

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 in the information box of the Batesburg-Leesville Town Hall no later than twenty-four hours prior to the meeting.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

DECEMBER 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 7:00 P. M. Members present were Council Member Brown, Bouknight, Cain, Hartley, Wise, Prouse, and Hall. Council Member Mitchell was absent.

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Shanez Padgett, Director of Worship and Media Arts at the Christ Community Church.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was led by Council Member Brown.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Council Member Prouse with a second by Council Member Bouknight to approve. After discussion a vote was taken.

VOTE: 6 Approved 2 Denied – Council Members Cain, Hartley

Council Member Hall stated that on the Agenda under New Business Item F. (a) that's a contractual situation which should be discussed in Executive Session. Stated he did not have a copy of the new contract but there is an existing contract. Council Member Hall made a motion with a second by Council Member Cain that this item be removed from tonight's Agenda and placed on the January 8th Agenda. After discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 4 Approved 4 Denied – Council Members Bouknight, Wise
Prouse, Mayor Shull

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Council Prouse with a second by Council Member Hall to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2023 Regular Council Meeting. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 8 Approved 0 Denied

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Shull reported the next Regular Council Meeting will be January 8, 2024.

CENTRAL MIDLANDS – Council Member Hall

Council Member Hall reported Central Midlands did not meet in November and the next meeting is this Thursday at the Harbison Boulevard.

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE – Council Member Prouse

Council Member Prouse reported there was no meeting.

THE COMET ADVISORY COMMITTEE – Council Member Cain

Council Member Cain reported he had no report.

JOINT MUNICIPAL WATER/SEWER COMMISSION - Mayor Shull

Mayor Shull reported the Capital Improvements Projects on the water side finalizing the last remaining easement for the water project coming to Batesburg-Leesville. The Town of Swansea is finalizing the waterline replacement project in Pelion. The water plant expansion is continuing at the West Columbia Plant with additional capacity of 13.5 mg and 6 of that would be Joint Municipals and will include ozone upgrades, TNO and GHC for the plastics they are finding across the country that is from the 3M Corporation. On the sewer side there are several projects in the Red Bank area and currently 10 sewer projects in the Capital Improvement Plan. On the technology side staff is working on the project portal which continues to expand which tracks their projects they have going on. There is a new Engineer, GSI Analyst on board. The financial position remains very strong.

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B-L CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – Mike Taylor, President

President Taylor reported:

- The 2023 Annual Chamber Banquet was November 16th at T&S Farm. Ron Harvey was guest speaker. Tonya Rodgers of the Twin City News received the Chairman’s Award, Michael Kneece the President’s Award and Tidwell Jewelers the Small Business of the Year Award
- The Christmas Parade took place December 3rd. The Grand Marshall was the B-L Coaches Pitch All-Star Team. 1st Place winners were Arts on the Ridge; 2nd Place was B-L Branch Library and 3rd Place was Denegar Kennel.
- December 9th the Chamber had a Ribbon Cutting for Beulah Roasting Company located at 532 Lexington Street. The roasting process was observed by those in attendance and coffee was enjoyed by all.
- Last night Arts on the Ridge hosted “Deck the Halls with the Arts” at the Davis Pond facility. Those in attendance enjoyed heavy hors d’oeuvres, beverages, and Christmas music by the Carolina Trio and Emma Grayce Rodgers.

PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA – None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of Regular Council Meeting Dates for 2024

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

VOTE: 8 Approved 0 Denied

B. First Reading – Ordinance Rezoning Property Located at 114 East Columbia Avenue, Consisting of 0.19 Acres, from C-1, General Commercial, to C-2, Office and Institutional Commercial (TMS# 007100-07-013)

There was no motion so the First Reading failed

NEW BUSINESS CONT'D.

C. Council Discussion Regarding the Proposed Woodard Unity Park

This property was previously purchased for this proposed park and engineering and design is underway. Lengthy discussion was held on this subject.

D. Council Approval of Council Appointments to Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals

PLANNING COMMISSION

District 1 Rachel Taylor

District 2 Shawn Bryant -

District 4 Larjonar Williams -

District 6 Riley Adams

District 7 Dave Shopp

BOARD OF APPEAL

Burch Antley

Lillie Gives

Mayor Shull said the candidates will be voted on as a batch.

A motion was made by Council Member Bouknight with a second by Council Member Hall to approve. After discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 8 Approved 0 Denied

E. Council Election of Mayor Pro Tem

Mayor Shull stated that state law requires that Council elect from its members a Mayor Pro Tem for a term not to exceed two years.

Council Member Cain made a motion that this be tabled with a second by Council Member Hartley. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 2 Approved – Council Member Cain 6 Denied
Council Member Hartley

NEW BUSINESS CONT'D.

E. Mayor Pro Tem

To table was lost.

A motion was made by Council Member Brown with a second by Council Member Wise that the appointment be Council Member Prouse for Mayor Pro Tem. After discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 5 Approved 3 Denied -- Council Member Cain, Hartley, Hall

F. Council Appointments for Town Attorney, Central Midlands Council of Governments, Environmental Planning Advisory Committee (EPAC), Joint Municipal Water & Sewer Commission, and The Comet

a. Town Attorney

Council Member Cain made a motion to table this election with a second by Council Member Hartley. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 3 Approved 5 Denied – Council Member Brown, Bouknight, Wise
Prouse, Mayor

To table was lost.

A motion was made by Council Member Prouse with a second by Council Member Bouknight that we approve the established contract for an additional two years based on the existing structure of the contract that has been in place several years for the current attorney. After discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 5 Approved 1 Denied – Council Member Hall
2 Abstain – Council Member Cain, Hartley

b. Central Midlands Council of Governments

A motion was made by Council Member Wise with a second by Council Member Brown to appoint Council Member Bouknight. After discussion a vote was taken.

VOTE: 5 Approved 3 Abstain – Council Member Cain, Hartley, Council
Member Hall

NEW BUSINESS CONT'

c. Environmental Planning Advisory Committee (EPAC)

A motion was made by Council Member Hall with a second by Council Member Prouse to appoint Council Member Hartley. Council Member Hartley declined the appointment. Council Member Hall withdrew his motion and Council Member Prouse withdrew his second. A motion was made by Council Member Brown with a second by Council Member Hall to appoint Council Member Prouse. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 6 Approved 2 Abstained – Council Member Cain, Hartley

d. Joint Municipal Water & Sewer Commission

A motion was made by Council Member Prouse with a second by Council Member Bouknight to reappoint Mayor Shull to that position. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 6 Approved 2 Abstained – Council Member Cain, Hartley

e. The Comet

A motion was made by Council Member Prouse with a second by Council Wise to reappoint Council Member Cain to that position. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 6 Approved 2 Abstained – Council Member Cain, Hartley

MANAGER'S REPORT

Before I begin, I would like to express the Town's condolences on the loss of Ms. Kathy Mingo, former Councilwoman for District 6. She passed away on Friday afternoon. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers.

UPCOMING TOWN HOLIDAYS AND EVENTS

- Just wanted to start out by reminding everyone of our upcoming holiday office closures. Town offices will be closed Monday, December 25th through Wednesday, December 27th for the Christmas Holidays and Monday, January 1st for New Year's. Next Monday, December 18th, we will be closed from 12:00 until 2:00pm for our Town Employee Christmas Luncheon and End of the Year Awards.
- The LMA Christmas in Leesville event was a success, the parade and after event in the park were greatly attended. We had our largest turnout yet for the event in the park

PROJECT UPDATES

- Since last month's update, we still have not received final word from RIA regarding our request to use an additional \$2.9 million dollars towards our line connection to our Lake system. Once they give the final word, SRF will be able to send us the Resolution they require to be passed for funding. Although we are not likely to have financial obligation towards the connection with JMWSC, we are still required to pass the resolution. Also, once we have final word from RIA, this will put us in a position to move forward with bidding the line to the Lake system and seeing what financial obligation we have for construction of that line, which is projected at \$1.6 million. Our hope was to have funding resolution for JMWSC portion of project on this month's agenda, but we are still awaiting word from RIA.
- The contractor for the C Fund sidewalk project continues to make great progress. He has poured new sidewalks behind Kwik Karry along Pine Street, he has finalized the work at Saluda Avenue/Ruby Street, and he is now working along Highway 23 from Kwik Karry to Saluda Avenue. We should be submitting our request for 2024 C Funds within the next month to Lexington County. If you know of any additional sidewalks in Town that are broken and need repair, please let us know as soon as possible.

TOWN FINANCIAL/BUDGET UPDATE

Monthly Account Balances for Fiscal Year 2023/2024

	Nov-23	Oct-23	Sep-23	Aug-23	Jul-23
General Fund Checking	\$ 294,942.50	\$ 230,134.03	\$ 466,787.34	\$ 793,486.65	\$1,023,649.49
General Fund Savings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
General Fund LGIP Account	\$1,128,264.50	\$1,123,021.84	\$1,117,669.50	\$1,112,543.76	\$1,107,287.18
Police Donations	\$ 24,750.39	\$ 18,997.15	\$ 19,347.17	\$ 17,227.36	\$ 17,227.36
Fire Department 1%	\$ 43,466.54	\$ 44,466.87	\$ 44,490.87	\$ 33,175.12	\$ 29,756.31
Municipal Court	\$ 51,826.57	\$ 46,377.36	\$ 43,933.82	\$ 44,007.11	\$ 41,687.69
Victims Assistance	\$ 12,644.27	\$ 12,856.83	\$ 12,984.44	\$ 13,012.11	\$ 12,590.62
Total (Non-Utility Funds)	\$1,555,894.77	\$1,475,854.08	\$1,705,213.14	\$2,013,452.11	\$2,232,198.65
Utility Fund Checking	\$ 279,403.34	\$ 288,787.71	\$ 715,455.54	\$ 372,641.40	\$ 243,135.94
Utility Fund Reserve	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Utility Fund LGIP Account	\$2,968,850.15	\$2,955,054.93	\$2,616,418.54	\$2,604,419.46	\$2,592,074.66
Capital Improvement Project/Impact Fee	\$ 548,792.53	\$ 623,774.18	\$ 472,553.60	\$ 472,553.60	\$ 503,160.06
USDA Debt Service Reserve	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
American Rescue Plan Funds	\$ 172,516.52	\$ 492,582.20	\$ 960,869.12	\$1,214,947.62	\$1,328,959.37
2021 Infrastructure Revenue Bond	\$ 61,116.39	\$ 301,691.77	\$ 595,119.26	\$ 595,119.26	\$ 595,119.26
Total (All Utility Funds)	\$3,797,046.02	\$3,867,616.82	\$3,804,427.68	\$3,449,614.46	\$3,338,370.66
Hospitality Tax Checking	\$ 176,927.70	\$ 206,150.70	\$ 272,160.42	\$ 210,982.06	\$ 177,823.58
Hospitality Tax LGIP Account	\$1,044,205.28	\$1,039,353.22	\$ 914,564.83	\$ 910,370.61	\$ 906,069.31
Total (H-Tax Funds)	\$1,221,132.98	\$1,245,503.92	\$1,186,725.25	\$1,121,352.67	\$1,083,892.89
Total All Funds	\$6,574,073.77	\$6,588,974.82	\$6,696,366.07	\$6,584,419.24	\$6,654,462.20

Monthly Account Balances for November Since 2014

	Nov-23	Nov-22	Nov-21	Nov-20	Nov-19	Nov-18	Nov-17	Nov-16	Nov-15	Nov-14
General Fund Checking	\$ 294,942.50	\$ 1,072,932.64	\$ 1,264,096.96	\$ 936,076.96	\$ 738,830.01	\$ 856,156.86	\$ 959,181.73	\$ 821,316.83	\$ 733,072.09	\$ 701,088.00
General Fund Savings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 37,351.55	\$ 37,351.55	\$ 37,351.55	\$ 43,401.55	\$ 43,401.55	\$ 168,645.07
General Fund LGIP Account	\$ 1,128,264.50									
Police Donations	\$ 24,750.39	\$ 22,650.68	\$ 9,917.03	\$ 5,155.06	\$ 11,957.47	\$ 10,615.07	\$ 8,005.68	\$ 10,246.96	\$ 13,585.37	\$ 9,613.92
Fire Department 1%	\$ 43,466.54	\$ 32,669.10	\$ 22,297.79	\$ 26,135.07	\$ 21,546.86	\$ 21,546.58	\$ 18,687.22	\$ 21,989.57	\$ 19,684.39	\$ 16,644.49
Municipal Court	\$ 51,826.57	\$ 38,235.99	\$ 34,242.60	\$ 31,247.14	\$ 32,896.72	\$ 30,257.84	\$ 36,356.52	\$ 39,807.43	\$ 29,722.92	\$ 31,645.96
Victims Assistance	\$ 12,644.27	\$ 7,886.52	\$ 354.10	\$ 1,240.47	\$ 500.20	\$ 94.08	\$ 406.05	\$ 152.94	\$ 313.97	\$ 175.19
Total (Non-Utility Funds)	\$ 1,555,894.77	\$ 1,174,374.93	\$ 1,330,908.48	\$ 999,854.70	\$ 843,082.81	\$ 956,021.98	\$ 1,059,988.75	\$ 936,915.28	\$ 839,780.29	\$ 927,812.63
Utility Fund Checking	\$ 279,403.34	\$ 385,406.30	\$ 336,884.69	\$ 338,021.79	\$ 248,905.85	\$ 422,130.80	\$ 363,493.56	\$ 579,807.34	\$ 230,337.28	\$ 82,013.96
Utility Fund Reserve	\$ -	\$ 767,888.35	\$ 767,888.35	\$ 767,814.76	\$ 765,195.75	\$ 759,098.24	\$ 773,738.51	\$ 794,173.91	\$ 578,559.71	\$ 584,862.42
Utility Fund LGIP Account	\$ 2,968,850.15									
Capital Improvement Project/Impact Fee	\$ 548,792.53	\$ 2,064,548.86	\$ 1,632,591.86	\$ 1,544,929.45	\$ 1,420,606.67	\$ 995,217.72	\$ 429,086.93	\$ 35,961.72	\$ 13,049.72	\$ 4,451.72
USDA Debt Service Reserve	\$ -	\$ 564,851.44	\$ 564,851.44	\$ 564,797.36	\$ 562,871.12	\$ 558,385.76	\$ 555,700.00	\$ 231,081.00	\$ 231,080.00	\$ 231,080.00
American Rescue Plan Funds	\$ 172,516.52	\$ 1,965,053.07	\$ 1,347,914.52	\$ 3.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00	\$ -	\$ -
2021 Infrastructure Revenue Bond	\$ 61,116.39	\$ 973,978.55	\$ 2,808,179.06	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 1,006.07	\$ 2,346.89	\$ 94.72	\$ 1,232.05	\$ 2,865.43
Total (All Utility Funds)	\$ 3,797,046.02	\$ 3,782,694.95	\$ 3,302,216.34	\$ 3,215,568.36	\$ 2,997,584.39	\$ 2,735,841.59	\$ 2,124,366.89	\$ 1,641,119.69	\$ 1,054,258.76	\$ 905,273.53
Hospitality Tax Checking	\$ 176,927.70	\$ 727,019.08	\$ 640,405.82	\$ 850,525.68	\$ 422,043.84					
Hospitality Tax LGIP Account	\$ 1,044,205.28									
Total (H-Tax Funds)	\$ 1,221,132.98									
Total All Funds	\$ 6,574,073.77	\$ 5,684,088.96	\$ 5,273,530.64	\$ 5,065,948.74	\$ 4,262,711.04	\$ 3,691,863.57	\$ 3,184,355.64	\$ 2,578,034.97	\$ 1,894,039.05	\$ 1,833,086.16

General Fund

Revenues/Expenses thru November 2023	Actual	Budget	% Budget
Operating Revenues	\$ 1,795,229.49	\$ 5,680,651.00	32%
Operating Expenses	\$ 2,176,030.11	\$ 5,680,651.00	38%

Utility Fund

Revenues/Expenses thru November 2023	Actual	Budget	% Budget
Operating Revenues	\$ 2,175,406.68	\$ 9,241,200.00	24%
Operating Expenses	\$ 1,457,245.43	\$ 9,241,200.00	16%

Victim's Assistance Fund

Revenues/Expenses thru November 2023	Actual	Budget	% Budget
Operating Revenues	\$ 2,116.20	\$ 9,500.00	22%
Operating Expenses	\$ 3,790.78	\$ 9,500.00	40%

Hospitality Tax Fund

Revenues/Expenses thru November 2023	Actual	Budget	% Budget
Operating Revenues	\$ 343,498.74	\$ 710,000.00	48%
Operating Expenses	\$ 182,383.68	\$ 710,000.00	26%

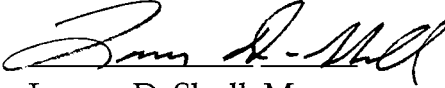
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ADJOURNMENT

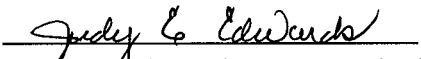
A motion was made by Council Member Prouse with a second by Council Member Wise to adjourn at 8:49 P. M. With no discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 8 Approved 0 Denied

Approved this 8th day of January 2024.


Lancer D. Shull, Mayor

ATTEST:


Judy E. Edwards, Town Clerk