

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

MARCH 9, 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 7:00 P. M. Members present were Mayor Shull, Council Member Gambrell, Speech-Lemon, Wise, Prouse, and Hall. Council Members Etheredge, Cain, and Mitchell were absent.

INVOCATION

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

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 Gambrell to approve. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 6 Approved 0 Denied

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Council Member Prouse with a second by Council Member Speech-Lemon to adopt the minutes of the February 10, 2020 Regular Council Meeting. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 6 Approved 0 Denied

A motion was made by Council Member Gambrell with a second by Council Member Prouse to adopt the minutes of the February 24, 2020 Council Work Session. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 6 Approved 0 Denied

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Shull reported the next Regular Council Meeting will be April 13, 2020.

CENTRAL MIDLANDS – Council Member Hall

Council Member Hall reported Central Midlands COG met February 27th. The majority of issues being addressed was the transfer of funds from various accounts to COMET and setting Disadvantage Business Enterprise Goals. The goal was set at 5% of all allocations. Basically, they transferred \$5,154,206 to COMET for planning and another \$249,912 in Access and Mobility Partnership Grants. All were approved under the initial portion of the meeting. The second part of the meeting was consumed with primarily the transfer of funds to COMET, Human Traffic Awareness Grant for \$179,000 and for the transfer of \$149,974 from Greenview Connector to the City of Columbia for their Main Street Mast Arms project for traffic control. The item to transfer funds for the South Main Street project which was \$3,600,000 was placed on hold, postponement, until they can get more information and will be addressed at the next meeting. The last part of the meeting was taken up by a presentation by Fairfield County on a proposed sewer plant which may be of interest to us. It is a total 4.0 MGD plant. Ultimately, it starts off at 1.0 MGD, the footprint will be for 2 MGD initially but on the 1 MGD operational the cost of that plant is going to be \$30 million and they are going to be looking for money so that means they will be in competition if we need funds from COG.

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE Council Member Prouse

Council Member Prouse reported there has not been a meeting this month.

JOINT MUNICIPAL WATER/SEWER COMMISSION – Mayor Shull

Mayor Shull reported the Commission continues to grow about 3% a month and are extremely healthy fiscally. There was no report under the Manager's report other than the algae has pretty much ran its course. Went into Executive Session to do the General Manager's, Jay Nicholson, evaluation. He had a glowing evaluation and does a

MAYOR'S REPORT CONT'D.

fantastic job for the Commission and the staff really loves him. The South Carolina Environmental Conference is coming up on March 14-18th. Reported the next meeting is scheduled for this Wednesday.

B-L CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – Mike Taylor, President

Reported the first major community event will be Saturday, March 21st at T & S Farm and any proceeds are shared with the B-L Relay for Life team.

Arts of the Ridge will conduct just the Performing Arts Camp this year due to several other members taking on other projects of their own and our Visual Arts Camp instructor possibly welcoming another family member at that time. Dream Catchers will be a major participant in the Community Egg Hunt on April 8th and are also preparing for Peach Tree 23 Yard Sale in June.

The Chamber continues to receive updates on legislation every other week with the last update being this Friday. Those covered that involve this community would be H.4431 Business License Tax Reform, which passed the House unanimously and now awaiting Senate Finance subcommittee hearing, S.419 Comprehensive Education Reform, which passed the Senate 40-4, and H.4262 SC Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act, which allows for the infrastructure development and deployment of 5G throughout the state. This passed out of Judiciary Subcommittee.

As a past Chair of the Batesburg-Leesville Chamber of Commerce, I have an opportunity to be a member of 1Voice. This organization is represented by past chairs of the five Lexington County Chambers. Joe Mergo was asked for a presentation on the Capital Project Sales Tax last month, which is a proposed 1% tax in Lexington County for roads only. The projects selected by the commission will be presented to County Council by June for them to approve. They will only approve the projects that meet the requirement for roads only, which Council cannot change order nor add anything. A vote of only yes or no on what is presented. Organizations and municipalities in Lexington County are eligible to present projects for their consideration. We are fortunate to have two of the six on the commission from the west region of our county.

PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA – None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Council Approval of Excused Absence for Council Member Cain Who is Attending the National League of Cities Conference

For public information, Mayor Shull stated an attendance requirement was put into place by Council at the regular meeting and it is up to the Council Member who is absent to request to be placed on the next agenda to have that approved by Council, basically an excused absence. A motion was made by Council Member Speech-Lemon with a second by Council Member Prouse to approve the excused absence of Council Member Cain. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 6 Approved 0 Denied

B. First Reading on an *Ordinance to Amend Title 5 Chapter 2 of the Town's General Code of Ordinances Relating to Building Regulations and Code Enforcement*

Manager Luckadoo summarized the Ordinance after which a motion was made by Council Member Gambrell with a second by Council Prouse to approve First Reading of the Ordinance as presented. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 6 Approved 0 Denied

C. Approval to Purchase a Used Vehicle with Palmetto Pride Grant Funds From State Surplus to be Utilized for Litter Control

Manager Luckadoo gave the background for this request after which a motion was made by Council Member Gambrell with a second by Council Member Wise that the Town purchase this vehicle for litter control. Manager Luckadoo stated the cost of the vehicle is approximately \$5,000 and additional costs of \$800 is needed to equip the vehicle with warning lights, logos, and the prorated cost of insurance. An amendment to this motion for the additional costs was made by Council Member Gambrell with a second by Council Member Wise as presented by Manager Luckadoo. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 6 Approved 0 Denied

NEW BUSINESS CONT'D

D. Discussion Concerning the Possibility of Providing Utility Bill Discounts for Utility Customers that Complete the Census

Manager Luckadoo stated Council is being asked to consider a one-time discount of \$5 or \$10 to utility customers on System #1, which consists of all in-town customers and those out-of-town customers that are served off lines connected to our in-town system, who bring in verification of completing the 2020 Census. This is an incentive to encourage residents to participate because their data is important for the statistics related to our Town. Further information was received from Jay Hendrix, Assistant Town Manager, on the Census. After discussion, a motion was made by Council Member Gambrell with a second by Council Member Prouse that we offer the in-town citizens of Batesburg-Leesville the opportunity to utilize this program of \$10 if they come in by May 1, 2020 and provide us with some type of documentation that they have responded and we would in turn by June or July adjust their water bill. Manager Luckadoo stated we should do the adjustment when they come in with the verification on their current bill, agreed by Council Member Gambrell. After discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 5 Approved 1 Denied – Council Member Hall

MANAGER'S REPORT – Ted Luckadoo

A. – D. *Attached as an official part of the minutes for March*

G. *Attached as an official part of the minutes for March*

E. Wastewater Treatment Plant Consent Order Update – Tim Shumpert

Utilities Director, Tim Shumpert, gave an update on the SCDHEC issued Consent Order for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The reason for the Consent Order is the plant has exceeded Biological Oxygen Demand levels in the discharge at multiple points over the past few months. A draft Corrective Action Plan has been submitted to SCDHEC for their evaluation and review.

F. Census 2020 Update – Jay Hendrix, Assistant Town Manager

Assistant Town Manager, Jay Hendrix, gave an update on the 2020 Census and how an accurate count would benefit the Town.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Discussion of Personnel Matters Relating to the Town Manager's Evaluation**
- B. Receipt of Legal Advice & Discussion Related to Possible Property Acquisition Through Quit-Claim Deed and Easement for Water & Sewer Infrastructure**
- C. Receipt of Legal Advice Relating to Legal Matters Covered by Attorney-Client Privilege**
- D. Receipt of Legal Advice & Discussion Regarding Potential Contractual Arrangements Relating to Water Alternative Options**

A motion was made by Council Member Prouse with a second by Council Member Gambrell to go into Executive Session at 7:57 P. M. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 6 Approved 0 Denied

Return to Regular Council Meeting - A motion was made by Council Member Gambrell with a second by Council Member Speech-Lemon to return to the Regular Council Meeting at 9:32 P. M. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 6 Approved 0 Denied

POSSIBLE ACTIONS BY COUNCIL IN FOLLOW-UP TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Possible Action Relating to the Town Manager's Evaluation – None**
- B. Possible Action Relating to Possible Property Acquisition Through Quit-Claim Deed and Easement**
A motion was made by Council Member Wise with a second by Council Member Gambrell that we move forward with the acquisition through quit-claim deed and easement for water and sewer infrastructure. With no discussion, a vote was taken.
VOTE: 6 Approved 0 Denied
- C. Possible Action Relating to Legal Matters Covered by Attorney-Client Privilege - None**

D. Possible Action Relating to Water Alternative Options

A motion was made by Council Member Prouse with a second by Council Member Gambrell to direct the Town Manager and Town Attorney to do all things necessary to move forward with purchasing water and/or water capacity from Joint Municipal Water and Sewer Commission and to contract with the Town of Ridge Spring to Supply water to them. Further included in this motion, "I would like to state that Hazen and Sawyer, the engineering firm, remain the engineers for the duration of this project". With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 6 Approved 0 Denied

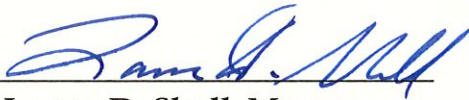
POTENTIAL AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MONTH'S MEETING – APRIL 13, 2020

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Council Member Gambrell with a second by Council Member Prouse to adjourn at 9:35 P. M. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

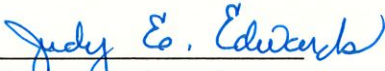
VOTE: 6 Approved 0 Denied

Approved this 13th day of April 2020.



Lancer D. Shull, Mayor

ATTEST:



Judy E. Edwards
Town Clerk