

**Lamar Town Council Meeting Minutes
October 12, 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 and Councilwoman Inez B. Lee. Councilwoman Angele Bradley-White Councilwoman Mary Ann Mack participated remotely via Zoom. Councilman Lang Howell was not present.

Others in attendance were Chief Carl Scott, Tim Dargan, Elijha Enoch-Smith and O'Marion Dargan. Jannie Lathan, Doug Poston, and Pamela Prince participated remotely via Zoom call.

Councilwoman Lee asked that some of the items relating to the Public Works report be tabled until another time; Mayor McPherson made note of the request. A motion was made by Councilwoman Bradley-White that the agenda be accepted with correction. Councilwoman Lee she seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bradley-White to accept the minutes from the September 14, 2020 Lamar Town Council Meeting, Councilman Lee seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Public Works Report

Councilwoman Inez Lee

- Development of process for issuing work orders is ongoing.
- Working on making signs/tags to let citizens know if the Water Department detects a leak.

Mayor Darnell McPherson

- Noted that the railroad Ave sewer line situation has been resolved.
- Asked the Public Works Manager, Michael McDonald, to work on improving the look of the trailer that is used for picking up trash. Mr. McDonald is to research the cost and supplies needed and get back with the Mayor.

Councilwoman Angele Bradley-White

said that we need to be more vigilant on spraying for mosquitos

Police Department Report

Chief Carl Scott's Report

- Increased Law Enforcement visibility to deter crime
- Dilapidated Buildings
- Interviewing Candidates to hire for the Police Department
- Neighborhood Watch Kick-off Meeting
- Next Neighborhood Watch Meeting will be at the Lamar Town Library
- Anonymous Tip Line (843-326-5554)

Mayor Darnell McPherson

Spoke on recent criminal activity in the Town of Lamar and some of the steps that are being taken or being considered to address these issues:

- Created fund account to purchase surveillance equipment for the Town of Lamar.
- Lamar Ministerial Alliance committed to be fully engaged in promoting Christian values in the community.
- John Maxwell certified trainer to host Leadership and empowerment skills seminar.
- Push having parks, recreation, and other infrastructure that sends message to our youth that they are valued.
- Promote positive language, approach, and outreach throughout the community.
- Discussed adapting the Peace Tribe Concept.
- Further engage Law Enforcement Network and identify laws & codes for our community and County.
- Open discussions on problems that plague our community and working together to resolve them.

Financial Report...Doug Poston, CPA

- General Fund Receipts (\$63,944.00) and disbursements (\$41,248.00) through the end of August.
- Utility Fund Receipts (\$32,939.69) and disbursements (\$42,257.00) through the end of August.
- Mayor McPherson requested a breakdown of water repairs that were paid, but not covered by a grant.
- Mayor McPherson wanted to know how much was paid the DCWSA for the month of August.
- Mayor McPherson accepted the report as information received.

Mayor Darnell McPherson

- Gathering information on Town of Lamar business license so that we can post them online.
- Darlington County voted to take over the codes enforcement for the Town of Lamar
- Darlington County Code Enforcements Officer could possibly attend Town Council Meeting and answer questions.
- Evaluating Gentleman's Agreement for the use of the gray building that belongs to the Town of Lamar.

Councilwoman Inez Lee

- "Pick up the Bucket" Event: County workers will start cleaning up on Thursday, October 15, Friday, October 16 – changed to Saturday, October 17 Asking citizens to participate on Saturday
- Christmas on Main...Saturday, December 5, 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm, Christmas Parade at dusk. Discusses entry fees and contact information. Will contact the Lamar Ministerial Alliance Asking all citizens and each local church to participate.

Jannie Lathan (Jannie Lathan Consulting) Report

- Close out Department Commerce Grant of \$467, 789.19
- The following areas are being addressed to close out all the requirements of the Consent Order:
 - A) Flow Meter
 - B) Ventilation Issue
 - C) Proper lighting
 - D) Requirements to have the entire sewer system screened via video camera.
- Ria Grant:
 - A) \$500,000 to for new sanitary sewer pump on Zion Road.
 - B) Design for pump station.
- Mayor McPherson commented on an outstanding invoice for rental equipment that was charged to the Town of Lamar, that should have been charged to the engineering firm. Ms. Lathan has been sending communication to the firm about this issue.

Mayor McPherson encouraged everyone to view the Town of Lamar's website and Facebook page for general information and for upcoming events. She gave an overview of recent and upcoming events.

Recent Community Events:

Day of Prayer (Youth - Virtual Prayer service / LMA - Day of Prayer Service), Save the Children Food Giveaway, and David Beasley's Organization wins Nobel Peace Prize

Upcoming Events:

CareSouth Moby October 2020 Schedule, Men to Men Health Symposium (Thursday, October 22 @ 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM) Children & Youth Initiative Flu Clinic, Pacemaker Event, Bike Trail, Telamon, Leadership Development Series - TBD November 3, 2020 Election, and Census Count.

Mayor McPherson formally welcomed the Lamar family Pharmacy to the Town of Lamar.

Mayor McPherson discussed having a Dorothy B White 5k Walk and Run in the future (Christmas perhaps).

Pamela Prince (Pee Dee Coalition Against Domestic and sexual Assault)

- Explained the purpose and mission of the Pee Dee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
- October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. In lieu of the annual march, they are asking everyone to wear purple every Wednesday. (Post it on Facebook)
- Still providing services through Facebook, Zoom, Team meetings, and telephone calls.
- First time since 1996, South Carolina has not ranked in the top ten (11) of the nation for domestic violence
- Served 224 individuals in Darlington County. 140 new individuals, 84 repeat individuals
- Women and children shelter still available.

Today's Lamar Town Council Meeting received 71 views on Facebook.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Lee to adjourn the Lamar Town Council Meeting. Councilwoman Bradley-White seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously. Mayor McPherson adjourned the Town Council Meeting at 7:05 PM.

Timothy Dargan, Administrative Support