

In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, the news media 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 front door of the Batesburg-Leesville Town Hall no later than twenty-four hours prior to the meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING

October 9, 2023

Mayor Shull opened the first Public Hearing at 7:00 P. M. to receive citizen input on an **Ordinance to Sell Property Owned by the Town of Batesburg-Leesville Along Pond Branch Road, Lexington County, South Carolina.** With no one appearing before Council, Mayor Shull closed the Public Hearing at 7:00 P. M.

Mayor Shull opened the second Public Hearing at 7:01 P. M. to receive citizen input on an **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.)** With no one appearing 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, held in Building B of the Town Hall Complex, was called to order by Mayor Shull at 7:01 P. M. Members present were Mayor Shull, Council Member Brown, Lemon, Wise, Prouse, and Hall. Council Member Cain arrived at 7:09 P. M. and Council Member Gambrell and Mitchell were absent.

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Council Member Prouse.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Brown 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 Wise to approve the agenda as presented. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 6 Approved 0 Denied

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Council Member Lemon with a second by Council Member Prouse to adopt the minutes from the September 11, 2023 Regular Council Meeting. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 6 Approved 0 Denied

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Shull reported the next Regular Council Meeting will be November 13, 2023.

CENTRAL MIDLANDS – Council Member Hall

Council Member Hall reported that Central Midlands met September 28, 2023 and the major issues addressed were the proposed changes to the Board By-Laws. New staff announcements include the addition of the Town of Lexington HR Manager. There was a transportation project update presentation by SCDOT confined to COATs Project only with no updates for RPOs. The next scheduled meeting is October 26, 2023.

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING & ADVISORY COMMITTEE (E. P. A. C.)

Council Member Prouse

Council Member Prouse reported there was no September meeting.

THE COMET ADVISORY COMMITTEE – Council Member Cain

There was no report since Council Member Cain was not present.

JOINT MUNICIPAL WATER/SEWER COMMISSION – Mayor Shull

Mayor Shull reported there was much discussion on PFAS and PFOS (emerging contaminants)

Met in Executive Session with a set of attorneys concerning a big conversation across the United States.

We are continuing to work on our project.

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

Mike Taylor reported the following:

- Arts on the Ridge hosted Fall for the Arts Sunday on Oak Street and W Railroad Avenue with a steady crowd throughout the day. Thirty-six artisans exhibited their talents, three food trucks and the Root Cellar provided food and drink options.
- The Experiment and the I-20 Horns provided the entertainment plus there was a late dance entertainer.
- Fall for the Arts next event will be on Sunday, December 10th at the Venue at Davis Pond.
- This month's General Membership Meeting will take place at Hitachi Rail STS on Thursday, October 26th with breakfast, a short meeting and then tour the facility
- The B-L Chamber of Commerce will also bring back Business After Hours on Tuesday, October 17th at Homeland Craft Beer 7 Wine. There will be time for networking and we will have a short marketing program presented by Tony Baldwin, General Manager of the Lexington County Blowfish, who was recently named 2023 Coastal Plains League Executive of the Year.
- The course offered at our Midlands Technical College campus has been postponed due to limited number of enrollees but will be offered again in April.
- The Chamber's Annual Banquet will be Thursday, November 16th at T&S Farm and the guest inspirational speaker will be Ron Harvey.
- The 2023 Christmas Parade will be Sunday, December 3rd with the theme this year being "Coming Home For Christmas."

***Council Member Cain arrived during the Chamber presentation*

PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ITEMS IN THE AGENDA – None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Second 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 Hall with a second by Council Member Lemon to approve. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 6 Approved 0 Denied

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NEW BUSINESS CONT'D.

D. Council Approval of Funds to Replace Police Vehicle Damaged in Vehicle Accident

A motion was made by Council Member Hall with a second by Council Member Lemon to authorize the expenditure of \$10,284 out of the General Fund to cover the additional expense. After discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE 7 Approved 0 Denied

E. Council Approval of Contractor and Funds to Repair a Stormwater Catch Basin and Piping on North Oak Street

A motion was made by Council Member Prouse with a second by Council Member Lemon to approve the cost of \$38,810 given by Metro Utilities and the funds for that expense come out Hospitality Tax account. After discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 6 Approved 1 Denied – Council Member Hall

F. First Reading – Ordinance Amending the Business License Ordinance of the Town To Update the Class Schedule as Required by Act 176 of 2020

A motion was made by Council Member Hall with a second by Council Member Prouse to adopt first reading. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 7 Approved 0 Denied

G. Discussion Related to Improvements for Pine Street Corner Parking Lot

A motion was made by Council Member Prouse with a second by Council Member Wise to direct staff to put this project out for bid and return those bids to Council for review and acceptance. After discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 6 Approved 1 Denied – Council Member Hall

MANAGER'S REPORT

A. A presentation of Vote 411 was given by Ms. Rachel Dieter who is the Local Administrator of the League of Women Voters of the Columbia area. VOTE411.org is on line for information on when, where and how to vote. To meet the candidates just enter your address to find out who's running and where they stand.

B. Halloween on Main will be held Tuesday, October 31st from 6-8 P. M.

MANAGER'S REPORT CONT'D.

PROJECT UPDATES

- With regards to the Water Project with JMWSC, we had hoped to have awarding of the contractor on this month's agenda, however, RIA is doing a full final review of the bids, permits, easements, funding and overall project to release us to begin work. Until their review is complete, we cannot move forward with awarding the project. Bids are good for 90 days, as we built extra time in knowing it would have to be reviewed. It will likely be the November Council meeting to award the project, however, if RIA completes review soon, we could have a Special Meeting if needed to get it awarded.
- The Liquid Chemical Feed Project has made substantial progress since the last meeting. While the building still is not finalized, most of the building has been constructed.
- The Infiltration and Inflow contractors continue to make good progress on the new lining of the sewer main around the Davis Pond. We had our second month in a row of flow more than 50% reduced. The lining work is all but complete on this portion of the project. The manholes within the head works of the pond have been raised and crews are now working on the cementitious lining within those manholes.

TOWN FINANCIAL/BUDGET UPDATE

Monthly Account Balances for Fiscal Year 2023/2024

	Sep-23	Aug-23	Jul-23
General Fund Checking	\$ 466,787.34	\$ 793,486.65	\$ 1,023,649.49
General Fund Savings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
General Fund LGIP Account	\$ 1,117,669.50	\$ 1,112,543.76	\$ 1,107,287.18
Police Donations	\$ 19,347.17	\$ 17,227.36	\$ 17,227.36
Fire Department 1%	\$ 44,490.87	\$ 33,175.12	\$ 29,756.31
Municipal Court	\$ 43,933.82	\$ 44,007.11	\$ 41,687.69
Victims Assistance	\$ 12,984.44	\$ 13,012.11	\$ 12,590.62
Total (Non-Utility Funds)	\$ 1,705,213.14	\$ 2,013,452.11	\$ 2,232,198.65
Utility Fund Checking	\$ 715,455.54	\$ 372,641.40	\$ 243,135.94
Utility Fund Reserve	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Utility Fund LGIP Account	\$ 2,616,418.54	\$ 2,604,419.46	\$ 2,592,074.66
Capital Improvement Project/Impact Fee	\$ 472,553.60	\$ 472,553.60	\$ 503,160.06
USDA Debt Service Reserve	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
American Rescue Plan Funds	\$ 960,869.12	\$ 1,214,947.62	\$ 1,328,959.37
2021 Infrastructure Revenue Bond	\$ 595,119.26	\$ 595,119.26	\$ 595,119.26
Total (All Utility Funds)	\$ 3,804,427.68	\$ 3,449,614.46	\$ 3,338,370.66
Hospitality Tax Checking	\$ 272,160.42	\$ 210,982.06	\$ 177,823.58
Hospitality Tax LGIP Account	\$ 914,564.83	\$ 910,370.61	\$ 906,069.31
Total (H-Tax Funds)	\$ 1,186,725.25	\$ 1,121,352.67	\$ 1,083,892.89
Total All Funds	\$ 6,696,366.07	\$ 6,584,419.24	\$ 6,654,462.20

	Sep-23	Sep-22	Sep-21	Sep-20	Sep-19	Sep-18	Sep-17	Sep-16	Sep-15	Sep-14
General Fund Checking	\$ 466,787.34	\$ 1,474,661.60	\$ 1,697,943.83	\$ 1,464,391.88	\$ 1,146,304.31	\$ 1,319,989.38	\$ 1,345,242.52	\$ 1,194,091.20	\$ 1,092,133.40	\$ 1,029,111.13
General Fund Savings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 37,351.55	\$ 37,351.55	\$ 37,351.55	\$ 43,401.55	\$ 43,401.55	\$ 154,645.07
General Fund LGIP Account	\$ 1,117,669.50									
Police Donations	\$ 19,347.17	\$ 19,622.49	\$ 8,088.83	\$ 5,155.06	\$ 12,308.00	\$ 7,694.07	\$ 6,696.68	\$ 7,766.10	\$ 13,532.71	\$ 11,319.80
Fire Department 1%	\$ 44,490.87	\$ 24,605.75	\$ 23,085.92	\$ 26,629.34	\$ 22,561.19	\$ 22,471.47	\$ 19,751.37	\$ 23,311.49	\$ 20,509.19	\$ 17,147.88
Municipal Court	\$ 43,933.82	\$ 45,546.85	\$ 33,659.86	\$ 31,459.27	\$ 32,781.62	\$ 30,362.14	\$ 34,931.75	\$ 39,726.43	\$ 29,722.92	\$ 31,645.96
Victims Assistance	\$ 12,984.44	\$ 6,659.04	\$ 2,599.05	\$ 1,359.56	\$ 566.49	\$ 89.18	\$ 175.48	\$ 351.77	\$ 164.35	\$ 261.65
Total (Non-Utility Funds)	\$ 1,705,213.14	\$ 1,571,095.73	\$ 1,765,378.49	\$ 1,528,995.11	\$ 1,251,873.16	\$ 1,417,957.79	\$ 1,444,149.35	\$ 1,308,648.54	\$ 1,199,464.12	\$ 1,244,131.49
Utility Fund Checking	\$ 715,455.54	\$ 385,171.49	\$ 284,577.69	\$ 240,621.22	\$ 268,728.32	\$ 356,674.03	\$ 523,876.31	\$ 456,008.47	\$ 191,589.87	\$ 67,568.64
Utility Fund Reserve	\$ -	\$ 767,888.35	\$ 767,884.18	\$ 767,756.97	\$ 764,173.45	\$ 758,084.10	\$ 1,074,613.98	\$ 675,638.85	\$ 832,477.17	\$ 518,208.86
Utility Fund LGIP Account	\$ 2,616,418.54									
Capital Improvement Project/Impact Fee	\$ 472,553.60	\$ 2,105,411.14	\$ 1,596,445.37	\$ 1,517,168.04	\$ 1,322,247.90	\$ 929,859.28	\$ 70,114.72	\$ 45,040.72	\$ 11,907.72	\$ 3,880.72
USDA Debt Service Reserve	\$ -	\$ 564,851.44	\$ 564,848.36	\$ 564,754.97	\$ 562,119.27	\$ 557,639.78	\$ 231,081.00	\$ 231,081.00	\$ 231,080.00	\$ 231,080.00
American Rescue Plan Funds	\$ 960,869.12	\$ 841,471.38	\$ 1,347,914.52	\$ 3.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00	\$ -	\$ -
2021 Infrastructure Revenue Bond	\$ 595,119.26	\$ 1,392,817.60	\$ 2,944,905.55	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 1,859.25	\$ 778.78	\$ 1,498.79	\$ 2,366.49	\$ 587.27
Total (All Utility Funds)	\$ 3,804,427.68	\$ 3,823,322.42	\$ 3,213,755.60	\$ 3,090,306.20	\$ 2,917,273.94	\$ 2,604,119.44	\$ 1,900,465.79	\$ 1,409,268.83	\$ 1,269,421.25	\$ 821,325.49
Hospitality Tax Checking	\$ 272,160.42	\$ 703,998.52	\$ 660,597.95	\$ 806,007.87	\$ 384,621.45					
Hospitality Tax LGIP Account	\$ 914,564.83									
Total (H-Tax Funds)	\$ 1,186,725.25									
Total All Funds	\$ 6,696,366.07	\$ 6,098,416.67	\$ 5,639,732.04	\$ 5,425,309.18	\$ 4,553,768.55	\$ 4,022,077.23	\$ 3,344,615.14	\$ 2,717,917.37	\$ 2,468,885.37	\$ 2,065,456.98

General Fund

Revenues/Expenses thru September 2023	Actual	Budget	% Budget
Operating Revenues	\$ 1,056,244.71	\$ 5,680,651.00	19%
Operating Expenses	\$ 1,295,228.56	\$ 5,680,651.00	23%

Utility Fund

Revenues/Expenses thru September 2023	Actual	Budget	% Budget
Operating Revenues	\$ 1,504,444.46	\$ 9,241,200.00	16%
Operating Expenses	\$ 950,735.14	\$ 9,241,200.00	10%

Victim's Assistance Fund

Revenues/Expenses thru September 2023	Actual	Budget	% Budget
Operating Revenues	\$ 1,798.83	\$ 9,500.00	19%
Operating Expenses	\$ 2,456.92	\$ 9,500.00	26%

Hospitality Tax Fund

Revenues/Expenses thru September 2023	Actual	Budget	% Budget
Operating Revenues	\$ 209,607.47	\$ 710,000.00	30%
Operating Expenses	\$ 82,859.62	\$ 710,000.00	12%

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Discussion Regarding Economic Development Opportunity Project Courtney

A motion was made by Council Member Hall with a second by Council Member Lemon to go into Executive Session at 7:40 P. M. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 7 Approved 0 Denied

***Council Member Brown did not go into the Session*

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Return to Regular Session

A motion was made by Council Member Lemon with a second a Council Member Hall to return to Regular Session at 8:06 P. M. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 6 Approved 0 Denied

POSSIBLE ACTIONS BY COUNCIL IN FOLLOW UP TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Possible Action Regarding Project Courtney Economic Development Opportunity

A motion was made by Council Member Prouse with a second by Council Member Wise to direct staff to enter into negotiations regarding Project Courtney. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 4 Approved 2 Denied-Council Member Cain, Hall

POTENTIAL AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MONTH'S MEETING-November 13, 2023

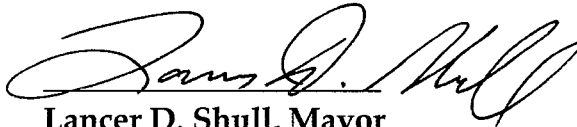
None

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Council Member Prouse with a second by Council Member Lemon to adjourn at 8:09 P. M. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

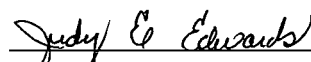
VOTE: 6 Approved 0 Denied

Approved this 13th day of November 2023.



Lancer D. Shull, Mayor

ATTEST:



Judy E. Edwards, Town Clerk