Carolina – 63.2% (Up from 56.4%) (44<sup>th</sup> out of 52 States)
  - Lexington County – 64.8% (Up from 63.8%) (4<sup>th</sup> out of 46 counties)
  - Saluda County – 46.6% (Up from 46%) (38<sup>th</sup> out of 46 counties)
  - Batesburg-Leesville – 56.7% (Up from 55.9%) (67<sup>th</sup> out of 271 cities/towns, 67<sup>th</sup> last month)
  - Batesburg-Leesville – 68% (2010 total response % for the Town)

### **CARES ACT REIMBURSEMENT OPPORTUNITY**

- We are working through CARES Act funding that has been made available to municipalities for COVID-19 expenses, to try and identify all costs we have had related to COVID-19 for reimbursement. This funding can reimburse the Town for wages related to quarantining employees, supply costs, administrative costs, and any costs related to remote working. There is another wave of funding that will allow us to purchase

## **MANAGER'S REPORT CONT'D.**

additional equipment, safety supplies, etc... We are working on receiving as much as possible for those qualified expenses we can identify:

### **FACILITY REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS**

- This past week, the Train Depot had its two new HVAC Gas Pack units installed and it is operating great.
- The RFP is out on the SCBO and Town website for the new Town Hall roof on Building A. Bids will be accepted until August 28<sup>th</sup> and we will bring to Council in September.
- We hope to have the contractor for the PD Roof ready to go by next month, to try and have the new coating placed on prior to the beginning of our rainy season.
- Chief Frye has been talking with multiple electrical contractors about the FD electric issue and the proposed scope of work at Station 26. So far, he has found the approach of one contractor to be the best route moving forward. This contractor has stated he could possibly save money by tracing all lines in the station and ensuring all the electrical panels are properly labeled to what they control, which is currently not the case. In follow up to that, they may be able to combine so switches to free up others and reduce the need to replace whole panels. The station now has LED lighting and 3 switches controlling bay lights may be able to be reduced to one panel breaker due to lower power with LED lighting.
- All the material for the airline work at both fire stations has been ordered and work should begin soon on replacing all the lines.

### **ROADWAY AND SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS**

- There are a number of roadway and sidewalk projects coming up that will be taking place around town.
- Highway 23 resurfacing should commence within the next few months and this will take place from the split at Highway 1 to the county line.
- While our "C" Fund sidewalk contractor has finalized the primary sections of sidewalk on N. Peachtree and Charleston Ave., they will be back in town to replace a few additional sections in the next couple weeks to finish off the remaining balance of funds that we have available.

## **MANAGER'S REPORT CONT'D**

- SCDOT has finalized and stamped the final set of plans for the Highway 23 sidewalk that will be installed from North Lee Street to the main Wal-Mart entrance. They should be bidding this project in the near future. I would look for this work to begin by the end of the year into first part of 2021.
- The Highway 1 widening project has been awarded to C.R. Jackson and they have been given the Notice of Intent. They should begin mobilizing to the area in the next couple months to begin the widening project. Our understanding is that work will begin where the current widening ends at West Hampton and will work towards the Town limits.

### **WWTP CDBG FLOATING AERATOR PROJECT**

- ❖ Project Description – This project replaces the existing Liquid Chemical Feed project due to the emergency nature of basin #1 being partially down. This project includes transitioning from the existing orbital activated sludge process to floating brush aeration. SCDHEC has issued an order for the Town to improve this operation and to move to floating aeration in lieu of the orbital disk and shaft operation, which is causing major financial repair costs and system delays in treating as parts break.
- ❖ Status – RFP, Permitting
- ❖ Est. Completion Date – Spring 2021
- ❖ Est. Project Cost - TBD
- ❖ Grant Funding - \$395,634 in Lexington County CDBG Funds
  - We received our reimbursement from Lexington County CDBG this week for funds spent to date. We received \$19,541.18 from the County.
  - We also signed the amended subrecipient agreement re-directing the CDBG funds from the Liquid Chemical Feed project to repair/replacement of floating aeration at the WWTP.
  - We hope to have the RFP out for this project and the RIA Grant project within the next few weeks.

### **WWTP RIA ROTARY PRESS/HEADWORKS GRANT PROJECT**

- ❖ Project Description – Remove and install two new screw pumps at the WWTP headworks. Replace the existing sludge dewatering centrifuge with a new rotary filter press.
- ❖ Status – RFP/Bid Phase
- ❖ Est. Completion Date – March 2021
- ❖ Est. Project Cost - \$1,339,550

### **MANAGER'S REPORT CONT'D.**

- ❖ Grant Funding - \$800,000 in South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority Grant
  - We have spoken with RIA staff about waiting to bid this project for a short period of time so that we can bid this one at the same time as the floating aeration project.
  - This would allow contractors to bid on both at the same time and possibly save us money by doing so.
  - While the jobs cannot be bid a 1 project due to one being CDBG and one being RIA funded, bidding separately at the same time can still save money potentially if any contractors wish to try and be awarded both jobs. Contractors will have the ability to bid on one or both and we will choose the option that saves the most money.

### **BRODIE PUMP STATION CDBG PROJECT**

- ❖ Project Description – Installation of new pumps, replacement of electrical system, installation of SCADA and monitoring equipment, and replacement static bar screens at Brodie Mill Pump Station.
- ❖ Status – Construction
- ❖ Est. Completion Date – July 2020
- ❖ Est. Cost – \$279,700
- ❖ Grant Funds - \$240,000 (CDBG – Lexington County)
  - **The contractor has a couple more meters and parts to receive before he can return and finalize this project.**
  - **Once he begins work, they estimate 1-2 weeks on installing everything.**
  - **With the new pumps, the pond continues to remain full and at times will get 3-4 inches low, but nothing like what we have experienced in the past. This project has been great for our supply during the summer months to date.**
  - **We have received one reimbursement from Lexington County for \$16,081.48 and are awaiting reimbursement of the pumps we purchase at around \$96,000. We should have that by next week.**



**MANAGER'S REPORT CONT'D.**

**NORTH LEE STREET & LIVINGSTON LANE SEWER PROJECTS**

Both the North Lee Street and Livingston Lane sewer lines as a part of this project have been completed. The final invoice has been submitted for payment and once paid, this project will be finalized.

**TOWN FINANCIAL/BUDGET UPDATE**

**Monthly Account Balances for Fiscal Year 2020/2021**

	Jul-20
General Fund Checking	\$ 1,773,743.00
General Fund Savings	\$ -
Police Donations	\$ 4,655.06
Fire Department 1%	\$ 14,740.23
Municipal Court	\$ 32,584.93
Victims Assistance	\$ 714.00
<b>Total (Non-Utility Funds)</b>	<b>\$ 1,826,437.22</b>
Utility Fund Checking	\$ 92,722.75
Utility Fund Reserve	\$ 767,683.46
Capital Improvement Project/Impact	\$ 1,483,730.95
USDA Debt Service Reserve	\$ 564,700.97
USDA Depreciation	\$ 3.00
Senior Assistance	\$ 2.00
<b>Total (All Utility Funds)</b>	<b>\$ 2,908,843.13</b>
<b>Hospitality Tax Checking</b>	<b>\$ 731,740.64</b>
<b>Total All Funds</b>	<b>\$ 5,467,020.99</b>

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	Jul-20	Jul-19	Jul-18	Jul-17	Jul-16	Jul-15	Jul-14
General Fund Checking	\$ 1,773,743.00	\$ 1,591,678.14	\$ 1,745,192.37	\$ 1,730,880.67	\$ 1,619,736.64	\$ 1,521,135.73	\$ 1,435,594.89
General Fund Savings	\$ -	\$ 37,351.55	\$ 37,351.55	\$ 37,351.55	\$ 43,401.55	\$ 46,433.63	\$ 162,907.50
Police Donations	\$ 4,655.06	\$ 13,299.41	\$ 9,657.17	\$ 6,809.48	\$ 7,766.10	\$ 10,247.16	\$ 11,379.70
Fire Department 1%	\$ 14,740.23	\$ 11,319.35	\$ 10,068.91	\$ 8,199.12	\$ 11,949.30	\$ 11,102.03	\$ 7,008.18
Municipal Court	\$ 32,584.93	\$ 37,644.57	\$ 29,489.19	\$ 33,940.35	\$ 32,418.37	\$ 29,722.92	\$ 31,146.48
Victims Assistance	\$ 714.00	\$ 654.70	\$ 145.15	\$ 128.90	\$ 137.19	\$ 296.87	\$ 172.54
<b>Total (Non-Utility Funds)</b>	<b>\$ 1,826,437.22</b>	<b>\$ 1,691,947.72</b>	<b>\$ 1,831,904.34</b>	<b>\$ 1,817,310.07</b>	<b>\$ 1,715,409.15</b>	<b>\$ 1,618,938.34</b>	<b>\$ 1,648,209.29</b>
Utility Fund Checking	\$ 92,722.75	\$ 260,914.03	\$ 285,308.50	\$ 490,964.95	\$ 318,329.17	\$ 105,793.93	\$ 35,816.59
Utility Fund Reserve	\$ 767,683.46	\$ 763,152.55	\$ 755,546.48	\$ 961,960.58	\$ 601,556.74	\$ 792,583.50	\$ 430,094.13
Capital Improvement Project/Impact	\$ 1,483,730.95	\$ 1,364,853.81	\$ 767,767.75	\$ 58,295.72	\$ 34,762.72	\$ 11,907.72	\$ 1,971.72
USDA Debt Service Reserve	\$ 564,700.97	\$ 561,368.36	\$ 555,773.07	\$ 231,081.00	\$ 231,081.00	\$ 231,080.00	\$ 231,080.00
USDA Depreciation	\$ 3.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00	\$ -	\$ -
Senior Assistance	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 3,154.44	\$ 2,267.66	\$ 3,088.52	\$ 1,093.09	\$ 2,024.11
<b>Total (All Utility Funds)</b>	<b>\$ 2,908,843.13</b>	<b>\$ 2,950,293.75</b>	<b>\$ 2,367,552.24</b>	<b>\$ 1,744,570.91</b>	<b>\$ 1,188,819.15</b>	<b>\$ 1,142,458.24</b>	<b>\$ 700,986.55</b>
Hospitality Tax Checking	\$ 731,740.64	\$ 288,457.50					
<b>Total All Funds</b>	<b>\$ 5,467,020.99</b>	<b>\$ 4,930,698.97</b>	<b>\$ 4,199,456.58</b>	<b>\$ 3,561,880.98</b>	<b>\$ 2,904,228.30</b>	<b>\$ 2,761,396.58</b>	<b>\$ 2,349,195.84</b>

### General Fund

Revenues/Expenses thru July 2020	Actual	Budget	% Budget
Operating Revenues	\$ 590,420.50	\$ 4,334,551.00	14%
Operating Expenses	\$ 310,133.61	\$ 4,334,551.00	7%

### Utility Fund

Revenues/Expenses thru July 2020	Actual	Budget	% Budget
Operating Revenues	\$ 268,521.33	\$ 3,315,031.00	8%
Operating Expenses	\$ 228,681.69	\$ 3,315,031.00	7%

### Victim's Assistance Fund

Revenues/Expenses thru July 2020	Actual	Budget	% Budget
Operating Revenues	\$ 724.03	\$ 7,500.00	10%
Operating Expenses	\$ 568.68	\$ 7,500.00	8%

### Hospitality Tax Fund

Revenues/Expenses thru July 2020	Actual	Budget	% Budget
Operating Revenues	\$ 43,472.01	\$ 452,000.00	10%
Operating Expenses	\$ 1,743.63	\$ 452,000.00	1%

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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


**POTENTIAL AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MONTH'S MEETING – September 14, 2020**

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Council Member Prouse with a second by Council Member Etheredge to adjourn at 7:45 P. M. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE:                      9 Approved                      0 Denied

**Approved this 14<sup>th</sup> day of September 2020.**

  
**Lancer D. Shull, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

  
**Judy E. Edwards, Town Clerk**