

Lamar Town Council Meeting Minutes
May 10, 2021

Lamar Town Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro-Tem, Councilwoman Angele Bradley-White, at 6:15 PM.

Invocation was given by Deacon Tim Dargan.

Roll call was taken by Councilwoman Bradley. Council Members in attendance were Councilwoman Bradley, Councilwoman Inez B. Lee, and Councilman Tyler Cook. Councilwoman Mary Ann Mack participated remotely via Zoom call.

Others in attendance were Tim Dargan, Chief Carl Scott, Mike Lloyd, and Doug Poston.

A motion was made by Councilman Cook that the agenda be accepted. Councilwoman Mack seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mack to accept the minutes from the April 12, 2021, Lamar Town Council Meeting as read. Councilman Cook seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Jannie Lathan of Lathan Consulting Corporation was not present. Ms. Lathan's report was omitted.

Doug Poston of Doug R. Poston, Jr. CPA was not present. Mr. Poston provided the financial records as information. He reported the following:

- General Fund Cash Receipts and Disbursements for the Month of March (2021)
\$10, 517 Collected - \$49,000 Spent = Decrease of cash on hand of \$38,000
- Utility Fund Cash Receipts and Disbursements for the Month of March (2021)
\$34,000 Collected - \$30,00 Spent = Increase of cash on hand of \$3,500

Councilwoman Bradley asked if Darlington County Water and Sewer Authority should be paid from the Utility Fund and if a payment was made in March. Mr. Poston replied that DCWSA should be paid from the Utility Fund and that there was no payment made in March, but one was made subsequent (later) to March.

Mr. Dargan asked Mr. Poston to clarify how much of the balance on hand for the Utility Fund was designated for grant purposes. Mr. Poston responded that \$85,000 of the \$105,000 was designated grant funding.

Mike Lloyd discussed the following:

- Thanked Willie Morgan of SERCAP for providing the 2020 water audit for the Town of Lamar.
- Compiled a 4-year comparison (2018-2021) for water purchased and sold from January -April of each year. The amount purchased and sold in 2021 was significantly larger than in previous years.
- Had an unusual number of water breaks and water loss in the first quarter of 2021; some of the breaks and water loss were caused by other agencies. The Town had to replenish the water in the water tank to make up for the loss which resulted in additional purchase of water. The Grooms water tank also had to be recalibrated to reflect accurate readings and control the water level in the tanks; this also resulted in water loss.
- 1.5 million gallons of water has been purchased for the month of May and today is only the 10th.
- The billing registry is starting to show signs of improvement. The amount of water purchased, and the amount billed are trending in the right direction.

- Have replaced 12 of the 30 water meters identified as too low usage or no usage.
- Told Councilwoman Bradley that the water meter readings are being verified and that this sometimes require multiple readings.
- Answered Councilwoman Bradley and Councilwoman Mack question concerning previous years where it appeared that more water was billed than sold. He said that it was an error in previous years, but now the opposite is true and that the true billing is catching up with the Town.

Chief Carl Scott discussed the following:

- Chief Scott met with Justin Jackson of DOT to discuss the Lamar Neighborhood Watch signs and the repair/ clearing of potholes, manholes, storm drains, ditches, and sidewalks. [Councilwoman Mack gave additional information concerning one of the ditches].
 - Discussed talking with DOT about a proposed new tractor trailer route (to avoid Boykin Avenue).
 - DOT will try to alert the Town in advance when work is going to be done.
- Lamar Neighborhood Watch:
 - 1) Thanked Sherriff James Hudson, Molly Odom, and Captain Ricky Flowers for their presentation on May 6 Neighborhood Watch Meeting.
 - 2) See Chief Scott, Captain Jerry Shull, or Captain Cynthia Lighty for purchase of neighborhood watch sign (\$20) or Traffic vest (\$22)

Councilwoman Bradley gave the first reading for an amendment to increase the fine amount from \$200 to \$500 for Town Ordinances 1.207 ((General Penalty. Continuing Violations) and 7.301 (Penalties). The first reading passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Bradley and Mr. Dargan discussed the re-opening of Town Hall in the Mayor's McPherson absence.

All four council members discussed the pros and cons of extending or repealing the Town's current mask ordinance. They discussed the vaccination rate as well as the revised numbers given by DHEC on the decline of the covid-19 virus; Councilman Cook pointed out the CDC numbers that stated the numbers have gone down dramatically. Councilwoman made a motion that the current ordinance remain in effect until the next council meeting and that mask continued to be required in Town Hall.

Tim Dargan gave an update on several items, they included: covid-19 testing and vaccinations, Day of Prayer Proclamation, Text My Gov, Harvest Hope food giveaway partnership with local churches, and Men Health Month (June).

Reading of Men Health Month Proclamation by Councilwoman Bradley.

Councilwoman Mack announced that the Methodist Women will be having a giveaway at John Wesley.

Councilman Cook gave an overview of David Beasley's visit to Wesley Chapel.

Councilman Cook made a motion that the Lamar Town Council Meeting be adjourned. Councilman Lee Seconded the motion. Councilwoman Bradley adjourned the meeting at 7:38 pm.

Timothy L. Dargan, Administrative Manager

