

Lamar Town Council Meeting Minutes
February 14, 2022

The Lamar Town Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor James Howell at 6:15 PM.

Invocation was given by Deacon Tim Dargan.

Mayor Howell took roll call of all council members present. Council members in attendance were Mayor Howell, Councilman Tyler Cook, Councilwoman Angele White-Bradley, Councilwoman Inez B. Lee., and Councilwoman Mary Ann Mack.

Others in attendance were Tim Dargan, Chief Carl Scott, Mike Lloyd and Elijha Enoch-Smith (livestream operator). Doug Poston and Charlie Barrineau participated via zoom call.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bradley that the agenda be accepted. Councilwoman Lee seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Cook to accept the minutes from the January 10, 2022, Lamar Town Council Meeting. Councilwoman Bradley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Doug Poston of Douglas R. Poston, Jr. CPA gave the Financial Report:

General Fund:

Receipts - \$29, 323.60, Disbursements - \$86,617.50, Decrease in cash - \$57,293.90, Ending cash balance - \$274,201.53 (\$180,028.61 of these funds are from the American Rescue Funds).

Utility Fund:

Receipts - \$29,850.97, Disbursements - \$29,962.27 Decrease in cash -\$111.30
Ending cash balance - \$86,905.19 (\$20,660.17 available for operations; remainder is grant funds)

Councilwoman Bradley had questions concerning the Department Budget to Actual Report. She was particularly concerned about the Administrative Department budget.

Charlie Barrineau of the Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC) gave a presentation on the Business License Standardization Law. Mr. Barrineau stated that it was very crucial for the Town to ask to see the prior year tax returns of any business applying for a Town of Lamar Business License; the Town could only look at it to verify gross income but could not retain the returns. He also said that a Town of Lamar Official could request a copy of the Sales Tax Report from the State. For the May 1, 2022 – April 30, 2023, business license year, information will be gathered so the business license fees can be rebalanced and applied appropriately in the May 1, 2023 – April 30, 2024, business license year.

Mr. Barrineau helped the Town draft a Business License Ordinance to help facilitate the upcoming changes for the business licenses. Councilwoman Mack conducted the first reading of the Town of Lamar Business License Ordinance. Councilwoman Lee made a motion to accept the first reading. Councilwoman Bradley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mike Lloyd gave the Water Report for the year 2021:

Water Report Year in Review	2021	2020
Gallons of Water Purchased	50,824,780	37,601,220
Gallons of Water Sold	28,821,005	26,061,629
Gallons Used During Hydrant Flushing	229,530	238,660
Unaccounted for Gallons	21,795,500	11,300,931
Average Percentage Loss	42.8	35 to 40 %
Average Daily Loss (Gallons)	61,865	30 to 40,000

Mr. Lloyd gave the following Public Works Report:

- Transducer that controls the SCADA Unit must be replaced (Grooms Tank)
- Experience severe water loss due to cracked pipe on Darlington Avenue. DCWSA repaired the leak.
- Searching for leak in the area.
- Service line leak was located and repaired on South Darlington. Leak at the Post office was also repaired.
- Assisted Darlington County 911 with house number issue.

Councilwoman Mack suggested that the Town put a water meter at the baseball field so the Town can determine how much water is being used.

Chief Carl Scott Police Department Report:

Chief Scott said that the Police Department has applied for a Firehouse Sub Grant to buy new and improved radios for the Department. A motion was made by Councilwoman Bradley to pursue the grant and it was seconded by Councilman Cook. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business was discussed.

Mayor Howell gave an update on the following:

- It has been determined that DCWSA became the water provider for the Town of Lamar in February or March of 2016. Further research will need to be done to determine what the status of our customer's bill were at that time.
- The Town's attorney will help the Town draft certified letters to give to property owners of dilapidated buildings in the town limits. The property owners will be given a reasonable amount of time to address this issue.

Tim Dargan gave an update on the following:

- Letters have been mailed to members of the Planning Commission and Board of Zoning listing the qualifications and responsibilities of each board.
- The Grease Ordinance is being tweaked to include the Cambridge Apartment Complex.
- The DHEC Dam Report Has been completed by the engineering firm and has been submitted to DHEC.

New Business was discussed.

Mayor Howell said that Town Employees cannot pick up limbs and debris out of someone's yard or private property. He also said that the Public Works Department will confiscate the trash cans from delinquent water bill customers.

Mayor Howell made gave the following assignments to members of Council:

Councilwoman Lee - Water & Sewer

Councilwoman Bradley – Codes and Business License

Councilman Cook – Police Department

Councilwoman Mack – Streets & Sanitation

Councilwoman Lee - Beautification Commission Report:

Great American Cleanup Event will be coming up soon. Gary White from Darlington County will be helping with this event. She also discussed the Lamar Monthly Newsletter and said that anyone who wished to put an article or information in the newsletter should contact her.

Tim Dargan - Upcoming Events:

Mr. Dargan gave more detail about the Great American Cleanup Event. He also talked about the Sesquicentennial Celebration. He said that beginning with the month of April, the Town will recognize a different aspect of the Town every month.

Council went into Executive Session to discuss the following:

Section 30-4-70(A)(1) Town Employee

Section 30-4-70(A)(2) The Receipt of legal advice

Mayor Howell made a motion for council to go into Executive Session. Councilwoman Lee seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Howell made a motion to end the Executive Session and re-enter the council meeting. Councilwoman Lee seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Bradley made a motion to adjourn the Lamar Town Council Meeting. Councilwoman Lee seconded the motion. Mayor Howell adjourned the meeting at 7:53 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Timothy L. Dargan, Administrative Manager
Town of Lamar