

Lamar Town Council Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2022

Mayor James Howell called The Lamar Town Council Meeting to order at 6:18 PM.

Deacon Tim Dargan gave invocation.

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, Elijha Enoch-Smith (livestream operator), and Jeronell Bradley. Alvin Chambers and Willie Morgan participated via zoom call.

Councilwoman Bradley made a motion that the agenda be accepted as read. Councilwoman Lee seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Lee made a motion accept the minutes from the February 14, 2022, Lamar Town Council Meeting. Councilwoman Bradley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The Chairman of the Egg Scramble Jamboree Committee, Jeronell Bradley, presented information about the events surrounding the Egg Scramble Jamboree. She also presented a list with several requests for assistance from the Town of Lamar.

Willie Morgan, The South Carolina State Manager of SERCAP (Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project), discussed the Town of Lamar Grease Ordinance. He gave an update on the changes that were made to the Grease Ordinance since the first reading and explained the necessity of having the ordinance in place.

Alvin Chambers, Code Enforcement Officer for Town of Lake City, gave a presentation to Town Council that highlighted specific mandatory codes, permissive codes, and the authority to enforce these codes. He said that council would have to vote or pass an ordinance to make these codes enforceable.

Mayor Howell presented the written Financial Report submitted by Doug Poston of Douglas R. Poston, Jr. CPA:
General Fund:

Receipts - \$37,041.95, Disbursements - \$47,786.55, Decrease in cash - \$10,744.60, Ending cash balance - \$263,456.93 (\$180,028.61 of these funds are from the American Rescue Funds).

Utility Fund:

Receipts - \$35,666.67, Disbursements - \$33,737.92, Increase in cash -\$1,928.75
Ending cash balance - \$88,833.94 (\$22,587.28 available for operations; remainder is grant funds)

Councilwoman Bradley made a motion that the Financial Report be received as information. Councilwoman Mack seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Lee gave the Water & Sewer Report and the Beautification Commission Report:
Water & Sewer

- Two major water leaks were found and repaired (Reynolds Avenue and Teachers Drive).

- Boil Water Advisory was issued, but later rescinded after repairs were fixed.
- Phil Harris, South Carolina Water & Rural Authority (SCWRA), is coming to Lamar to help locate the force main on Railroad Avenue.
- The transducer on the Grooms Water Tank has been repaired.

Beautification Commission

- Great American Cleanup March 18 & 19, 2022

Councilwoman Mack asked about the possibility of getting readable meters for the Town. She asked if someone has reached out to any of the State Senators or Representatives to secure some of the new money that is coming down from the state for infrastructure. She also asked if there was plan for what at the Town wanted to do with the money.

Mayor Howell replied that the Town is already working on getting new meters. He replied that he received a letter from Senator Malloy about the money, but that was the extent of the letter. Councilwoman Bradley added that agencies usually require that municipalities submit a plan for the financial assistance that they request. Mr. Dargan mentioned the Capital Improvement Plan would address some of those issues. Councilwoman Bradley said that an effort should be made to target certain sections of the Town so that the entire town would eventually be brought up to date.

Councilman Cook gave the Lamar Police Department Report:

- Community Outreach – Darlington County Sheriff's Office hosted a Women's Self-Defense Class on February 22, 2022.
- Recruitment – The Lamar Police Department is still accepting applications for potential Police Officers.
- Encouraged citizens to register for "TextMyGov".
- Chief Scott reported that things have been good around town the past few weeks.

Councilwoman Mack gave the Streets and Sanitation Report:

- No official report to make.
- Met with employees.

Councilwoman Bradley gave a Codes and Business License Report:

- Reported that there are currently 102 businesses with business licenses.
- We will have the second reading of the Business License Ordinance.

Councilwoman Lee said that the Town must make sure that all business licenses have backflows.

Mr. Dargan said that DataMax has done an excellent job of collecting delinquent business license fees.

Councilwoman Bradley read the second reading of the Business License:

Mr. Dargan pointed out that although business applying for a 2022-2023 business license will only be paying \$100, they still must give their gross income amount at the time of applying for license so their true fees can be determined for the 2023-2024 business license tax year. Any business that does not have a tax license by May 15, must pay a 15% late fee penalty. In addition, no business can legally operate in the Town of Lamar without obtaining a business license from the Town of Lamar.

Mayor Howell said that the Town must find a way to identify whether a business/individual has a license besides Law Enforcement having to physically ask for the license (especially outside businesses like landscaping, tree cutting, etc.). This only applies for business doing business in the Town of Lamar.

Councilwoman Mack said that there needs to be clarity to differentiate the duties between the Water & Sewer Department and the Streets & Sanitation Departments. She said the department employees have to answer to four people (Mayor Howell, Councilwoman Mack, Councilwoman Lee, and Mr. Dargan) and that they should probably only answer to Mr. Dargan. Councilwoman Lee said that the same employees work for both department; therefore, how can they determine which work order gets prioritize?

Mayor Howell said that we must use a little common knowledge [sense] in those situations, and that water breaks or sewer issues always take priority. He also said that He and Mr. Dargan are taking a more active role in supervision of the Public Works Employees because their supervisor is out.

Tim Dargan - Upcoming Events:

- Great American Cleanup (March 18-19, 2022)
- Bethany Baptist Church Clothes Giveaway (March 19, 2022).
- Town of Lamar Food Giveaway (March 25, 2022. March 17th or 24th).
- Sesquicentennial Celebration (Community Worship Service April 3, 2022, History of the churches, future events).

Jannie Howell asked if it was possible to get the Town's newsletter out before the end of the month. She also said that she would be contacting the media. She has already contacted the Morning News and the News and Press.

Councilwoman Bradley made a motion for council to go into Executive Session to discuss Section 30-4-70(A)(1) concerning a Town Employee. Councilman Cook seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Councilwoman Lee made a motion to adjourn the Lamar Town Council Meeting. Councilwoman Mack seconded the motion. Mayor Howell adjourned the meeting at 8:19 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Timothy L. Dargan, Administrative Manager
Town of Lamar