



## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Shull reported the next Regular Council Meeting will be December 11, 2023.

## **CENTRAL MIDLANDS – Council Member Hall**

Council Member Hall reported Central Midlands Council of Government Board of Directors met Thursday, October 22, 2023 at the Harbison Campus of Midlands Tech with a quorum present. A copy of the agenda and financial statements were presented to Council. Major issues addressed were:

- Proposed changes to the CMCOG Procurement Procedures
- Financial Statement with the status of membership payments being questioned due to the By Laws stating that in case of delinquency the representative will not be allowed to vote. An answer to clarify process for this action to be taken is pending.
- A presentation was made by each group with COG explaining briefly what the group did and how they operated.
- There is no meeting scheduled for November.

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

### **Council Member Prouse**

Council Member Prouse reported EPAC met October 18<sup>th</sup> with no new action items. Updates were given:

- A total of 19 organizations that requested funding from the SKIP were awarded a total of \$38,315,000 as part of the federal money approved a couple of years ago
- Richland County gave an update to the Committee of their plans to update and expand capacity at the Eastover Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Town of Lexington gave an update on the closure of the Watergate Wastewater Treatment Plant

## **THE COMET ADVISORY COMMITTEE – Council Member Cain**

The Committee is still working with staff to bring Route 97 back to Batesburg-Leesville and all the municipalities in Lexington County are working together to find a way to fund this route in Batesburg.

## **JOINT MUNICIPAL WATER/SEWER COMMISSION – Mayor Shull**

Mayor Shull reported the Commission met on October 11<sup>th</sup>.

Of the various water projects that have been going on one is complete and phase two of the water plant transmission main and installation is almost complete. The Batesburg-Leesville project bids are in and they continue to work on that project. Charter Oaks water tank is basically complete. Calico Farms conceptual design phase – received plans to construct tank and 24” main. Sewer projects consisted of the Old Orangeburg sewer upgrades; lift stations at Lexington Hills and Two Notch.

Growth at rate of 6% with the previous year at 3%.

Sewer growth rate of 6% with last year at 5%.

## **B-L CHAMBER OF COMMERCE UPDATE – Mike Taylor, President**

Mike reported the following:

- The first Business After Hours was held by the chamber October 17<sup>th</sup>. Attendees were able to network, enjoy heavy hors d’oeuvres, and receive information on social media marketing.
- The October General Membership Meeting was held at Hitachi Rail STS Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup> with 36 chamber members enjoying breakfast, a presentation, and a tour of the Hitachi plant. After the tour you could feel and sense the pride everyone felt knowing that the products built by Hitachi Rail, in Batesburg-Leesville, transported product and passengers safely all over the world.
- The Annual Banquet for the Chamber will be this Thursday at T & S Farm beginning at 7:00 P. M. Ron Harvey, a certified leadership coach, trainer, facilitator, and dynamic speaker will be with us again this year.
- The B-L Ministerial Alliance will hold their Thanksgiving Community Service this Sunday at St. John’s United Methodist Church located at 513 W. Church Street beginning at 6:00 P. M.
- The 2023 Christmas Parade will be Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:15 with the theme for this year being “Coming Home for Christmas.” The parade will begin at the corner of S. Hendrix Street and Hwy. #1 and travel down #1 to Main Street, Leesville Business District, and go to Leesville College Park.





## **RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Outgoing Council Members Lemon and Gambrell were recognized with plaques from the Town.

## **Swearing in of Council Members from November 7, 2023 Election**

The Town Attorney swore in each candidate individually beginning with David Bouknight for District 2, Betty Hartley for District 4, Paul Wise for District 6 and Bob Hall for District 8 after which each took their seats respectively.

## **MANAGER'S REPORT**

### **UPCOMING TOWN HOLIDAYS**

- The holiday seasons are approaching quickly. I wanted to share our upcoming Town Holidays. For Thanksgiving, Town offices will be closed Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> and Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup>. For the Christmas holiday, Town offices will be closed Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> thru Wednesday, December 27<sup>th</sup>. Finally, Town offices will be closed Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup> for New Year's.

### **DOMINION ENERGY 2024 TREE TRIMMING**

- Dominion Energy notified us about their 2024 tree trimming work here in Town. They stated they could get started earlier and as early as mid-November, but probably in December. The contractor for this work is Whitestone Utility. It is not a lot this year in Town and all they will be doing is electric distribution trimming. It appears the work will be contained this year to Council districts 8 (Hall), district 7 (Prouse), and district 6 (Wise).

### **EVENT UPDATES**

- We had another successful Halloween on Main event this past Tuesday evening. We estimate around 1,500-2,000 people attended. We were very pleased with the effort that

homeowner placed on decorating their homes this year. We awarded 3 homes (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>) for the home decorating contest. We appreciate the numerous businesses that opened

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- and provided candy, the churches and community organizations that took part, the food trucks, and homes. We also appreciate our staff that assisted with making this happen, it can't be done without them. Lastly, Stacey Richards (Event Coordinator) for her time spent coordinating everything.
- We have a number of upcoming Christmas events. Mike Taylor touched on the Annual Christmas Parade on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:15pm. That will be followed up in College Park with performances by singers, dancers, and others as we have done in the past. The LMA will have their annual Christmas in Leesville on Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup> from 6:00-8:00pm. We are working to try and line up a Christmas movie night on December 16<sup>th</sup> at Depot Park, we will have more details on that soon.

#### **PROJECT UPDATES**

- With regards to the water project, this past week, the Rural Infrastructure Authority approved us to move forward with our project. We are meeting with them tomorrow at their office to discuss the final funding decision regarding our proposal we had previously made to them that will allow us to utilize the additional \$4.25 million in emerging contaminants funding. With the approval of the contractor tonight, we will line up our pre-con meeting and set our notice to proceed date. We will be coming back to Council soon with required resolutions for SRF regarding the project.
- For the Liquid Chemical Feed Project, since our last meeting, the contractor has ordered the bulk storage tanks and chemical feed conduit/tubing, the roof decking has been started and roof should be completed soon. The rollup doors have been ordered and electrical continues to be worked on.
- The Infiltration and Inflow project has reached substantial completion, but there is some work left to be done. We have now been approved to utilize the additional CDBG funds that were awarded a few months ago. With that, the crews are now working on the additional scopes of work. This project is on track to be completed in February 2024. Also, we just had our 3<sup>rd</sup> month in a row of 50% reduced flow coming into the plant.
- Last month Council approved the stormwater work on Oak Street in Batesburg. Metro Utilities was able to get this work completed the week following the meeting. The homeowner is happy with the job that was done and their crews did a great job of fixing the issue and restoring the homeowners' property in great condition.

**TOWN FINANCIAL/BUDGET UPDATE**

	Oct-23	Sep-23	Aug-23	Jul-23
General Fund Checking	\$ 230,134.03	\$ 466,787.34	\$ 793,486.65	\$ 1,023,649.49
General Fund Savings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
General Fund LGIP Account	\$ 1,123,021.84	\$ 1,117,669.50	\$ 1,112,543.76	\$ 1,107,287.18
Police Donations	\$ 18,997.15	\$ 19,347.17	\$ 17,227.36	\$ 17,227.36
Fire Department 1%	\$ 44,466.87	\$ 44,490.87	\$ 33,175.12	\$ 29,756.31
Municipal Court	\$ 46,377.36	\$ 43,933.82	\$ 44,007.11	\$ 41,687.69
Victims Assistance	\$ 12,856.83	\$ 12,984.44	\$ 13,012.11	\$ 12,590.62
<b>Total (Non-Utility Funds)</b>	<b>\$ 1,475,854.08</b>	<b>\$ 1,705,213.14</b>	<b>\$ 2,013,452.11</b>	<b>\$ 2,232,198.65</b>
Utility Fund Checking	\$ 288,787.71	\$ 715,455.54	\$ 372,641.40	\$ 243,135.94
Utility Fund Reserve	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Utility Fund LGIP Account	\$ 2,955,054.93	\$ 2,616,418.54	\$ 2,604,419.46	\$ 2,592,074.66
Capital Improvement Project/Impact Fee	\$ 623,774.18	\$ 472,553.60	\$ 472,553.60	\$ 503,160.06
USDA Debt Service Reserve	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
American Rescue Plan Funds	\$ 492,582.20	\$ 960,869.12	\$ 1,214,947.62	\$ 1,328,959.37
2021 Infrastructure Revenue Bond	\$ 301,691.77	\$ 595,119.26	\$ 595,119.26	\$ 595,119.26
<b>Total (All Utility Funds)</b>	<b>\$ 3,867,616.82</b>	<b>\$ 3,804,427.68</b>	<b>\$ 3,449,614.46</b>	<b>\$ 3,338,370.66</b>
Hospitality Tax Checking	\$ 206,150.70	\$ 272,160.42	\$ 210,982.06	\$ 177,823.58
Hospitality Tax LGIP Account	\$ 1,039,353.22	\$ 914,564.83	\$ 910,370.61	\$ 906,069.31
<b>Total (H-Tax Funds)</b>	<b>\$ 1,245,503.92</b>	<b>\$ 1,186,725.25</b>	<b>\$ 1,121,352.67</b>	<b>\$ 1,083,892.89</b>
<b>Total All Funds</b>	<b>\$ 6,588,974.82</b>	<b>\$ 6,696,366.07</b>	<b>\$ 6,584,419.24</b>	<b>\$ 6,654,462.20</b>



## Monthly Account Balances for October Since 2014

	Oct-23	Oct-22	Oct-21	Oct-20	Oct-19	Oct-18	Oct-17	Oct-16	Oct-15	Oct-14
General Fund Checking	\$ 230,134.03	\$ 1,237,960.97	\$ 1,486,972.36	\$ 1,222,560.33	\$ 1,107,273.29	\$ 1,059,212.08	\$ 1,188,163.08	\$ 1,004,317.07	\$ 908,991.93	\$ 870,603.64
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	\$ 1,123,021.84									
Police Donations	\$ 18,997.15	\$ 19,622.49	\$ 8,088.83	\$ 5,155.06	\$ 11,957.47	\$ 7,919.07	\$ 6,696.68	\$ 12,366.96	\$ 13,532.71	\$ 9,643.87
Fire Department 1%	\$ 44,466.87	\$ 35,154.32	\$ 22,844.09	\$ 26,629.34	\$ 22,157.82	\$ 22,193.87	\$ 19,496.25	\$ 22,861.24	\$ 20,404.58	\$ 16,644.49
Municipal Court	\$ 46,377.36	\$ 38,616.08	\$ 32,111.87	\$ 35,178.40	\$ 33,369.62	\$ 29,467.29	\$ 37,257.39	\$ 39,726.43	\$ 29,722.92	\$ 31,645.96
Victims Assistance	\$ 12,856.83	\$ 7,499.80	\$ 386.75	\$ 812.96	\$ 307.76	\$ 317.95	\$ 311.32	\$ 795.78	\$ 176.69	\$ 111.91
<b>Total (Non-Utility Funds)</b>	<b>\$ 1,475,854.08</b>	<b>\$ 1,338,853.66</b>	<b>\$ 1,550,403.90</b>	<b>\$ 1,290,336.09</b>	<b>\$ 1,212,417.51</b>	<b>\$ 1,156,461.81</b>	<b>\$ 1,289,276.27</b>	<b>\$ 1,123,469.03</b>	<b>\$ 1,016,230.38</b>	<b>\$ 1,083,294.94</b>
Utility Fund Checking	\$ 288,787.71	\$ 396,457.33	\$ 314,405.61	\$ 282,177.69	\$ 232,090.51	\$ 414,258.90	\$ 312,629.85	\$ 537,345.95	\$ 224,873.02	\$ 93,026.06
Utility Fund Reserve	\$ -	\$ 767,888.35	\$ 767,888.35	\$ 767,789.54	\$ 764,692.81	\$ 758,599.31	\$ 770,357.84	\$ 740,814.01	\$ 867,182.31	\$ 550,636.25
Utility Fund LGIP Account	\$ 2,955,054.93									
Capital Improvement Project/Impact Fee	\$ 623,774.18	\$ 2,157,109.56	\$ 1,589,625.44	\$ 1,551,894.04	\$ 1,371,820.61	\$ 938,576.82	\$ 376,720.26	\$ 36,975.72	\$ 13,049.72	\$ 3,880.72
USDA Debt Service Reserve	\$ -	\$ 564,851.44	\$ 564,851.44	\$ 564,778.85	\$ 562,501.24	\$ 558,018.76	\$ 555,700.00	\$ 231,081.00	\$ 231,080.00	\$ 231,080.00
American Rescue Plan Funds	\$ 492,582.20	\$ 1,978,559.42	\$ 1,347,914.52	\$ 3.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00	\$ -	\$ -
2021 Infrastructure Revenue Bond	\$ 301,691.77	\$ 1,219,804.41	\$ 2,550,186.68	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 1,349.16	\$ 2,900.25	\$ 919.78	\$ 1,796.52	\$ 3,151.35
<b>Total (All Utility Funds)</b>	<b>\$ 3,867,616.82</b>	<b>\$ 3,886,306.68</b>	<b>\$ 3,236,770.84</b>	<b>\$ 3,166,645.12</b>	<b>\$ 2,931,110.17</b>	<b>\$ 2,670,805.95</b>	<b>\$ 2,018,309.20</b>	<b>\$ 1,547,137.46</b>	<b>\$ 1,337,981.57</b>	<b>\$ 881,774.38</b>
Hospitality Tax Checking	\$ 206,150.70	\$ 757,986.99	\$ 676,371.70	\$ 850,064.91	\$ 423,972.42					
Hospitality Tax LGIP Account	\$ 1,039,353.22									
<b>Total (H-Tax Funds)</b>	<b>\$ 1,245,503.92</b>									
<b>Total All Funds</b>	<b>\$ 6,588,974.82</b>	<b>\$ 5,983,147.33</b>	<b>\$ 5,463,546.44</b>	<b>\$ 5,307,046.12</b>	<b>\$ 4,567,500.10</b>	<b>\$ 3,827,267.76</b>	<b>\$ 3,307,585.47</b>	<b>\$ 2,670,606.49</b>	<b>\$ 2,354,211.95</b>	<b>\$ 1,965,069.32</b>

### General Fund

Revenues/Expenses thru October 2023	Actual	Budget	% Budget
Operating Revenues	\$ 1,262,272.20	\$ 5,680,651.00	22%
Operating Expenses	\$ 1,722,283.22	\$ 5,680,651.00	30%

### Utility Fund

Revenues/Expenses thru October 2023	Actual	Budget	% Budget
Operating Revenues	\$ 1,861,949.31	\$ 9,241,200.00	20%
Operating Expenses	\$ 1,286,102.12	\$ 9,241,200.00	14%

### Victim's Assistance Fund

Revenues/Expenses thru October 2023	Actual	Budget	% Budget
Operating Revenues	\$ 2,116.20	\$ 9,500.00	22%
Operating Expenses	\$ 3,208.26	\$ 9,500.00	34%

## Hospitality Tax Fund

Revenues/Expenses thru October 2023	Actual	Budget	% Budget
Operating Revenues	\$ 268,691.27	\$ 710,000.00	38%
Operating Expenses	\$ 89,487.89	\$ 710,000.00	13%

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Discussion and Legal Advice Regarding Matters Between the Town and Twin City Alumni Association

B. Discussion and Legal Advice Regarding Class Action Lawsuit Relating to PFAS

A motion was made by Council Member Hall with a second by Council Member Prouse to go into Executive Session at 7:58 P.M. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE:           9 Approved                               0 Denied

### *Return to Regular Session*

A motion was made by Council Member Hall with a second by Council Member Bouknight to return to Regular Session at 8:20 P. M. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE:           9 Approved                               0 Denied

### POSSIBLE ACTIONS BY COUNCIL IN FOLLOW-UP TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

**A. Possible Action Relating to Matters Between the Town and Twin City Alumni Association - *No Action Taken***

**B. Possible Action Relating to Class Action Lawsuit**

A motion was made by Council Prouse with a second by Council Member Wise to approve the Resolution as presented in Executive Session authorizing the Town Manager to sign the documents relating to the Class Action Lawsuit. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE:           9 Approved                               0 Denied

### POTENTIAL AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MONTH'S MEETING – December 11, 2023

A motion was made by Council Member Mitchell with a second by Council Member Cain to put discussion of the Unity Park back on the agenda for December 11<sup>th</sup>. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE:           9 Approved                               0 Denied

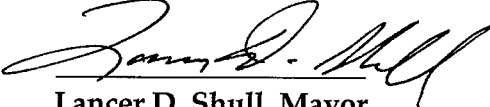
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**ADJOURNMENT**

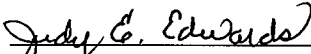
A motion was made by Council Member Hartley with a second by Council Member Hall to adjourn at 8:23 P. M. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE:                   9 Approved                   0 Denied

Approved this 11<sup>th</sup> day of December 2023.

  
Lancer D. Shull, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
Judy E. Edwards, Town Clerk