Lamar Town Council Meeting Minutes
October 10, 2022

Mayor James Howell called The Lamar Town Council Meeting to order at 6:17 PM.

Deacon Tim Dargan gave invocation.

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

Others in attendance: Tim Dargan, Chief Carl Scott, Doug Poston, and Pamela Johnson. Jannie Lathan and Alvin Chambers attended via Zoom.

Councilwoman Bradley made a motion to accept the agenda for the October 10, 2022, Town Council Meeting. Councilwoman Lee seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Cook made a motion to accept the minutes from the September 12, 2022, Lamar Town Council Meeting. Councilwoman Lee seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Pamela Prince of the Pee Dee Coalition shared information and statistics about Domestic Violence Awareness Month. She highlighted some of the events her organization has scheduled to shed light on domestic violence throughout the month of October.

Councilwoman Mack read the Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation that was later signed by Mayor Howell.

Doug Poston of Douglas R. Poston, Jr. CPA gave the Financial Report:
General Fund (September): Receipts - $57,492.59, Disbursements - $38,139.10, Increase in cash - $19,353.49. Ending cash balance - $215,883.39 (Some of these funds are from the American Rescue Funds).

Utility Fund (September): Receipts - $36,378.24, Disbursements - $21242.92, Increase in cash -$15,135.32 Ending cash balance - $85,850.18 ($34,307.51 available for operations; $51, 542.67 for restricted grant funds).

Councilwoman asked if the DHEC fees were for fines imposed upon the Town. Mr. Poston and Mr. Dargan explained that the fees were for annual fees, quarterly fees, and a permit. None of the fees were for fines.

Councilman Cook read the State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Assistance Resolution that is a loan agreement between the South Carolina Water Quality Revolving Fund Authority and the Town of Lamar. The loan of $423,652.00 is a principal forgiveness loan to conduct a pump station sewer and sewer system evaluation survey. Councilwoman Bradley made a motion that the Town accept the resolution, Councilman Cook seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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

- RIA (Rural Infrastructure Grant) – Grant was awarded for $500,000 to rehab the Zion Road Pump Station. The status remains the same. Construction is due to begin in December 2022 and is scheduled to be completed in May 2023.

- SRF (State Revolving Fund) Grant – The council just signed off on the resolution, therefore payments can be made to the engineers for work already completed on this project and for the invoices that have been submitted. This will also satisfy one of the requirements of the consent orders (DHEC).
- SCIIP (South Carolina Infrastructure Investment Program) – No new information. Expecting notification of awards in February or March 2023. This grant is to replace and move the existing Railroad Avenue Pump Station.
- Stormwater Master Plan – The grant was awarded to the Town, awaiting updates.
- Mayor Howell asked Ms. Lathan to find funding to get new bathrooms and a concession stand at for the Town's ball field. He also wants her to investigate the feasibility of the Town having its own drinking water system.

Councilwoman asked who owned the ball field. Mayor Howell replied that the Town owns the ball field. She then asked if the Town has insurance on the property. Mr. Dargan said that all declared properties that belong to the Town are covered by the Town's insurance. He and Mr. Poston said that Town has insurance through MASC (Municipal Association of South Carolina).

Councilwoman Bradley asked Mayor Howell how long the Town has been in ownership of the ball field; Mayor replied that the Town has always owned the ball field.

Councilwoman Lee asked if the Town is looking into getting its own water supply. Mayor Howell has asked Jannie lathan to investigate this matter.

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

Water & Sewer: There was nothing new to report.

Beautification Commission Report: Has not met yet but are working on Christmas decorations.

Councilwoman Mack gave the Streets and Sanitation Report:

- Attended a meeting where citizens brought up county and town concerns. One of the major concerns was the cleaning on ditches. She informed the citizens that this was already being discussed by council, but she would bring it back up.

  Councilwoman Bradley asked Ms. Lathan if some of the funds from the grants could be used to address the ditch issue. Ms. Lathan said that the storm water grant was specifically for studying the flooding issues in Lamar. She said it was important that the Town took systematic and comprehensive steps to prioritize which project they need to take on next.

- Street signs need to be replaced. She said that there are some signs in the Town's inventory in the public work's warehouse.
- Citizens complain about the length of time to move or build in town.

Mayor Howell said that there is a sink hole issue at Jackson and Reynolds Street; the street will need to be dug up to find the root cause. Chief Scott added that DOT made him aware of the problem. The Town will have to take the initial steps before DOT will get involved.

Councilman Cook gave the Lamar Police Department Report:

- The Lamar Police Department is still accepting applications for potential certified full-time, certified, and non-certified police officers:
  Qualified, certified officers can earn up to $17 per/hr., plus benefits; full-time certified officers are also eligible for a $2000 hiring bonus.
  Full-time, non-certified officers start at $14.50 per/hr., with a pay increase after successful completion of certification requirements at the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy.
- Professional Development -Chief Scott attended the South Carolina Police Chief's Conference in September.
- Community Policing / Outreach – Lamar Police Department to be present at Lamar Health Fair on Saturday, October 15, 2022.
- TextMyGov: Please sign up for TextMyGov by texting "Hi" to 843-326-0266.

Code and Business License Report – Councilwoman Angele White- Bradley
Councilwoman Bradley conducted the second reading of the 2021 South Carolina Code Adoptions. A motion was made by Councilwoman Bradley that council adopt the 2021 South Carolina Code Adoptions. Seconded by Councilwoman Mack. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dargan gave an update on the following upcoming events:
Early Voting, Harvest Hope Food Giveaway, Town of Lamar Trick or Treat Observation, and Christmas on Main.
He also discussed the Sesquicentennial celebrations for October including the Sports Recognition and the Health fair.

Councilwoman Bradley made a motion to adjourn the Lamar Town Council Meeting. Councilwoman Lee seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Mayor Howell adjourned the meeting at 7:06 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Timothy L. Dargan, Town Administrator
Town of Lamar