

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.

PUBLIC HEARING

FEBRUARY 14, 2022

Mayor Shull opened the Public Hearing at 7:00 to receive citizen input on an **Ordinance Relating to Quit Claim Deed for Leesville Alley**. Since no one appeared before Council, Mayor Shull closed the Public Hearing at 7:01 P. M.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The Regular Council Meeting for the Town of Batesburg-Leesville was held in Building B of the Town Hall Complex. Mayor Shull called the meeting to order at 7:01 P. M. Members present were Mayor Shull, Council Member Brown, Gambrell, Cain, Lemon, Wise, Prouse, and Hall. Council Member Mitchell was absent.

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Rev. Kent Suits.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Council Member Prouse with a second by Council Member Gambrell 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 Hall to adopt the minutes of the January 10, 2022 Regular Council Meeting. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 8 Approved 0 Denied

THE COMET ADVISORY COMMITTEE – Council Member Cain

Council Member Cain reported the committee meets several times throughout the month. Work is being done on their budget and several employees have been recognized for their outstanding service. Stated the Lexington County members of their board are nonvoting members. Since the Town does not pay the Comet, our participation is advisory, we are not in a voting capacity. Our Council needs to move forward to fund route 97 so we can be voting members.

JOINT MUNICIPAL WATER/SEWER COMMISSION – Mayor Shull

Mayor Shull reported the Commission met last week, had their annual audit, a positive audit with a solid year end financially. Work on the tank behind Publix continues, also a lot of support for the Commission members from Pelion, Red Bank and Swansea. Staff was recognized for twenty years of service.

B-L CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – Mike Taylor, President

The Batesburg-Leesville Chamber of Commerce & Visitor’s Center presented its request for Accommodation Tax Funding on February 2, 2022. We have been informed that the request was approved by the committee and will now go to Lexington County Council for approval during the budget process.

Attended two meetings with the SC Chamber of Commerce, one virtually and the other in person, and both contained a legislative update. An alarming state is the drastically rising number of unfilled teaching jobs, with over 1,000 open teacher vacancies for '21-'22. At our meeting at the SC Chamber of Commerce we received presentations from Major General Grimsley, SC Secretary of Veterans’ Affairs, and Steve Padgett of Blue-Cross BlueShield. You may not be aware but Chambers of Commerce in South Carolina have the opportunity to offer health insurance through BlueCross BlueShield structured for those from 2–50 employees and 51-100 employees. We have several businesses who have taken advantage in the larger group. The small group plan has just been restructured to offer up to 38 plan options. I hope this will allow our small businesses to find affordable health insurance for their employees.

Arts on the Ridge is hopeful to have the theatrical camp this summer depending on the

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CONT'D.

Summer plans of our school district and the Summer Literacy Program held at Faith Lutheran Church. The Committee is planning to hold an event again in October.

The first fund raising event of the year will be Saturday, March 19th at T & S Farm with Taste of the Town returning in 2022. Fifteen chefs from our community will be sharing their favorite recipes. More information will be shared soon.

PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Stephen Cain signed up to speak on Item XII, Possible Actions By Council In Follow Up to Executive Session.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Second Reading to an **Ordinance Relating to Quit Deed for Leesville Alley** was held. A motion was made by Council Member Prouse with a second by Council Member Wise to adopt the Ordinance as presented in the packet. After discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 8 Approve 0 Denied

NEW BUSINESS

A. Presentation of Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Financial Audit by McGregor & Company
Manager Luckadoo introduced Neal Crider with the McGregor Company.

- Mr. Crider began by stating the Town received an unmodified opinion or "clean opinion" on the financial statements.
- There were no reportable findings this year.
- The General Fund increased by \$731,110 to \$2,315,444 which leaves about 6.5 months of operating space which is excellent.
- The Hospitality Tax Fund brought in \$624,306 and \$710,678 was spent with an ending fund balance of \$603,640.
- The Utility Fund generated \$726,532 in net income bringing retained earnings to \$11,365,661 at year end.
- Overall, the Town net position, including all assets and liabilities, remained positive at \$2,405,586 for governmental activities and \$11,365,661 business-type activities.

MANAGER'S REPORT – Ted Luckadoo

A. Presentation by Representative Cal Forest

Representative Forest presented Police Chief Wallace Oswald with a House Resolution .

B. BLPD End of year Report for 2021 – Police Chief Wallace Oswald

Chief Oswald gave his annual 2021 report for the Police Department on Crime Statistics, Incident reports, Comparison on Offense Reports, Accident Reports, Traffic Tickets, Detention Center, Calls dispatched, Citizens assisted in person by dispatch, 2021 breakdown by race, gender.

C. BLFD End of year report for 2021 – Fire Chief Josh Frye

Fire Chief Frye gave his annual 2021 report for the Fire Department on the 2021 Highlights, training, 2021 calls (1052 total), calls by the month, response times, call volume by area. Average personnel response to calls, 2021 call volume peaks, an intriguing data.

D. UPCOMING EVENTS

- The Town Egg Hunt will be held on Wednesday, April 13th from 5:30-7:30pm at Leesville College Park. This will be the first Egg Hunt since April of 2019 due to COVID-19. This will be the week of Spring Break for Lexington 3.
- We will be hosting our 2nd Annual Batesburg-Leesville Spring Clean event this year on Saturday, March 19th from 9:00-12:00am. We will be reaching out to all the groups that took part in last year's event to join us again this year. Last year we had over 260 people pick up over 5 tons (10,000 lbs) of trash in 3 hours. We hope everyone will join us this year. We have partnered with Palmetto Pride, Keep the Midlands Beautiful, and Waste Management for this year's event.
- This year's Electronic Recycling event will be held on Saturday, April 23rd from 8:00-12:00pm at the B-L High School parking lot. We will be accepting tires (limit 8), scrap metal, paper shredding, and electronic (limit 8).

MERCHANT INPUT SESSIONS ON DOWNTOWN ENGINEERING & DESIGN

- Since last month's Council meeting, we held the two public input sessions on both downtown Batesburg and downtown Leesville business district redevelopment. We had about 28 people attend the Batesburg session and 35 attend the Leesville session. There was great feedback from those attending both. In follow up to those sessions, we have

Regular Council Meeting

February 14, 2022

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MANAGER'S REPORT CONT'D.

since met with our engineers to discuss the feedback and thoughts on the input as it relates to moving into design drawings.

TOWN FINANCIAL/BUDGET UPDATE

Monthly Account Balances for Fiscal Year 2021/2022

	Jan-22	Dec-21	Nov-21	Oct-21	Sep-21	Aug-21	Jul-21
General Fund Checking	\$ 1,546,651.98	\$ 1,096,802.21	\$ 1,264,096.96	\$ 1,486,972.36	\$ 1,697,943.83	\$ 1,910,524.77	\$ 2,140,759.00
General Fund Savings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Police Donations	\$ 8,786.15	\$ 8,786.15	\$ 9,917.03	\$ 8,088.83	\$ 8,088.83	\$ 9,961.02	\$ 15,696.97
Fire Department 1%	\$ 22,878.84	\$ 13,523.85	\$ 22,297.79	\$ 22,844.09	\$ 23,086.92	\$ 20,844.89	\$ 20,844.89
Municipal Court	\$ 34,595.29	\$ 35,955.70	\$ 34,242.60	\$ 32,111.87	\$ 33,659.86	\$ 35,800.50	\$ 38,478.71
Victims Assistance	\$ 1,017.33	\$ 891.90	\$ 354.10	\$ 386.75	\$ 2,599.05	\$ 2,254.28	\$ 1,955.25
Total (Non-Utility Funds)	\$ 1,613,929.59	\$ 1,155,959.81	\$ 1,330,908.48	\$ 1,550,403.90	\$ 1,765,378.49	\$ 1,979,385.46	\$ 2,217,734.82
Utility Fund Checking	\$ 283,872.00	\$ 260,520.24	\$ 336,884.69	\$ 314,405.61	\$ 284,577.69	\$ 229,673.30	\$ 288,354.46
Utility Fund Reserve	\$ 767,888.35	\$ 767,888.35	\$ 767,888.35	\$ 767,888.35	\$ 767,884.18	\$ 767,877.95	\$ 767,871.48
Capital Improvement Project/Impact	\$ 1,799,536.70	\$ 1,688,018.28	\$ 1,632,591.86	\$ 1,589,625.44	\$ 1,596,445.37	\$ 1,544,163.17	\$ 1,544,580.89
USDA Debt Service Reserve	\$ 564,851.44	\$ 564,851.44	\$ 564,851.44	\$ 564,851.44	\$ 564,848.36	\$ 564,843.73	\$ 564,838.96
American Rescue Plan Funds	\$ 1,166,463.88	\$ 1,166,463.88	\$ 1,347,914.52	\$ 1,347,914.52	\$ 1,347,914.52	\$ 2.00	\$ 3.00
2021 Infrastructure Revenue Bond	\$ 2,676,669.61	\$ 2,832,749.06	\$ 2,808,179.06	\$ 2,550,186.68	\$ 2,944,905.55	\$ 3,154,628.04	\$ 3,154,648.04
Total (All Utility Funds)	\$ 3,416,148.49	\$ 3,281,278.31	\$ 3,302,216.34	\$ 3,236,770.84	\$ 3,213,755.60	\$ 3,106,560.15	\$ 3,165,648.79
Hospitality Tax Checking	\$ 601,999.73	\$ 629,132.01	\$ 640,405.82	\$ 676,371.70	\$ 660,597.95	\$ 645,043.18	\$ 618,284.31
Total All Funds	\$ 5,632,077.81	\$ 5,066,370.13	\$ 5,273,530.64	\$ 5,463,546.44	\$ 5,639,732.04	\$ 5,730,988.79	\$ 6,001,667.92

MONTHLY ACCOUNT BALANCES FOR JANUARY SINCE 2015

	Jan-22	Jan-21	Jan-20	Jan-19	Jan-18	Jan-17	Jan-16	Jan-15
General Fund Checking	\$ 1,546,651.98	\$ 1,184,406.58	\$ 869,275.52	\$ 775,627.57	\$ 974,893.97	\$ 923,377.82	\$ 788,554.25	\$ 677,347.71
General Fund Savings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 37,351.55	\$ 37,351.55	\$ 37,351.55	\$ 43,401.55	\$ 43,401.55	\$ 158,645.07
Police Donations	\$ 8,786.15	\$ 7,030.06	\$ 5,655.06	\$ 11,248.82	\$ 13,280.68	\$ 8,881.96	\$ 10,255.89	\$ 10,515.54
Fire Department 1%	\$ 22,878.84	\$ 21,917.69	\$ 15,448.71	\$ 16,091.20	\$ 11,834.02	\$ 13,571.43	\$ 14,804.15	\$ 12,065.01
Municipal Court	\$ 34,595.29	\$ 32,884.14	\$ 37,686.82	\$ 30,817.79	\$ 29,495.94	\$ 34,299.90	\$ 30,038.31	\$ 34,692.87
Victims Assistance	\$ 1,017.33	\$ 429.40	\$ 667.88	\$ 95.29	\$ 339.71	\$ 34.82	\$ 72.75	\$ 184.66
Total (Non-Utility Funds)	\$ 1,613,929.59	\$ 1,246,667.87	\$ 966,085.54	\$ 871,232.22	\$ 1,067,195.87	\$ 1,023,567.48	\$ 887,126.90	\$ 893,450.86
Utility Fund Checking	\$ 283,872.00	\$ 413,544.84	\$ 200,045.09	\$ 431,526.77	\$ 420,610.23	\$ 604,573.29	\$ 170,915.29	\$ 90,404.81
Utility Fund Reserve	\$ 767,888.35	\$ 767,833.59	\$ 766,236.09	\$ 760,131.34	\$ 755,192.62	\$ 879,203.62	\$ 580,690.16	\$ 674,011.38
Capital Improvement Project/Impact	\$ 1,799,536.70	\$ 1,547,282.05	\$ 1,516,208.16	\$ 1,152,970.59	\$ 537,368.27	\$ 48,152.72	\$ 13,049.72	\$ 7,759.72
USDA Debt Service Reserve	\$ 564,851.44	\$ 564,811.16	\$ 563,636.36	\$ 559,145.99	\$ 555,700.00	\$ 231,081.00	\$ 231,080.00	\$ 231,080.00
American Rescue Plan Funds	\$ 1,166,463.88	\$ 3.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 1.00	\$ -	\$ -
2021 Infrastructure Revenue Bond	\$ 2,676,669.61	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 560.78	\$ 2,805.39	\$ 1,172.62	\$ 2,366.95	\$ 3,697.42
Total (All Utility Funds)	\$ 3,416,148.49	\$ 3,293,476.64	\$ 3,046,130.70	\$ 2,904,338.47	\$ 2,271,678.51	\$ 1,764,184.25	\$ 998,102.12	\$ 1,006,953.33
Hospitality Tax Checking	\$ 601,999.73	\$ 930,701.19	\$ 492,911.09	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total All Funds	\$ 5,632,077.81	\$ 5,470,845.70	\$ 4,505,127.33	\$ 3,775,570.69	\$ 3,338,874.38	\$ 2,787,751.73	\$ 1,885,229.02	\$ 1,900,404.19

General Fund

Revenues/Expenses thru January 2021	Actual	Budget	% Budget
Operating Revenues	\$ 2,437,423.33	\$ 4,676,151.00	52%
Operating Expenses	\$ 2,942,229.02	\$ 4,676,151.00	63%

Utility Fund

Revenues/Expenses thru January 2021	Actual	Budget	% Budget
Operating Revenues	\$ 2,725,135.99	\$ 3,280,700.00	83%
Operating Expenses	\$ 2,815,945.21	\$ 3,280,700.00	86%

* Operating expenses and revenues includes funds towards WWTP improvements that has come from Revenue Bond funds

Victim's Assistance Fund

Revenues/Expenses thru January 2021	Actual	Budget	% Budget
Operating Revenues	\$ 3,854.32	\$ 7,500.00	51%
Operating Expenses	\$ 4,487.00	\$ 7,500.00	60%

Hospitality Tax Fund

Revenues/Expenses thru January 2021	Actual	Budget	% Budget
Operating Revenues	\$ 370,882.91	\$ 565,300.00	66%
Operating Expenses	\$ 373,772.44	\$ 565,300.00	66%

C. Possible Action Relating to Contract with Hazen & Sawyer for Preliminary Design of Water Transmission System

A motion was made by Council Member Prouse with a second by Council Member Wise to accept the contract as presented from Hazen & Sawyer during Executive Session. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 7 Approved 1 Denied – Council Member Cain

POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MONTH'S MEETING – March 14, 2022

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Council Member Gambrell with a second by Council Member Prouse to adjourn at 9:04 P. M. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

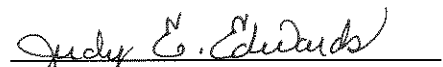
VOTE: 8 Approved 0 Denied

Approved this 14th day of March 2022.



Lancer D. Shull, Mayor

ATTEST:



Judy E. Edwards, Town Clerk