

*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. 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.*

## **COUNCIL WORK SESSION**

**JULY 14, 2021**

The Council Work Session for the Town of Batesburg-Leesville was held in Building B of the Town Hall Complex. Mayor Shull called the meeting to order at 6:02 P. M. Members present were Mayor Shull, Council Members Etheredge, Gambrell, Cain, Lemon, and Hall. Council Members Mitchell, Wise, and Prouse were absent.

## **INVOCATION**

The invocation was given by Pansy Buzhardt.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Discussion Related to Community Action Report from Community Meetings Related to Recent Gun Violence**

Mayor Shull turned the meeting over to Council Member Cain. Council Member Cain stated "after a Town-Hall style community meeting and constructive conversations with the community, we are presenting to the community, Council, and the Town Administration a comprehensive strategy to invest in evidence-based community violence interventions to combat gun violence and other violent crimes." This strategy implements preventive measures that are proven to reduce violent crime and attacks the root causes – including by addressing education and work opportunities for teens and young adults. This strategy organizes the Council into standing committees composed of Council Members and citizens and it utilizes a portion of the US Treasury Department's American Rescue Plan funds allocated to Batesburg-Leesville. These funds are geared towards effective community policing, in addition to supporting proven Community Violence Intervention Programs, summer employment opportunities, and other investments that will reduce crime and make our neighborhoods safer.

## STANDING COMMITTEES

Responding to recent gun violence in our community and hearing the concerns of B-L citizens, we propose standing Council committees to address urgent Town needs – community policing, education and work opportunities. The Committees are designed to facilitate oversight of the business of the Town of Batesburg-Leesville. Standing Committees are established under the terms set forth by the B-L Town Council. The work of the Standing Committees shall be advisory to the Council unless otherwise specified in a Committee Charter or as directed by Council.

## DESIGNATION OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- **Finance and Capital Strategies Committee**
  - **Public Safety Committee**
  - **Economic Development, Job Creation, Commerce and Industry Committee**
- Council Member Cain stated "this Committee has to be funded and their budget provides funding for economic development programs through allocations to Batesburg-Leesville from The American Rescue Plan. Funding through this program is a one-time grant to local governments to develop stable and growing local economies. The enacted budget provides an appropriation of \$300,000." Further discussion was held on standing committees and their responsibilities.

## ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Council Member Hall with a second by Council Member Gambrell to adjourn at 6:55 P. M. With no discussion, a vote was taken.


VOTE:                      6 Approved                      0 Denied

Approved this 9<sup>th</sup> day of August 2021.



Lancer D. Shull, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Judy E. Edwards, Town Clerk