

## **Lamar Town Council Meeting**

**September 14, 2020**

Lamar Town Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Darnell Byrd-McPherson at 6:17 PM.

Invocation was given by Deacon Tim Dargan.

Roll call was taken by Mayor McPherson. Council Members in attendance were Mayor McPherson, Councilman Lang Howell, Councilwoman Inez B. Lee, and Councilwoman Mary Ann Mack. Councilwoman Angele Bradley-White participated remotely via Zoom.

Others in attendance were Chief Carl Scott, Tim Dargan, and O'Marion Dargan. Jannie Lathan participated remotely via Zoom call.

A motion was made by Councilman Bradley-White to accept the meeting agenda, Councilwoman Mack Seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mack to accept the minutes from the August 10, 2020 Lamar Town Council Meeting, Councilman Howell seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

### **Jannie Lathan's Report**

- Reported on the training that we received from Mr. Morgan and a member of his staff from SERCAP. Ms. Lathan and Tim Dargan are to compile consensus and make a report. Initiated process to provide GIS Mapping for the Town of Lamar's Sewer system
- Submitted letter to Ms. Shaw of DHEC to request removing the requirement to perform video testing of the entire sewer system from the Consent Order. We are expecting a favorable response.
- Found out through Conference Zoom meeting with DHEC that there were issues discovered in an inspection that was not reported to officials of the Town of Lamar. We are putting procedures in place to make sure that a designated Town official is notified when there is a visit from DHEC; and that Michael McDonald participates and evaluates the DHEC report while they are on site.
- Made final payment to Evans Paving.
- Need to make final payment to RWF Construction; however, the flow meter & ventilation requirements must be resolved before this final payment is made.
- Phil Harris Smoke Test requirements were also discussed.

### **Public Works Report**

#### **Councilman Lang Howell**

- Things are running as good as they can be under the circumstances, but sewer problems persist. There are other issues that need to be discussed, but they need to be discussed privately first.
- Councilwoman Mack added that a possible major leak near her home on Main Street needs to be investigated.

#### **Councilwoman Inez Lee**

- A committee is reviewing the current procedures and trying to put a policy in place to improve the way we read water meters, process billing, handle cut offs, and notify citizens about possible water and sewer issues. She asked that the citizens be patient as we work through this ongoing process.

## **Chief Carl Scott's Report**

- Discussed the progress, purpose, and covenant of the Lamar Neighborhood Watch Program.
- The zones and a map of the zones have been created, captains have been selected for each zone, and an email address for each zone has been created. This information can be found on the town's website.
- The captains will be out in the community giving out flyers to businesses and citizens.
- Neighborhood Watch Kickoff Event on Thursday, October 1, 2020 at 6:00 PM at Lamar United Methodist Church.
- Court will resume on Monday, September 21, 2020 at 1:30 PM. Covid-19 protocol will be followed including: Wearing of masks, temperature checks, hand sanitizing, and social distancing. Only 10 citizens will be allowed in the courtroom at a time. Citizens have the option of paying Fines at the Police Department or online.

## **Financial Report (Read by Mayor McPherson in Doug Poston absence)**

- Three of the Town of Lamar bank accounts were grant awards and are designated to be used for specific purposes (6885, 9111, & 6810).
- Anderson Plumbing invoice for \$31,900.00 has been paid in full as of Monday, September 14, 2020.
- Darlington County Water & Sewer Authority bill is \$28,513.59.
- Councilman Howell disputed the validity of the invoice of \$6,372.33 from United Rentals.
- Need to investigate invoice from Xylem for \$3,599.40. (Councilwoman said that Xylem
- Councilwoman Bradley asked how often the \$1,147.25 for the South Carolina Municipal Trust Fund was paid. Mayor McPherson said that she would check with Charlie Barrineau, but she thinks it's an annual payment.

A motion was made Councilwoman Bradley-White to receive the financial report, Councilwoman Mack seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Mayor McPherson said that Darlington County Council was meeting on Monday, September 14, 2020 to decide if the county would agree to handle codes enforcement for the Town of Lamar.

Mayor McPherson said that there have been discussions about opening Town Hall 4 days a week. If the decision is made to open Town Hall to the public, Covid-19 protocol would be observed. The door to the clerk's office will have to be customized to ensure the safety of those working in the clerk's office.

## **Letter from Ms. Danielle Todd-Wilkes on Behalf of the Lamar Christmas Committee (Read by Councilwoman Lee)**

- Christmas on Main, Christmas Festival - December 5, 2020 @ 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM
- Christmas on Main, Christmas Parade - December 5, 2020 - Night time
- Community churches, businesses, & vendors:  
"Candy Cane Lane" Sweets and Treats, hot chocolate bar, ornament decorating, Living Nativity
- Story Time with Mrs. Claus at the library.
- Pictures with Santa at the Post Office.
- Raise funds to provide and maintain Christmas decorations for the Town of Lamar.
- Start Christmas Committee Foundation.

Mayor McPherson thanked Ms. Wilkes for spearheading "Christmas on Main" and for creating the Christmas Committee Foundation. She said that we would put the Christmas Festival on the town's calendar for Saturday, December 5, 2020. Mayor McPherson said that she is hopeful that the Spaulding and Lamar Alumni would start a foundation to give back to the town.

Councilman Lee said that the Beautification Commission "Pick-Up-Your-Bucket" event will take place on Friday, October 16, 2020.

Mayor McPherson commented on how beautiful the rocks and lights display look at the egg scramble monument at Town Hall.

Mayor McPherson thanked the sponsors and volunteers for the Harvest Hope mobile food bank, Genesis mask giveaway, and Dianne Hicks mask giveaway events that took place at Town Hall during the month of August.

Mayor McPherson highlighted the following upcoming events: Darlington County Blood Drive, Day of Prayer Weekend, Lamar Neighborhood Watch Kickoff, Care South Moby, census count, and voter registration.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Lee to adjourn the Lamar Town Council Meeting; Councilman Howell seconded the motion. Mayor McPherson adjourned the meeting at 7:00 P.M.

Timothy Dargan, Administrative Support