

Regular Council Meeting
October 8, 2018
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MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Shull reported the next Regular Council Meeting will be November 12, 2018.

CENTRAL MIDLANDS - Council Member Gambrell

Council Member Gambrell reported the COG met September 27th at 12:00 at which time several agenda items were discussed, the transit authority and support programs. Two of which is that \$587 million will be available for eligible guarantees and communities where a Presidential Declaration of major disaster was issued, which is a first come first serve, no applications and no deadlines. Another item I found interesting was they have budgeted \$382,699 for management platform to shelter buses. There were several questions about that which they will explain at our next meeting on October 25th.

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

Council Member Prouse

Council Member Prouse reported they have not yet met this month, either next week or the following.

JOINT MUNICIPAL WATER/SEWER COMMITTEE - Mayor Shull

Mayor Shull reported that the Joint Water met September 12th. They are expanding their physical offices at Joint Municipal so their requests for proposals for main office operations and improvements are going out to Cone Construction and are also reworking some of their bank accounts to get better interest rates. The water tank at Calks Ferry and Hwy. #1 and the booster station construction are complete and started in operation on September 12th. They have some automated control work to do but otherwise it's going as planned. They are working with a property owner also on Highway #1 corridor for a future elevated tank site. Construction was completed in Pelion for a housing addition and a school site that is being built there. They also met with Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) to discuss the application process and eligible projects with RIA.

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B-L CHAMBER OF COMMERCE UPDATE - Mike Taylor, President

President Taylor stated the Economic Development Committee met on September 20th instead of September 13th due to Midlands College being closed because of Hurricane Florence.

- ≈ Dr. Gary gave a presentation on the upcoming school referendum in November. Presentations being held October 8th, 7 PM at Olive Branch Baptist Church October 10th, 6:30 PM at Cedar Grove Lutheran Church, October 15th, 6:30 PM Friendship Baptist Church.
- ≈ Brief reports from the town, county and chamber were given.
- ≈ County Councilman Brigham began his report on information from the SC Association of Counties. The county consists of 699 square miles; net taxable sales in FY 2016 was \$4,829,932,805; average wage per job in 2016 was \$40,268.00; annual average unemployment rate in 2017 was 3.6%. Single family building permits certainly indicate the growth in our county. During the first seven months of 2018, Lexington County had 939 and Richland County had 555. The top three builders were in order; Great Southern Homes, Mungo Homes, and Essex Homes. Councilman Brigham referenced an article in the paper concerning the quarry and has tried to protect those located close to the quarry by increasing the setback distance which received no resistance. However, the request to lower hours of operation did meet resistance and did not pass.
- ≈ Hurricane Florence cancelled the football game between Batesburg-Leesville and Lexington which has been rescheduled for November 2nd. The Batesburg-Leesville Chamber of Commerce & Visitor's Center is sponsoring the game on streaming WACH FOX 57. Our ad shows why Batesburg-Leesville is a wonderful place to live, work, and play. It will have the Batesburg-Leesville logo, Town logo and the Batesburg-Leesville Chamber logo.
- ≈ The Dream Catchers have been extremely busy. In a week's time they had a seminar on bullying at the Leisure Center, a picnic in the park before the movie in the park, went to the Jubilee in Columbia, help clean the grounds at Camp Kinard, and went to Dave & Buster's. They will participate at Halloween on Main October 31st.
- ≈ Arts on the Ridge is in the process of planning an annual meeting to elect officers, establish sponsorship levels, and seek membership. The B-L Ministerial Alliance will host their Thanksgiving Community Service on Sunday, November 18th at St. John's United Methodist Church.

B-L CHAMBER UPDATE CONT'D.

- ≈ This year the Chamber and the B-L Study Club will jointly host the Fall Fashion Show on October 23rd at Southern Occasions.
- ≈ The Chamber's Annual Banquet will be Tuesday, November 13th at T & S Farms.

PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of Contract Addendum with Code Red Community Notification to Add Weather Alert Function

Manager Luckadoo gave a brief synopsis of the addendum after which a motion was made by Council Member Gambrell with a second by Council Member Hallman to approve the addition of the weather alert function. With no discussion held, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 6 Approved 0 Denied

B. Approval of Funds for the Replacement of Street Department Vehicle Damaged By Fire

Manager Luckadoo gave a brief update on the replacement of the vehicle. The insurance was filed and the Town received a loss payout of \$24,448. The total projected costs to replace the destroyed vehicle is approximately \$40,000. To complete the purchase of the vehicle and outfit the truck with all essential equipment, additional funding is needed. Staff is proposing the remaining balance of \$15,552 be allocated from the General Fund's fund balance. A motion was made by Council Member Prouse with a second by Council Member Hallman to approve the funds for the replacement of the street department vehicle damaged by fire in the amount of \$15,552. After discussion, a vote was taken.

VOTE: 6 Approved 0 Denied

MANAGER'S REPORT CONT'D.

- We had 13 members of the community show up for the open house and consultants spoke individually with another 8 members of the community about walking/biking in town.
- We have had follow up discussions with the consultants about the possibility of holding a Facebook Live session that consist of elements from the open house, which would be held off site at their offices in Spartanburg. A date has not been set for that.
- There is a website and link that people can go online and submit their routes of walking/biking and any positives, negatives or comments they wish to share about their routes.

Hospitality Tax Business/Stakeholder Meetings

- Staff will be holding two stakeholder meetings with businesses tomorrow at 10:00am and 2:30 PM at Town Hall.
- We will be providing them with information about H-Tax and to discuss the timeline for implementation, and any challenges that may be faced.

Halloween/Fall Festival Trick-or-Treat (Halloween On Main)

- The Halloween/Fall Festival Trick-or-Treat event will be held Wednesday, October 31st from 6:00-8:00 PM on Main Street.
- There are a few changes to this year's event. We will be moving all park activities to the field area behind Mom & Pops. Parking will not be permitted on Main Street this year as the increased attendance has created safety issues.
- Parking will be in the grass areas where Poultry Festival rides are located, along railroad avenue parking areas, and in the field at College Street/Bernard Street.
- There will be Food Vendors set up on Main Street, businesses on Main Street will be open for Games & Shop Hop, music, and trick-or-treating on Main Street. There will also be some trunk or treating along Main Street.
- Special Thanks goes out to the Chamber, Dream Catchers, LMA and BBA for their assistance and sponsorships in the event.
- Two light trailers and portable toilets will be brought in and placed around the area.

MANAGER'S REPORT CONT'D.

Possible New Water Customers from AAA Utilities

- We were contacted this week by Ed Swearingen of AAA Utilities and asked about the possibility of the Town taking over water service to two subdivisions near our Lake Murray water system that AAA currently serves.
- One subdivision is Murray Hills, which is located on Horse Creek Road and the second is Lake Side Forest Subdivision located on Rocky Ridge Road.
- He estimated the number of taps (customers) to be approximately 75.
- Our system is currently used for the Lake Side Forest subdivision, but we have a master meter at the entrance to the subdivision and sell to AAA Utilities, who charges each household monthly. This is Gilbert-Summit water that we purchase monthly.
- They are experiencing coliform issues and he is willing to give them to B-L to take over ownership, water operations, meter reading and billing at no cost.
- While this is potentially a great deal for the Town, before we accept, we want to contact SCDHEC to make sure there are no underlying problems with the system and/or consent orders. We also want to speak with Gilbert-Summit about the increased demand this may place on their system.
- Also, Tim is reviewing the connections and the possibility of the installation of a pressure sustaining valve and backflow device in a vault. This would likely require a SCDHEC construction permit. If we take over the system, a sustained flushing program will have to be initiated to disinfect the system and alleviate the coliform issues.
- Potential downside will be the increased meter reading, sampling, and system flushing work load on our staff.
- We are working on the billing and cost estimates to determine any upfront cost needed and how much revenue this could potentially generate for us monthly.
- We will update you as we learn more and will ultimately seek Council's approval to take over the system.

MANAGER'S REPORT CONT'D.

Fire Dept. Grant for New Gear

- The Batesburg-Leesville Fire Department learned in September that they were selected for another SAFER Grant through FEMA. This grant is for \$165,496 and is 100% funded over four years with no matching funds. The grant is specifically for the purchase of firefighting gear (coat, pant, boots, gloves, flashhood and helmet) for the Explorers. The gear will follow them to departmental service as they matriculate to the fire department. It builds on the SAFER Grant from 2017 in which we hired Josh Frye as the Recruitment and Retention officer. Frye is teaching the Firefighter I class at B-L High School and also heads the Explorer Post which was officially begun in September.
- This is the third FEMA grant the department has received in the department's history. In 2015, they received a AFG grant for \$45,715 towards the purchase of P25 800 mhz radios. In 2017, they received a SAFER Grant for \$223,919 for the Recruiting and Retention Officer.
- The department has also received \$35,000 in funds or items through grant funding or donations. This brings the department's total to just over \$470,000 since 2014.

MASC Elected Officials Institute Upcoming Session

- The September 18th MEO Institute Session, which was canceled due to Hurricane Florence has been rescheduled to November 13th at CMCOG.
- This Session will cover "Municipal Economic Development" and "Forms of Government" and will begin at 9:30 AM and last until 12:30 PM.
- If you were previously registered for the session that was canceled, you have been automatically re-registered. If you were not previously scheduled and would like to attend or if you were scheduled and cannot attend this session, please let me know by Tuesday, November 6th.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

POSSIBLE ACTIONS BY COUNCIL IN FOLLOW UP TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

POTENTIAL AGENDA ITEMS FOR NOVEMBER 12, 2018 MEETING

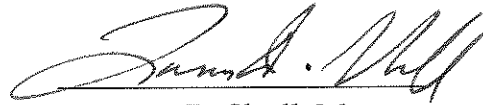
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ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Council Member Prouse with a second by Council Member Gambrell to adjourn at 8:06 P. M. With no discussion, a vote was taken by the show of hands.

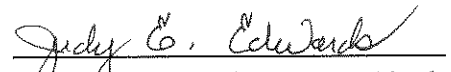
VOTE: 6 Approved 0 Denied

Approved this 12th day of November 2018.



Lancer D. Shull, Mayor

ATTEST:



Judy E. Edwards, Town Clerk