

*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.*

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

**March 8, 2021**

Mayor Shull opened the Public Hearing at 7:04 P. M. to receive citizen input on an **Ordinance Amending the Hospitality Tax Budget for FY 2020/2021**. The delay on opening the Public Hearing was due to technical difficulties with the microphones. Attorney Spradley explained since first reading of the Ordinance to amend the Hospitality Tax Budget at the February 8, 2021 Council Meeting, there are three changes to the Ordinance that have been made due to changes that occurred and approvals made following last month's Executive Session. The first change is #2 "Closing costs for the purchase of 155 North Pine Street property. Last month for first reading, that amount was \$2,000 but the actual cost of closing ended up being \$3,045 due to unforeseen costs related to deed stamps. Secondly, the "Purchase of West Church Street Property," which was approved in Council in follow up to Executive Session last month in the amount of \$28,000 and lastly #8 "Closing costs for the purchase of West Church Street Property has been added to the Ordinance in the amount of \$3,045. Attorney Spradley stated that both changes can be made between first and second reading so long as prior to the Public Hearing and prior to second reading the public is notified. Since no one appeared before Council, Mayor Shull closed the Public Hearing at 7:05 P. M.

## **REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

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 7:05 P. M. Members present were Mayor Shull, Council Member Etheredge, Gambrell, Cain, Lemon, Mitchell, Wise, Prouse, and Hall.

## **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 Gambrell with a second by Council Member Wise to approve the agenda. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE:           9 Approved                           0 Denied

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Mayor Shull stated the Clerk brought to his attention of a scribbler's error in the January 11, 2021 minutes which should have been December 14, 2020 minutes that was being adopted instead it stated January 11, 2021 minutes. A motion was made by Council Member Gambrell with a second by Council Member Prouse to approve the correction to January 11, 2021 minutes and adopt the minutes of the February 8, 2021 Regular Council Meeting. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE:           9 Approved                           0 Denied

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Shull reported the next Regular Council Meeting is April 12, 2021.

**CENTRAL MIDLANDS – Council Member Hall**

Council Member Hall reported Central Midlands held a meeting Thursday, February 25, 2021 via ZOOM and after 8-10 minutes "sign ins" a quorum was present. The major issue addressed was the lack of compliance on three items taken by the auditor with corrective action.

**ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Council Member Prouse**

Council Member Prouse reported EPAC did not meet during the month of February.

Regular Council Meeting

March 8, 2021

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

Council Member Cain reported the Comet Advisory Committee has met many times. He further stated that part of the Budget Work Session should include funding for the Comet.

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

- Mayor Shull reported the Joint Municipal Water/Sewer Commission did meet.
- Reported the FYE 2022 budget planning has begun.
- Various technology projects continue to progress on the water side.
- Work on the Pelion waterline continues
- Water transmission main Phase 2 construction has begun
- FY 20/21 growth is at 1.92% with 18,300 water customers

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

- As reported last month, I went before the Accommodation Tax Funding Committee but due to COVID-19 I couldn't talk about tourism so the focus was on "Looking To The Future." I used the "**LOOKING TO THE FUTURE**" **Batesburg-Leesville** fact sheet to point out the Master Plan for our community and the opportunities present now along with the current projects that will affect visitation when the pandemic is over. The amount of money that the Batesburg-Leesville Chamber of Commerce & Visitor's Center will receive the new fiscal year is 50% of what it received last year due to the pandemic.
- County Councilman Larry Brigham attends the Chamber meetings and he informed our Board of Directors last month that he had attended a meeting consisting of the County Council, Lexington County Legislative Delegation, Secretary of SCDOT Cindy Hall and other officials of SCDOT to discuss the roads in Lexington County where Batesburg-Leesville received considerable amount of discussion. After talking with him today I learned he was told to present these roads and intersections to the COG for possible federal funding partnering with DOT. Resurfacing of Pond Branch, intersections of Pine Street



## MANAGER'S REPORT – Ted Luckadoo

### 2021 SC Ethics Commission Statement of Economic Interest

- Just a reminder that Council members need to complete their annual Statement of Economic Interest if they haven't already done so.
- Each Councilmember is required by law to file the SEI by March 30, 2021 or it will result in a penalty starting at \$100 if the report is not filed within five (5) days. SEI's must be filed using the Commission's electronic filing system, available at <http://ethics.sc.gov>.

### Event Updates

- A reminder that the Town will be hosting a Spring Clean Batesburg-Leesville event on Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am until 12:00pm. At this point, we have 13+ churches committed to taking part, along with numerous civic groups (Women's Society, B-L Rotary Club). We are hopeful and close to getting 200+ people for the event.
- The Town Egg Hunt for this year will not be held due to continued concern with COVID-19 and mass gatherings. We look forward to hopefully having this event back next year.
- In conjunction with Lexington County Solid Waste, we will be hosting another Electronic Recycling event this year on Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at B-L High School parking lot from 9:00am until 1:00pm. Items accepted at the event this year will include electronics, tires, shoes (in good condition), and paper shredding. More details will be coming out closer to the event.

### 5 Year Capital Lease-Purchase

- In follow up to last months Council meeting and Council's approval of the resolution to purchase up to \$450,000 in new capital from BB&T Governmental Finance, we are scheduled to close on the lease-purchase tomorrow and will begin the process of ordering and obtaining the vehicles and equipment.

### Project Updates

- **Town Hall Roof** – Crews from Watts & Associates, the contractors hired to replace the roof on building A were on site last week and got the new roof put on.
- **WWTP Improvements** – We received bids last week and opened them on Thursday for both the RIA grant funded improvements and the CDBG Grant project floating aeration. Tonight's meeting was a little too soon to have it on the agenda as we need to evaluate

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

- the bids and perform a financial analysis of costs, grants towards each, and what we will need to request Council to approve. We will be calling a Special Council meeting soon, as we can't wait until next month's regular meeting, but could not be prepared for tonight. County Council is scheduled to meet tomorrow and we should know for sure about our CDBG request for funds for this year that was submitted to them for floating aeration in basin #2 at the WWTP.
  
- **H-Tax Projects** – Since our last Council meeting, we have made great progress on moving forward with many of the approved items by Council:
  - **Wilson Street Park/Leesville College Park** – Surveying and geotechnical services for both parks has been completed to date. The design engineers are in the early stages of design work on these projects.
  - **Town Entrance Sign Engineering** – The design engineers are about 80% complete on the design of the new large and small signs and are putting the construction documents together so when we are ready to bid, we will be prepared to do so.
  - **Pine Street Location** – We have officially closed on the Pine Street property and now own it. SCDOT has indicated they are ready to proceed with their construction and widening of the intersection. The FD will conduct some training inside the facility over the next couple weeks and asbestos abatement on the building is slated to begin the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of March. Abatement will take about 1 week and once complete, we will have the building demoed hopefully the first week of April. Surveying and geotechnical services have concluded on this project and our design engineers are underway with full scale design and construction documents.

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

	Feb-21	Jan-21	Dec-20	Nov-20	Oct-20	Sep-20	Aug-20	Jul-20
General Fund Checking	\$ 1,575,401.54	\$ 1,184,406.58	\$ 874,897.00	\$ 936,076.96	\$ 1,222,560.33	\$ 1,464,391.88	\$ 1,587,048.12	\$ 1,773,743.00
General Fund Savings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Police Donations	\$ 7,030.06	\$ 7,030.06	\$ 5,155.06	\$ 5,155.06	\$ 5,155.06	\$ 5,155.06	\$ 5,155.06	\$ 4,655.06
Fire Department 1%	\$ 21,783.92	\$ 21,917.69	\$ 25,385.07	\$ 26,135.07	\$ 26,629.34	\$ 26,629.34	\$ 17,581.74	\$ 14,740.23
Municipal Court	\$ 33,372.91	\$ 32,884.14	\$ 29,942.02	\$ 31,247.14	\$ 35,178.40	\$ 31,459.27	\$ 32,906.28	\$ 32,584.93
Victims Assistance	\$ 584.72	\$ 429.40	\$ 349.79	\$ 1,240.47	\$ 812.96	\$ 1,359.56	\$ 1,073.76	\$ 714.00
<b>Total (Non-Utility Funds)</b>	<b>\$ 1,638,173.15</b>	<b>\$ 1,246,667.87</b>	<b>\$ 935,728.94</b>	<b>\$ 999,854.70</b>	<b>\$ 1,290,336.09</b>	<b>\$ 1,528,995.11</b>	<b>\$ 1,643,764.96</b>	<b>\$ 1,826,437.22</b>
Utility Fund Checking	\$ 245,445.78	\$ 413,544.84	\$ 408,886.93	\$ 338,021.79	\$ 282,177.69	\$ 240,621.22	\$ 149,392.83	\$ 92,722.75
Utility Fund Reserve	\$ 767,839.43	\$ 767,833.59	\$ 767,827.12	\$ 767,814.76	\$ 767,789.54	\$ 767,756.97	\$ 767,725.47	\$ 767,683.46
Capital Improvement Project/Impact	\$ 1,564,230.19	\$ 1,547,282.05	\$ 1,512,698.79	\$ 1,544,929.45	\$ 1,551,894.04	\$ 1,517,168.04	\$ 1,520,775.86	\$ 1,483,730.95
USDA Debt Service Reserve	\$ 564,815.42	\$ 564,811.16	\$ 564,806.43	\$ 564,797.36	\$ 564,778.85	\$ 564,754.97	\$ 564,731.85	\$ 564,700.97
USDA Depreciation	\$ 3.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 3.00
Senior Assistance	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00
<b>Total (All Utility Funds)</b>	<b>\$ 3,142,335.82</b>	<b>\$ 3,293,476.64</b>	<b>\$ 3,254,224.27</b>	<b>\$ 3,215,568.36</b>	<b>\$ 3,166,645.12</b>	<b>\$ 3,090,306.20</b>	<b>\$ 3,002,631.01</b>	<b>\$ 2,908,843.13</b>
Hospitality Tax Checking	\$ 712,375.95	\$ 930,701.19	\$ 890,031.96	\$ 850,525.68	\$ 850,064.91	\$ 806,007.87	\$ 761,699.34	\$ 731,740.64
<b>Total All Funds</b>	<b>\$ 5,492,884.92</b>	<b>\$ 5,470,845.70</b>	<b>\$ 5,079,985.17</b>	<b>\$ 5,065,948.74</b>	<b>\$ 5,307,046.12</b>	<b>\$ 5,425,309.18</b>	<b>\$ 5,408,095.31</b>	<b>\$ 5,467,020.99</b>

**Monthly Account Balances for February Since 2015**

	Feb-21	Feb-20	Feb-19	Feb-18	Feb-17	Feb-16	Feb-15
General Fund Checking	\$ 1,575,401.54	\$ 1,257,082.58	\$ 1,323,309.07	\$ 1,452,873.85	\$ 1,349,312.96	\$ 1,247,195.26	\$ 1,148,348.90
General Fund Savings	\$ -	\$ 37,351.55	\$ 37,351.55	\$ 37,351.55	\$ 43,401.55	\$ 43,401.55	\$ 69,721.07
Police Donations	\$ 7,030.06	\$ 5,655.06	\$ 13,887.82	\$ 13,280.68	\$ 9,531.96	\$ 8,629.07	\$ 10,485.59
Fire Department 1%	\$ 21,783.92	\$ 15,448.71	\$ 16,091.20	\$ 11,759.27	\$ 13,459.67	\$ 14,410.24	\$ 11,985.50
Municipal Court	\$ 33,372.91	\$ 37,686.82	\$ 35,607.29	\$ 29,495.94	\$ 39,807.43	\$ 29,722.92	\$ 31,485.05
Victims Assistance	\$ 584.72	\$ 395.26	\$ 288.14	\$ 253.97	\$ 130.02	\$ 143.78	\$ 99.89
<b>Total (Non-Utility Funds)</b>	<b>\$ 1,638,173.15</b>	<b>\$ 1,353,619.98</b>	<b>\$ 1,426,535.07</b>	<b>\$ 1,545,015.26</b>	<b>\$ 1,455,643.59</b>	<b>\$ 1,343,502.82</b>	<b>\$ 1,272,126.00</b>
Utility Fund Checking	\$ 245,445.78	\$ 119,802.48	\$ 247,270.91	\$ 246,831.39	\$ 409,522.34	\$ 196,367.19	\$ 98,229.95
Utility Fund Reserve	\$ 767,839.43	\$ 766,723.23	\$ 760,597.92	\$ 755,279.52	\$ 847,749.51	\$ 561,651.49	\$ 699,008.44
Capital Improvement Project/Impact	\$ 1,564,230.19	\$ 1,441,469.82	\$ 1,157,595.61	\$ 597,171.69	\$ 44,726.72	\$ 15,484.72	\$ 7,759.72
USDA Debt Service Reserve	\$ 564,815.42	\$ 563,994.68	\$ 559,489.23	\$ 555,700.00	\$ 231,081.00	\$ 231,080.00	\$ 231,080.00
USDA Depreciation	\$ 3.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00	\$ -
Senior Assistance	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 82.99	\$ 498.83	\$ 2,435.42	\$ 689.53	\$ 2,206.21
<b>Total (All Utility Funds)</b>	<b>\$ 3,142,335.82</b>	<b>\$ 2,891,995.21</b>	<b>\$ 2,725,039.66</b>	<b>\$ 2,155,483.43</b>	<b>\$ 1,535,515.99</b>	<b>\$ 1,005,273.93</b>	<b>\$ 1,038,284.32</b>
Hospitality Tax Checking	\$ 712,375.95	\$ 551,537.15	\$ 41,502.71				
<b>Total All Funds</b>	<b>\$ 5,492,884.92</b>	<b>\$ 4,797,152.34</b>	<b>\$ 4,193,077.44</b>	<b>\$ 3,700,498.69</b>	<b>\$ 2,991,159.58</b>	<b>\$ 2,348,776.75</b>	<b>\$ 2,310,410.32</b>

**General Fund**

Revenues/Expenses thru February 2021	Actual	Budget	% Budget
Operating Revenues	\$ 2,986,289.24	\$ 4,334,551.00	69%
Operating Expenses	\$ 2,902,448.42	\$ 4,334,551.00	67%

**Utility Fund**

Revenues/Expenses thru February 2021	Actual	Budget	% Budget
Operating Revenues	\$ 2,314,738.78	\$ 3,315,031.00	70%
Operating Expenses	\$ 2,009,394.19	\$ 3,315,031.00	61%

**Victim's Assistance Fund**

Revenues/Expenses thru February 2021	Actual	Budget	% Budget
Operating Revenues	\$ 4,026.12	\$ 7,500.00	54%
Operating Expenses	\$ 4,833.78	\$ 7,500.00	64%

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

**Hospitality Tax Fund**

<u>Revenues/Expenses thru February 2021</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>% Budget</u>
Operating Revenues	\$ 386,706.90	\$ 452,000.00	86%
Operating Expenses	\$ 364,343.21	\$ 452,000.00	81%

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Council Member Gambrell with a second by Council Member Etheredge to go into Executive Session at 7:31 P. M. to discuss the following items.

- A. Discussion of Contractual Matters Relating to Indigent Defense Services**
- B. Discussion of Negotiation Incident to Proposed Contractual Arrangements for Possible Purchase of Property Along West Church Street**
- C. Discussion of Personnel Matters Relating to the Manager's Evaluation**

With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 9 Approved                      0 Denied

Council Member Mitchell did not go into Executive Session until Item #C was discussed.

A motion was made by Council Member Gambrell with a second by Council Member Etheredge to return to Regular Council Meeting at 8:22 P. M. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 9 Approved                      0 Denied

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

- A. Possible Action Regarding Contractual Matters Relating to Indigent Defense Services - No Action Taken**



