

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.

COUNCIL MEETING

February 13, 2023

A 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 Brown, Gambrell, Cain, Lemon, Mitchell, Wise, Prouse, and Hall.

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Pastor Kent Suits of Christ Community Church.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

VOTE: 9 Approved 0 Denied

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Council Member Hall with a second by Council Member Lemon to adopt the minutes from the January 9, 2023 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 will be March 13, 2023.

CENTRAL MIDLANDS – Council Member Hall

Council Member Hall reported that Central Midlands COG met on January 26th and voted to increase the operating budget to include \$194,000 in additional revenue from state funds. They also received an updated from the SCDOT Assistant Secretary for Communications on data collection and review capabilities.

**ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING & ADVISORY COMMITTEE (E. P. A. C.)
Council Member Prouse**

Council Member Prouse reported there was no meeting.

THE COMET ADVISORY COMMITTEE – Council Member Cain

Council Member Cain reported the board is still trying to assess where Lexington County and the COMET are going to work together to provide satellite services.

JOINT MUNICIPAL WATER/SEWER COMMISSION – Mayor Shull

The commission met and reviewed the annual audit at their monthly meeting.

B-L CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – Mike Taylor, Executive Director

- Attended two Economic Development meetings recently.
- Plans are being made for the Taste of the Town event on March 18th at 7:00 pm at T&S Farms.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Daphyne Ridgell spoke in support of the requested funding for the South Carolina Poultry Festival's request for fund from the Hospitality Tax.
- Brent Shealy spoke in support of the requested funding for the South Carolina Poultry Festival's request for fund from the Hospitality Tax
- Tommy Shealy spoke in support of the requested funding for the South Carolina Poultry Festival's request for fund from the Hospitality Tax

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business

NEW BUSINESS

No New Business

MANAGER'S REPORT – Ted Luckadoo

UPCOMING TOWN EVENTS

- The Town will be hosting our Annual Spring Clean event on Saturday, March 18th from 9:00am until noon. We are calling on everyone who has participated in the past, along with new churches, organizations, businesses, and citizens to come take part in what has been a wonderful event over the past couple of years. If interested in participating, people should contact Jay Hendrix. We will also have paper shredding and tire recycling that will be done in College Park.
- The Town Easter Egg Hunt will be Wednesday, April 5th from 5:30pm until 7:00pm at College Park. There will be games, activities, food and more.

PROJECT UPDATES

- The contractor for the upcoming sidewalk repair/replacement along Summerland Avenue is expected to begin work this week. They are hopeful to have the work completed in a week. However, weather appears to be moving in this week and that could cause them another week of work.
- AOS Specialty Contractors have gotten most of the new sidewalk completed along Highway 23, however, there is still a little work left to be done. They are certainly on track to be done prior to the June 30th deadline by contract.
- Since last months meeting, we held the pre-construction meeting with the contractors for the infiltration/inflow project. They began work the first week of this month by locating some manholes that couldn't be located during the study, but were shown on plans. They also have cctv about 1,500 lf of sewer lines that are in the high priority category. They have located 10 manholes that were previously not found. Also, crews have been out at the Davis Pond location outside our treatment plant and they demo two beaver dams that were causing ponding within our easement and made it to where manholes and lines were under water. Once this area dries out, crews can begin work on raising some manholes and fixing lines.

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- We held the pre-construction meeting since last month for the liquid chemical feed project at the WWTP. Work is expected to begin the first part of April. They expect to be done with the project by September.
- We received notification this week that we have received a \$96,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation's SC Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program. This is an initial grant to create an Action Plan for safe streets and roads in both of our downtown business districts. This is a first phase towards trying to receive millions in future years. This is a 5 year grant in which you can apply for millions towards creating safer roads for traffic and pedestrians. We intend to try and receive most if not all of our funds for our downtown business districts improvements from this grant. However, we can't apply for the millions needed for improvements unless we have this action plan in place. We will work with engineers to create the plan, once created, we will apply next year for the funding needed for all improvements within our downtown business districts. We will have a \$24,000 match, which we will likely bring to Council for approval in March. We first need to get the details on next steps and all information prior to coming to Council. We were one of 6 entities from South Carolina approved for funding this year. The others include the City of Aiken, City of Clemson, City of Rock Hill, Lowcountry Council of Governments, Myrtle Beach – Socastee Metro Planning Organization and us. Fingers are crossed that this opportunity can mostly, if not, fully fund our future downtown revitalization efforts through this program.

TOWN FINANCIAL/BUDGET UPDATE

Monthly Account Balances for Fiscal Year 2022/2023

	Jan-23	Dec-22	Nov-22	Oct-22	Sep-22	Aug-22	Jul-22
General Fund Checking	\$ 1,076,295.79	\$ 906,304.20	\$ 1,072,932.64	\$ 1,237,960.97	\$ 1,474,661.60	\$ 2,054,627.16	\$ 2,385,182.86
General Fund Savings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Police Donations	\$ 14,167.50	\$ 17,992.41	\$ 22,650.68	\$ 19,622.49	\$ 19,622.49	\$ 19,622.49	\$ 19,232.29
Fire Department 1%	\$ 26,108.38	\$ 31,926.00	\$ 32,669.10	\$ 35,154.32	\$ 24,605.75	\$ 24,934.71	\$ 21,259.67
Municipal Court	\$ 40,577.36	\$ 37,314.74	\$ 38,235.99	\$ 38,616.08	\$ 45,546.85	\$ 55,852.11	\$ 41,418.46
Victims Assistance	\$ 8,813.95	\$ 8,489.42	\$ 7,886.52	\$ 7,499.80	\$ 6,659.04	\$ 5,751.91	\$ 5,321.70
Total (Non-Utility Funds)	\$ 1,165,962.98	\$ 1,002,026.77	\$ 1,174,374.93	\$ 1,338,853.66	\$ 1,571,095.73	\$ 2,160,788.38	\$ 2,472,414.88
Utility Fund Checking	\$ 227,088.00	\$ 362,932.59	\$ 385,406.30	\$ 396,457.33	\$ 385,171.49	\$ 361,937.66	\$ 350,045.05
Utility Fund Reserve	\$ 767,888.35	\$ 767,888.35	\$ 767,888.35	\$ 767,888.35	\$ 767,888.35	\$ 767,888.35	\$ 767,888.35
Capital Improvement Project/Impact Fee	\$ 2,117,491.87	\$ 2,093,036.01	\$ 2,064,548.86	\$ 2,157,109.56	\$ 2,105,411.14	\$ 2,099,424.59	\$ 2,047,726.17
USDA Debt Service Reserve	\$ 564,851.44	\$ 564,851.44	\$ 564,851.44	\$ 564,851.44	\$ 564,851.44	\$ 564,851.44	\$ 564,851.44
American Rescue Plan Funds	\$ 1,950,092.34	\$ 1,952,556.09	\$ 1,965,053.07	\$ 1,978,559.42	\$ 841,471.38	\$ 841,471.38	\$ 841,471.38
2021 Infrastructure Revenue Bond	\$ 973,978.55	\$ 973,978.55	\$ 973,978.55	\$ 1,219,804.41	\$ 1,392,817.60	\$ 1,392,817.60	\$ 1,392,817.60
Total (All Utility Funds)	\$ 3,677,319.66	\$ 3,788,708.39	\$ 3,782,694.95	\$ 3,886,306.68	\$ 3,823,322.42	\$ 3,794,102.04	\$ 3,730,506.84
Hospitality Tax Checking	\$ 841,904.25	\$ 794,410.12	\$ 727,019.08	\$ 757,986.99	\$ 703,998.52	\$ 682,849.10	\$ 626,956.52
Total All Funds	\$ 5,685,186.89	\$ 5,585,145.28	\$ 5,684,088.96	\$ 5,983,147.33	\$ 6,098,416.67	\$ 6,637,739.52	\$ 6,829,878.34

Monthly Account Balances for January Since 2015

	Jan-23	Jan-22	Jan-21	Jan-20	Jan-19	Jan-18	Jan-17	Jan-16	Jan-15
General Fund Checking	\$ 1,076,295.79	\$ 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	\$ 14,167.50	\$ 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%	\$ 26,108.38	\$ 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	\$ 40,577.36	\$ 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	\$ 8,813.95	\$ 1,017.33	\$ 429.40	\$ 667.88	\$ 95.29	\$ 339.71	\$ 34.82	\$ 72.75	\$ 184.66
Total (Non-Utility Funds)	\$ 1,165,962.98	\$ 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	\$ 227,088.00	\$ 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	\$ 767,888.35	\$ 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 Fee	\$ 2,117,491.87	\$ 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	\$ 564,851.44	\$ 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	\$ 1,950,092.34	\$ 1,166,463.88	\$ 3.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 1.00	\$ -	\$ -
2021 Infrastructure Revenue Bond	\$ 973,978.55	\$ 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)	\$ 3,677,319.66	\$ 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	\$ 841,904.25	\$ 601,999.73	\$ 930,701.19	\$ 492,911.09	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total All Funds	\$ 5,685,186.89	\$ 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 2023	Actual	Budget	% Budget
Operating Revenues	\$ 2,155,062.85	\$ 5,214,651.00	41%
Operating Expenses	\$ 3,255,889.19	\$ 5,214,651.00	62%

Utility Fund

Revenues/Expenses thru January 2023	Actual	Budget	% Budget
Operating Revenues	\$ 2,054,370.94	\$ 3,321,100.00	62%
Operating Expenses	\$ 2,001,376.44	\$ 3,321,100.00	60%

Victim's Assistance Fund

Revenues/Expenses thru January 2023	Actual	Budget	% Budget
Operating Revenues	\$ 5,667.84	\$ 7,500.00	76%
Operating Expenses	\$ 4,334.25	\$ 7,500.00	58%

Hospitality Tax Fund

Revenues/Expenses thru January 2023	Actual	Budget	% Budget
Operating Revenues	\$ 416,756.86	\$ 625,000.00	67%
Operating Expenses	\$ 151,403.94	\$ 625,000.00	24%

BLPD End of Year Report for 2022 – Chief Darren Amick

PowerPoint at end of minutes.

BLFD End of the Year Report for 2022 – Chief Josh Frye

PowerPoint at end of minutes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion from Council Member Hall with a second from Council Member Gambrell to go into Executive Session at 8:04 pm.

VOTE: 9 Approved 0 Denied

A motion from Council Member Hall with a second from Council Member Gambrell to return from Executive Session at 8:36 pm.

VOTE: 9 Approved 0 Denied

POSSIBLE ACTIONS BY COUNCIL IN FOLLOW UP TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Council Member Cain to approve the sponsorship of the South Carolina Poultry Festival for this year only and for the hospitality committee to work with the Town Manager to come up with a process where we fund other non-profits in the town according to their guidance. There was no second and the motion failed.

Mayor Shull stated that council requests the Town Manager to return to town council with a plan and procedure policy allowing organizations to request Hospitality Tax Funds from the Town.

POTENTIAL AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MONTH'S MEETING – March 13, 2023

None

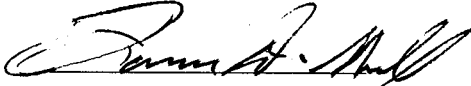
ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Council Member Hall with a second by Council Member Gambrell to adjourn at 8:39 P. M. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

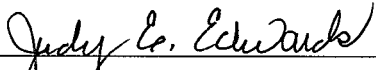
VOTE: 9 Approved 0 Denied

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Approved this 13th day of March, 2023.


Lancer D. Shull, Mayor

ATTEST:


Judy Edwards, Town Clerk