

In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, the news media and the public was 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

September 11, 2023

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 7:02 P. M. Members present were Mayor Shull, Council Member Brown, Gambrell, Cain, Speech-Lemon, Mitchell, Wise, Prouse, and Hall.

INVOCATION

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

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 Hall with a second by Council Member Gambrell to approve the agenda as presented. 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 Gambrell to adopt the minutes from the August 14, 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 October 9, 2023,

CENTRAL MIDLANDS - Council Member Hall

Council Member Hall reported that Central Midlands met August 24, 2023 and discussed proposed Board By-Law changes and the auditor's report.

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

Council Member Prouse reported the next scheduled meeting is October 18, 2023.

THE COMET ADVISORY COMMITTEE - Council Member Cain

Council Member Cain reported that the committee continues to work on Route 97.

JOINT MUNICIPAL WATER/SEWER COMMISSION - Mayor Shull

Mayor Shull reported the commission discussed the bids which were received for the water project between JQMSC and the Town of Batesburg-Leesville. A recommendation will be presented soon.

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

Mike Taylor reported the following:

- The Batesburg-Leesville Chamber held their 35th annual auction on August 19th and had record breaking ticket sales, items donated and sponsorships.
- Midlands Technical College is offering the MTC Community Development Series Course: Developing Local Entrepreneurs beginning October 5th. The program will run until December 7th at no charge.
- Arts of the Ridge will host the Fall for the Arts Festival on Sunday October 8th on North Oak Street from 2:00 to 6:00 pm.
- The 2023 Christmas Parade is scheduled for Sunday, December 3rd with time and route to be announced in October.

PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Council vote for excused absence from last month's meeting for Council Member Gambrell.

A Motion was made by Council Member Hall with a second by Council Member Speech-Lemon. With no discussion a vote was taken.

VOTE: 8 Approved 0 Denied 1 Abstained (Gambrell)

B. First Reading - Ordinance to Sell Property Owned by the Town of Batesburg-Leesville Along Pond Branch Road, Lexington County, South Carolina. A Motion was made by Council Member Prouse with a second by Council Member Hall. With no discussion a vote was taken.

VOTE: 9 Approved 0 Denied

C. First Reading – Ordinance to Rezone Two Parcels of Property Located at 311 West Columbia Avenue and Adjoining Property Along Fairchild Street, owned by Shepcar, LLC. (TMS#007023-02-008 and 007023-02-011). A Motion was made by Council Member Prouse with a second by Council Member Hall. Council Member Cain inquired about the details which include a former house which is currently zoned C-1 and has been used as an office. The owners wish for it to be rezoned to C-2, which will allow for more opportunities to use the existing structure. Council Member Hall inquired about the zoning of the Chiropractic Office across Fairchild Street which is located in an R-1 district. After discussion a vote was taken.

VOTE: 9 Approved 0 Denied

D. Council Approval of Request by Property Owner of 139 North Oak Street to Modify Sidewalk Area in Front of Business to Allow for Outdoor Seating. A Motion was made by Council Member Prouse with a second by Council Member Gambrell. Council Member Wise asked about the proposed modifications which will replace the grass strip with concrete to allow outside dining by widening the sidewalk. The motion was amended to include the stipulation that "the concrete shall meet the SCDOT standards for thickness and strength." After discussion a vote was taken.

VOTE: 6 Approved 3 Denied (Gambrell, Cain, Mitchell)

E. **Council Approval of Christmas Light Purchase.** A Motion was made by Council Member Prouse with a second by Council Member Wise. Council Member Mitchell asked about the cost of the purchase to which Town Manager Luckadoo noted the size and commercial grade construction of the products are the primary driver of the cost. Council Member Cain inquired about how much longer would we buy Christmas lights with Luckadoo replying as long as council continues to approve. Council Member Hall inquired about the purchase of 3000' of strand lights and where they will be placed. Manager Luckadoo stated that the hope is to include the buildings along North Oak Street as they are on Main Street. After discussion a vote was taken:

VOTE: 7 Approved 2 Denied (Cain and Mitchell)

F. **Council Approval of Hospitality Tax Grant Application for Arts on the Ridge "Fall for the Arts Festival".** A Motion was made by Council Member Cain with a second by Council Member Hall. With no discussion a vote was taken.

VOTE: 9 Approved 0 Denied

MANAGER'S REPORT – Ted Luckadoo

EVENT UPDATES

- Halloween on Main will be held on Tuesday, October 31st from 6:00 until 8:00pm. Stacey is hard at work putting this together and lining up food trucks, games and activities. It appears we should have all the churches taking part as we have had in previous years.
- Arts on the Ridge will have their "Fall for the Arts" concert event on Sunday, October 8th on Oak Street. It will be from 2:00-6:00pm and they will have the Experiment and the I-20 Horns playing. There will be arts & crafts and food trucks.

PROJECT UPDATES

- Since last month's meeting, we had bid opening for the water project. We received two bids, the lowest being \$10,373,911.10. With us having \$10 million in SCIIP funding from RIA, that leaves us with only \$373,911 towards our portion of the project. With that said, this does not include running a new line to our Lake Murray system, that is a separate project. We are now focused on getting that project ready for bid and funding application with USDA-RD. We are in communication with SCDHEC also regarding the \$4.25 million in Emerging containment funding that we have been awarded. We are looking at increasing the scope of work for the JMWSC project to do complete demolition and decommissioning of the water plant facility, Brodie Pump Station, and all pump station equipment at the Town Pond. By

doing this, we can tap into those free grant funds to get all that work completed, but they will not allow those funds to be used towards going to our Lake Murray system. We will be coming to Council at next months meeting to officially award the water project to the contractor.

- The Liquid Chemical Feed Project is back underway and work is continuing on the concrete slab and electrical. Due to the delay we had awaiting the wage decision for electricians from HUD, the contractor has been given an additional 90 days to complete the work, which has February 2024 as the anticipated completion date.
- The Infiltration and Inflow contractors continue to make good progress on the new lining of the sewer main around the Davis Pond. We have already seen significant improvement to our I/I coming into the plant since they have been working on this portion of line. In August we had more rain than in July, but our flow coming into the plant reduced in half, meaning the improvements are working great.
- We posted an RFP for 2023/2024 C Fund Sidewalk Repair and Replacement. Bids are due by September 21st at 2:00pm, at which point we will have bid opening. This is for repairs along Summerland Avenue, Line Street, West Church Street, Saluda Ave. and Rabun St.

TOWN FINANCIAL/BUDGET UPDATE

Monthly Account Balances for Fiscal Year 2023/2024

	Aug-23	Jul-23
General Fund Checking	\$ 793,486.65	\$ 1,023,649.49
General Fund Savings	\$ -	\$ -
General Fund LGIP Account	\$ 1,112,543.76	\$ 1,107,287.18
Police Donations	\$ 17,227.36	\$ 17,227.36
Fire Department 1%	\$ 33,175.12	\$ 29,756.31
Municipal Court	\$ 44,007.11	\$ 41,687.69
Victims Assistance	\$ 13,012.11	\$ 12,590.62
Total (Non-Utility Funds)	\$ 2,013,452.11	\$ 2,232,198.65
Utility Fund Checking	\$ 372,641.40	\$ 243,135.94
Utility Fund Reserve	\$ -	\$ -
Utility Fund LGIP Account	\$ 2,604,419.46	\$ 2,592,074.66
Capital Improvement Project/Impact Fee	\$ 472,553.60	\$ 503,160.06
USDA Debt Service Reserve	\$ -	\$ -
American Rescue Plan Funds	\$ 1,214,947.62	\$ 1,328,959.37
2021 Infrastructure Revenue Bond	\$ 595,119.26	\$ 595,119.26
Total (All Utility Funds)	\$ 3,449,614.46	\$ 3,338,370.66
Hospitality Tax Checking	\$ 210,982.06	\$ 177,823.58
Hospitality Tax LGIP Account	\$ 910,370.61	\$ 906,069.31
Total (H-Tax Funds)	\$ 1,121,352.67	\$ 1,083,892.89
Total All Funds	\$ 6,584,419.24	\$ 6,654,462.20

Monthly Account Balances for August Since 2014

	Aug-23	Aug-22	Aug-21	Aug-20	Aug-19	Aug-18	Aug-17	Aug-16	Aug-15	Aug-14
General Fund Checking	\$ 793,486.65	\$ 2,054,627.16	\$ 1,910,524.77	\$ 1,587,048.12	\$ 1,272,435.29	\$ 1,555,865.60	\$ 1,522,832.27	\$ 1,364,152.08	\$ 1,347,194.55	\$ 1,240,686.53
General Fund Savings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 37,351.55	\$ 37,351.55	\$ 37,351.55	\$ 43,401.55	\$ 46,433.63	\$ 154,645.07
General Fund LGIP Account	\$ 1,112,543.76									
Police Donations	\$ 17,227.36	\$ 19,622.49	\$ 9,961.02	\$ 5,155.06	\$ 11,558.00	\$ 9,757.17	\$ 8,146.52	\$ 7,766.10	\$ 11,804.98	\$ 11,349.75
Fire Department 1%	\$ 33,175.12	\$ 24,934.71	\$ 20,844.89	\$ 17,581.74	\$ 13,875.50	\$ 14,238.98	\$ 10,979.05	\$ 14,069.87	\$ 11,149.01	\$ 8,638.40
Municipal Court	\$ 44,007.11	\$ 55,852.11	\$ 35,800.50	\$ 32,906.28	\$ 30,975.24	\$ 31,073.07	\$ 33,587.40	\$ 34,993.83	\$ 29,722.92	\$ 31,404.58
Victims Assistance	\$ 13,012.11	\$ 5,751.91	\$ 2,254.28	\$ 1,073.76	\$ 289.67	\$ 280.77	\$ 4.22	\$ 233.55	\$ 143.30	\$ 195.59
Total (Non-Utility Funds)	\$2,013,452.11	\$2,160,788.38	\$1,979,385.46	\$1,643,764.96	\$1,366,485.25	\$1,648,567.14	\$1,612,901.01	\$1,464,616.98	\$1,446,448.39	\$1,446,919.92
Utility Fund Checking	\$ 372,641.40	\$ 361,937.66	\$ 229,673.30	\$ 149,392.83	\$ 256,559.43	\$ 324,234.51	\$ 485,624.80	\$ 377,448.76	\$ 188,174.28	\$ 47,092.65
Utility Fund Reserve	\$ -	\$ 767,888.35	\$ 767,877.95	\$ 767,725.47	\$ 763,671.20	\$ 757,585.86	\$ 1,011,818.95	\$ 650,792.12	\$ 782,777.02	\$ 460,969.33
Utility Fund LGIP Account	\$ 2,604,419.46									
Capital Improvement Project/Impact Fee	\$ 472,553.60	\$ 2,099,424.59	\$ 1,544,163.17	\$ 1,520,775.86	\$ 1,291,512.30	\$ 777,588.04	\$ 58,295.72	\$ 39,901.72	\$ 11,907.72	\$ 3,880.72
USDA Debt Service Reserve	\$ -	\$ 564,851.44	\$ 564,843.73	\$ 564,731.85	\$ 561,749.82	\$ 557,273.27	\$ 231,081.00	\$ 231,081.00	\$ 231,080.00	\$ 231,080.00
American Rescue Plan Funds	\$ 1,214,947.62	\$ 841,471.38	\$ 2.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00	\$ -	\$ -
2021 Infrastructure Revenue Bond	\$ 595,119.26	\$ 1,392,817.60	\$ 3,154,628.04	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 2,453.46	\$ 1,611.57	\$ 2,269.31	\$ 3,114.39	\$ 1,215.85
Total (All Utility Funds)	\$3,449,614.46	\$3,794,102.04	\$3,106,560.15	\$3,002,631.01	\$2,873,497.75	\$2,419,138.14	\$1,788,433.04	\$1,301,493.91	\$1,217,053.41	\$744,238.55
Hospitality Tax Checking	\$ 210,982.06	\$ 682,849.10	\$ 645,043.18	\$ 761,699.34	\$ 320,249.72					
Hospitality Tax LGIP Account	\$ 910,370.61									
Total (H-Tax Funds)	\$1,121,352.67									
Total All Funds	\$6,584,419.24	\$6,637,739.52	\$5,730,988.79	\$5,408,095.31	\$4,560,232.72	\$4,067,705.28	\$3,401,334.05	\$2,766,110.89	\$2,663,501.80	\$2,191,158.47

General Fund

Revenues/Expenses thru August 2023	Actual	Budget	% Budget
Operating Revenues	\$ 883,351.70	\$ 5,680,651.00	16%
Operating Expenses	\$ 772,324.79	\$ 5,680,651.00	14%

Utility Fund

Revenues/Expenses thru August 2023	Actual	Budget	% Budget
Operating Revenues	\$ 915,033.97	\$ 9,241,200.00	10%
Operating Expenses	\$ 805,259.60	\$ 9,241,200.00	9%

Victim's Assistance Fund

Revenues/Expenses thru August 2023	Actual	Budget	% Budget
Operating Revenues	\$ 1,195.84	\$ 9,500.00	13%
Operating Expenses	\$ 1,155.80	\$ 9,500.00	12%

Hospitality Tax Fund

<u>Revenues/Expenses thru August 2023</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>% Budget</u>
Operating Revenues	\$ 131,421.12	\$ 710,000.00	19%
Operating Expenses	\$ 74,753.07	\$ 710,000.00	11%

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

POSSIBLE ACTIONS BY COUNCIL IN FOLLOW UP TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

POTENTIAL AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MONTH'S MEETING- October 9, 2023

A motion was made by Council Member Prouse with a second from Council Member Gambrell to discuss and possibly take action regarding the Pine Street parking lot. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

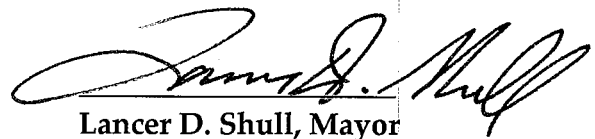
VOTE: 9 Approved 0 Denied

ADJOURNMENT

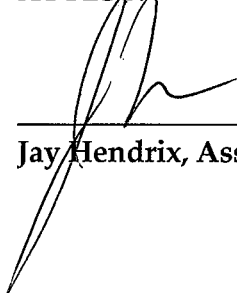
A motion was made by Council Member Gambrell with a second by Council Member Prouse to adjourn at 7:38 P. M. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 9 Approved 0 Denied

Approved this 9th day of October 2023.


Lancer D. Shull, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jay Hendrix, Assistant Town Manager