

**Lamar Town Council Meeting Minutes
May 9, 2022**

Mayor James Howell called The Lamar Town Council Meeting to order at 6:15 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 Town Administrator Tim Dargan, Police Chief Carl Scott, Elijha Enoch-Smith (livestream operator), Jannie Lathan and Doug Poston.

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

Councilwoman Mack made a motion to accept the minutes from the April 11, 2022, Lamar Town Council Meeting. Councilman Cook seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Jannie Lathan of Lathan Consulting Corporation gave the following grant updates:

RIA (Rural Infrastructure Authority) Grant:

- \$500,000 grant was awarded to rehab the Zion Road Pump Station
- Davis & Floyd, Inc. is the Engineer of Record for this project, and they have completed the project design
- Status and schedule
 - Advertised For Bids: 4/11/22
 - Bid Openings: 5/12/22
 - Notice to Proceed: 6/13/22
 - Construction Substantial Completion: 12/16/22
 - Project Monitoring/Audit and Closeout: 2/16/23

SRF (State revolving Fund) Grant:

- Grant awarded for \$423,652 to conduct a Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Survey of Lamar's Sewer System.
- Davis and Floyd have been retained to conduct the Survey and Lathan Consulting will be the Grant Administrator.
- This Study will not only provide an evaluation of the Towns Sewer System but will also recommend prioritized projects for the Town to undertake as it works to continuously improve its sewer infrastructure. This work is underway.
- Matching Funds were approved to be used from this grant for Engineering design services for the Railroad sanitary sewer pump station.

SC DHEC Grant:

This grant was awarded for \$350,000 to support improvements to the Town's water and sewer systems. The work has been completed and the Grant Administrator (Lathan Consulting Corporation) is in the process of closing out this grant.

New Grant Application:

A new grant application to upgrade and replace the Railroad sanitary sewer pump station was prepared and submitted to RIA and SC State Revolving Fund by Lathan Consulting Corporation on March 14, 2022.

Future Infrastructure Grants for Lamar:

A meeting is being scheduled to discuss submission requirements for two additional infrastructure grants to be submitted this Fall for the Town of Lamar.

Councilwoman Mack asked about the bid opening meeting and the storm water issues. A citizen voiced concern about the likelihood of getting an RIA grant for Railroad Avenue when the Town already has one for Zion Road.

Ms. Lathan gave a summary of the grants that she has secured for the Town of Lamar and said that she would give it her best shot.

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

General Fund: Receipts - \$40,851.35, Disbursements - \$51,692.51, Decrease in cash - \$10,841.16, Ending cash balance - \$258,040.30 (\$180,028.61 of these funds are from the American Rescue Funds).

Utility Fund: Receipts - \$40,938.89, Disbursements - \$63,171.33, Decrease in cash -\$22,232.44
Ending cash balance - \$58,358.38 (\$18,081.06 available for operations; remainder is grant funds)

Mr. Dargan said that he and Mr. Poston would start pulling budget documents for Mayor Howell's review sometime next week.

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

- There were three major water leaks (In front of Spaulding Middle School, on South Darlington Street, and the Lamar Police Office), but all three leaks have been repaired.
- There is an ongoing issue at Main and Davis Street that is being monitored.
- Nothing new to report from the Beautification Commission.

Councilwoman Mack gave the Streets and Sanitation Report:

- Reported that she has noticed several places where gravel was used to temporary cover holes in the streets cause by water lines repair. She is going to get with Mr. Dargan to learn the procedure for getting DOT to permanently fill the holes.
- There are some major issues with ditches. Some issues are caused by debris, some are caused by trees growing in the ditches.

Mayor Howell stated that he wanted Councilwoman Lee and Councilwoman Mack to get together and provide a list of the problem ditches. He said that the county would start working on the ditches once the Town identified them.

Councilwoman Lee said that she has turned in a list of the ditches before and that she has more that are ready to be submitted. She shared that the county has worked on some of the ditches already and they are supposed to be coming back later. Councilwoman Lee said that this is an ongoing process and that it will not be

Councilman Cook gave the Lamar Police Department Report:

Community Outreach: The Lamar Police Department participated in “Stop the Violence 2022” Event at Powerhouse Ministries (Pastor Tamara Durant). Office Freddie Davis was the spokesperson for the Lamar PD. Chief Carl Scott and the Lamar PD will participate in ‘Orange Frog Day” at Spaulding Middle School.

Recruitment: The Lamar PD is still accepting applications for potential police officers. Candidates are asked to apply to the Town. Chief Scott is currently in the process of setting interviews.

Burn Permits: Call Darlington County at -800-986-3742 to obtain a permit to burn within the Town limits.

Pets: Encouraging citizens to clean up after their pets when their pet “goes” on someone else’s property.

TextMyGov: Please sign up for TextMyGov by texting “Hi” to 843-326-0266.

Councilwoman Mack asked about the advertising and hiring process for attracting new police officers.

Councilwoman Bradley gave the Codes Report:

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Currently COG (Council of Government) is not offering in-person training for members of the Planning Commission or Board of Zoning Appeals. Training is being provided online via videos; the videos are a combined 6 hours. The COG suggested the following three (3) options:

- View the training videos as a group at the COG in Florence.
- View the training videos individually at the COG in Florence.
- View the video individually at a place and time of each member choosing.

Councilwoman Bradley suggested contacting the members to get a consensus of when most of them could meet for training. The Town could provide lunch for them and show the videos at Town Hall.

Councilwoman Mack suggested that the council read the 2013 Edition of the Town of Lamar Zoning Ordinance. She also wanted to know who the zoning administrator was in 2013? Was there a first and second reading? Is there a signed and attested copy of the adopted reading?

Councilwoman Bradley gave the Business License Report:

- All merchants received a copy of the 1) Business License Application, 2) Letter to Merchants, and 3) Explanation of SC Business License Tax and Standardization Act 176.
- The Business License Tax Year runs from May 1, 2022 – April 30, 2023.
- Merchants must provide proof of their gross income from 2021 on their applications. Tax returns, letter from a CPA, or itemized statement of services are acceptable forms of proof
- All merchants will pay \$100 for their business license for the 2022-2023 Tax Year. Starting with the 2023-2024 Business License Tax Year, fees will be based on gross income from the previous year.

Councilwoman Mack stated that the Town was at borderline harassment when asking citizens about business licenses when they are cutting family members lawn.

Mayor Howell introduces a sample of a hanging business license tag for vehicles. This tag would be issued to lawn care tree cutting services, etc. at the time they receive their business license. They could be displayed in their vehicles as proof that that they have a business license.

Mr. Dargan gave an update on the following upcoming events:

Lamar High School Athletic Banquet, Watershed Study Meeting, The Orange Frog Community Fair, and the Town of Lamar Sesquicentennial Celebration.

Councilwoman Mack spoke about the First Responders Taste scheduled for Thursday, May 26 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. This is the second event for the Sesquicentennial Celebration.

If a citizen has a question or a comment for a Town Council meeting, they must submit the comment in writing by noon on the day of the meeting.

Councilwoman Bradley made a motion to adjourn the Lamar Town Council Meeting. Councilwoman Lee seconded the motion. Mayor Howell adjourned the meeting at 7:23 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Timothy L. Dargan, Town Administrator
Town of Lamar