

Lamar Town Council Meeting Minutes
January 10, 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, and Councilwoman Inez B. Lee. Councilwoman Mary Ann Mack attended via zoom call

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

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

A motion was made by Councilman Cook to accept the minutes from the December 13, 2021, Lamar Town Council Meeting. Councilwoman Bradley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Jannie Lathan of Lathan Consulting Corporation gave a grant report and an update on the Railroad Pump Station Project.

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

General Fund:

Receipts - \$277,194.28, Disbursements - \$51,322.10, Increase in cash - \$225,872.18, Ending cash balance - \$331,495.43 (\$232,745.05 of these funds are from the American Rescue Funds).

Utility Fund:

Receipts - \$37,076.71, Disbursements - \$37,226.39, Decrease in cash -\$149.68
Ending cash balance - \$87,016.49 (\$20,773.11 available for operations; remainder is grant funds)

Tim Dargan stated that DHEC has required the Town of Lamar to submit an Engineering Dam Report for the Zion Wastewater Treatment Pond by March 1, 2022. He read three quotes that he obtained from three different engineering firms; he recommended contracting with GEO Systems Designs & Testing. A motion was made by Mayor Howell to contract with GEO Systems. Councilwoman Bradley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Tim Dargan introduced and presented the first reading of the Town of Lamar Grease Trap Ordinance. Councilwoman Mack asked who would be responsible for seeing that the grease trap was properly installed and did the Town have a qualified person to handle this responsibility. Mr. Dargan said that the Town and the Town's Code Enforcer would have that responsibility. Councilwoman Bradley asked if the lift station off Jackson Street (Cambridge Apartment) would be included in this ordinance. Mr. Dargan said that the lift station would be included. Mayor Howell made a motion to accept the first reading of the Town of Lamar Grease Trap Ordinance. Councilwoman Lee seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Chief Carl Scott gave the Police Department Report. Chief Scott discussed the “Active Shooter Segment” that took place at the Lamar Neighborhood Watch December meeting. He also asked the citizens of Lamar to opt in to “Text My Gov” as a means of receiving and giving vital information about the Town.

Mr. Dargan stated that the Lamar Town Council members submitted a list of names of citizens to serve on the Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals at the December 1, 2021, Town of Lamar Council Meeting. They held a call meeting on December 20, 2021, to finalize the list and the qualifications for serving. The members were chosen with diversity in mind.

Councilman Tyler Cook gave the qualifications for serving on the Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals and the names of those chosen to serve (see attachment):

- Members must live within the Town limits.
- The position is a voluntary assignment.
- Members must undergo six hours of initial training (Plus three years of continuous education).

Mayor Howell discussed the full re-open of Town Hall. Effective immediately, Town Hall would be fully open to the public Monday – Thursday from 9:00 am – 4:30 pm (for the past several months, Town Hall was open to the public on Monday and Tuesday. Access was gain through the Police Department entrance).

Councilwoman Mack asked if there are any mitigation steps in place to provide safety for the Town employees. She also wanted to know if Town Hall has proper ventilation and are there plans to purchase air purifiers to assist with the air flow in the building, possibly out of the ARP funds. Mayor Howell responded that citizens are requested to wear masks, there are shields in the office, and that the building is being sanitized on a regular basis as citizens enter and exit the building. He said that the Town would have to investigate the ventilation issue and the purchase of air purifiers. Mayor Howell said that the employees must be safe, but we also must keep Town Hall opened to the public.

A citizen asked if there were any regulations regarding the changing of filters due to the pandemic. Chief Scott is going to check the CDC recommendations and notify council of his findings.

Mayor Howell discussed water and sewer customers who have severely delinquent bills. He suggested that council look at bills that were incurred when the Town was the service provider and bills that have been incurred since Darlington County Water and Sewer Authority became the provider. Mayor Howell wants to bring all accounts current and find ways to reduce or eliminate very old bills; the citizens will still be responsible for paying their portion of legitimate bills. There was a discussion on Additional research will be done, and this will be discussed further at the next council meeting.

A citizen volunteered to share information that the Town that he was previously acquainted with. He will meet with Mr. Dargan at a late date.

Councilwoman Mack said that she thought there was a time in the past when a customer delinquent bill would double every month if they did not pay it; she asked if this was still the case. Mr. Dargan said that he was unsure if that was the case previously but is not the case now. Councilwoman Bradley asked if the customers in question are current customers or old customers? Mayor Howell commented that it’s a combination of both.

Mayor Howell discussed the dilapidated buildings on Main Street in Lamar. He mentioned that the buildings are hazardous and if they should fall and injure someone, the Town and the property owners will be held liable. Mayor Howell asked Mr. Dargan to read the Town of Lamar Code Violation 5.211.

5.211 Building Burned or Destroyed More Than Half Its Value

Buildings which may have been or hereafter be damaged by fire, decay, or otherwise to an amount greater than one-half its value, exclusive of the foundation, shall not be repaired or rebuilt but shall be removed.

Mayor Howell also referenced the following code violations:

- 10.210 (Accumulation of Junk and Trash)
- 10.310 (Building Material)
- 10.401 (Upkeep of Vacant Lot)
- 10.402 (Requirement for Owner to Maintain Lots)
- 10.403 (Town to Clean. Costs to be Paid by Owner)
- 10.204 (Weeds Prohibited on Improved Property)

Mayor Howell said that certified letters will be sent to the property owners, and they will be given ample time to comply with the request. The penalties for failure to comply will be discussed after speaking with the Town lawyer.

Councilwoman Bradley said that there may be grant funds available for code violation 10.403 (Town to Clean. Costs to be paid by Owner).

Councilwoman Lee gave the Beautification Commission Report. She also discussed the Christmas on Main event and the Town's newsletter.

Mr. Dargan Thanked Harvest Hope, Elim UMC, The Town of Lamar, and the volunteers that participated in the December 17, 2021, food giveaway. He also mentioned that no definite decision has been made on a MLK Day Celebration for the Town of Lamar. He said that there will be an Egg Scramble Jamboree Celebration in 2022, and that the 150th Anniversary Committee for the Town of Lamar would be meeting in the very near future.

Mr. Dargan thanked Quincey Walker Jr for his success and his stellar representation of the Town of Lamar on the CBS Reality Show "Tough as Nails". In addition to sending a "Thank You" letter to the Town, Mr. Walker also presented the Town of Lamar Water Department with a check in the amount of \$1,000.

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

Councilman Cook 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. Councilman Cook seconded the motion. Mayor Howell adjourned the meeting at 7:31 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Timothy L. Dargan, Administrative Manager
Town of Lamar

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

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

Lamar Town Council Meeting Minutes
April 11, 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 Tim Dargan, Chief Carl Scott, Elijha Enoch-Smith (livestream operator), and Jeronell Bradley. Pamela Johnson and Pamela Prince of participated via zoom call.

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 March 14, 2022, Lamar Town Council Meeting. Councilman Cook seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The Chairman of the Egg Scramble Jamboree Committee, Jeronell Bradley, gave a post-event summary of the Egg Scramble Jamboree. Overall, the committee was very satisfied with the festival. They think that the trash collection could have been better and have requested that the Town of Lamar Public Works Department be available to assist in 2023. The committee would like to do something for the Town and will decide by June. Ms. Bradley stated that all "pop-up" festival events should go through the Egg Scramble Jamboree Committee.

Pamela Johnson and Pamela Prince of the Pee Dee Coalition gave an overview of the services that their organization provides to the public. They also spoke about Sexual Assault Awareness Month which is observed throughout the month of April. Denim Day will be observed on April 27, 2022, (the last Wednesday in the month) and citizens are asked to wear jeans to support sexual assault survivors; teal green ribbons can be worn as well. Ms. Johnson and Ms. Prince presented a Sexual Assault Awareness Month Proclamation to council. Councilwoman Bradley made a motion to accept the proclamation. Councilwoman Lee seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Receipts - \$41,253.35, Disbursements - \$35,828.82, Increase in cash - \$5,424.53, Ending cash balance - \$268,881.46 (\$180,028.61 of these funds are from the American Rescue Funds).

Utility Fund:

Receipts - \$30,385.73, Disbursements - \$38,628.85, Increase in cash -\$1,928.75
Ending cash balance - \$80,590.82 (\$14,342.68 available for operations; remainder is grant funds)

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

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

- Reported that there were no major water & sewer issues
- Beautification Commission working on a project and will share more information forthcoming.
- Conducted the second reading of the Grease Trap Ordinance. Councilwoman Mack made a motion to accept the ordinance. Councilwoman Lee seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Mack asked Mayor Howell about seeking infrastructure funds and capital improvement.

Councilwoman Mack gave the Streets and Sanitation Report:

- Stated that there has been an increase in debris collection.
- Town employees are only supposed to pick up average size limbs and branches, not trees.
- Council needs to publicize the debris information on the Town's website and in the newsletter.
- Debris Ordinance needs to be amended.

Councilman Cook gave the Lamar Police Department Report:

- No major incidence at the Egg Scramble Jamboree. Thanked the Darlington County Sheriff's Department and State Constables for their assistance.
- April 4-8, 2022, was Telecommunication Week. The Lamar Police Department provided lunch to the dispatchers to show their appreciation.
- The department applied for a Firehouse Subs Grant to purchase new radios.
- On March 31, 2022, an anonymous donor donated three patrol rifles to the Lamar Police Department.
- Recruitment – The Lamar Police Department is still accepting applications for potential Police Officers.
- Encouraged citizens to register for "TextMyGov."

Councilman Cook conducted the second reading of the Code Enforcement Ordinance. Councilwoman Bradley made a motion to accept the ordinance. Councilwoman Lee seconded the motion. The ordinance carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Bradley gave the Codes and Business License Report:

- Codes -New business need to have backflow devices
- Business License - Customers need to have options for proving their gross income.
- Conducted the second reading of the Business License Ordinance. Councilwoman Lee made a motion to accept the ordinance. Councilwoman Bradley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Howell stated that the Town needs a debit card for administrative and public works purchases. The bank stated that the card would be tied to one of the Town's bank accounts and that there would be an option of a \$500 spending limit with \$200 cashback or \$1,000 spending limit with \$500 cashback. Only one person name would be on the card (the mayor). Councilwoman Mack and Bradley said that a credit card would be more effective and would present less of a chance for fraud. No action was taken on this item.

Tim Dargan – Past Events:

- Town of Lamar Food Giveaway March 24th, 2022. (Elim, Harvest Hope, Town of Lamar, Volunteers)
- Sesquicentennial Celebration (Community Worship Service April 3, 2022, History of the churches).

Tim Dargan – Future Events:

- Sesquicentennial Celebration – May First Responders Month
- Petty cash log and purchase order system
- Orange Frog Ambassadors Event (May 14, 2022)
- Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals Training.

Councilwoman Bradley made a motion to adjourn the Lamar Town Council Meeting. Councilwoman Lee seconded the motion. Mayor Howell adjourned the meeting at 7:33 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Timothy L. Dargan, Administrative Manager
Town of Lamar

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:

:

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

Lamar Town Council Meeting Minutes
June 13, 2022

Mayor Pro Temp Angele White-Bradley called The Lamar Town Council Meeting to order at 6:20 PM.

Deacon Tim Dargan gave invocation.

Councilwoman Bradley took roll call of all council members present. Councilwoman Bradley, Councilman Tyler Cook, Councilwoman Mary Ann Mack, and Councilwoman Lee. Mayor James Howell joined the meeting after roll call was taken.

Others in attendance were Town Administrator Tim Dargan, Police Chief Carl Scott, and Eljha Enoch-Smith (livestream operator). Jannie Lathan and Doug Poston attended via conference call.

Councilwoman Bradley asked that we add an agenda item to discuss the purchase of additional equipment for livestreaming Lamar Town Council Meetings. Councilman Cook made a motion that the council add an agenda item to discuss equipment needed to run council meetings and place it after the discussion of codes and business license. Councilwoman Mack seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Mack made a motion to accept the minutes from the May 9, 2022, Lamar Town Council Meeting. Councilwoman Lee 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
 - Bid amount: \$506,325
 - Engine pump revision: (\$14,942)**
 - Alternate 1 selection:
 - Interior Exhaust Fan: \$3,000
 - New Doors/Screened Louver: \$4,500
 - Revised Total: **\$498,883**

 - Godwin Standby Engine Pump w/tax \$73,974
 - BBA Standby Engine Pump w/tax \$59,032
 - Price Adjustment \$14,942 **

 - Notice to Proceed: 7/15/22
 - Construction Substantial Completion: 12/16/22
 - Project Monitoring/Audit and Closeout: 2/16/23

Ms. Lathan said that the status for SRF (State Revolving Fund) Grant and SC DHEC Grant remains the same.

Ms. Lathan said that 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. This grant was not approved. We have received grant funding for the design. The engineering design for the new Railroad Pump Station is underway and we are looking for other grant funding avenues to pursue.

Ms. Lathan shared that a meeting was held to discuss submission requirements for two additional infrastructure grants to be submitted this Fall for the Town of Lamar. Another meeting is scheduled for Wednesday (June 15th) to discuss a grant for developing a Stormwater Master Plan for the Town.

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

General Fund: Receipts - \$74,939.28, Disbursements - \$54,426.85, Increase in cash - \$20,512.43, Ending cash balance - \$263,281.35 (\$163,430.29 of these funds are from the American Rescue Funds).

Utility Fund: Receipts - \$33,750.55, Disbursements - \$30,452.87, Increase in cash -\$3,297.68
Ending cash balance - \$55,852.36 (\$15,571.81 available for operations; remainder is grant funds)

Mr. Poston performed the first reading of the Town of Lamar Fiscal Year Ending 2023 Municipal Budget which was set at \$930,000.00 Councilman Cook asked Mr. Poston to explain the items that were listed under “miscellaneous” revenue and expenses. Mr. Poston explained that items placed in the miscellaneous category are placed there because they don’t fit neatly into any of the other categories; he tries to keep them to a minimum. He gave several examples of items that would fall under the miscellaneous category.

Mr. Dargan added that a public notice ad had been placed in the newspaper to notify the public about the public hearing and second reading of the FYE 2023 on June 27, 2022, at 6:00 pm. He said that this information was also placed on the Town’s website, Facebook page, and would be posted outside Town Hall as well.

Councilwoman Bradley made a motion that the first reading of the FYE 2023 Town of Lamar Municipal Budget be accepted. Councilwoman Lee seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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

- Broken water line in front of the Spaulding Field (Cartersville Highway) has been repaired.
- Repair work is being performed on a sink hole at Warren and Rogers. There is also an apparent leak on Warren in front of the Exxon Gas Station (Gay Ann).
- The Beautification Commission didn’t meet for their last scheduled meeting, but they are working on several projects.

Councilman Cook asked if the leak at Spaulding was the same one from several months ago. When he was informed that it is a different leak in a different location, Councilman Cook asked if something was wrong with that specific water line. Councilwoman Lee explained that the late Mike Lloyd told her that if there’s a break in a water line, you can expect several more breaks to occur on that water line.

Mayor Howell thanked the Public Works Employees for their hard work in getting the repairs completed in such a timely manner. Councilwoman Lee also thanked the Public Works Employees and advised them to be careful in the heat and to drink plenty of fluids.

Councilwoman Lee asked Mayor Howells what the process was for taking down the ribbons (Main Street)? She also asked if the Sesquicentennial Committee had a color theme. Mayor Howell replied that he asked Janie Howell to take them down. Mr. Dargan said the next set of ribbons to go up would be for the Fourth of July. Mr. Dargan said that the Sesquicentennial Committee didn't have a theme color because each month there is a different theme.

Councilwoman Mack gave the Streets and Sanitation Report:

Councilwoman Mack says DOT should give the Town of Lamar advance notice when they are going to do roadwork in Lamar. She said that some surrounding towns post this information in the newspaper for their citizens. She is going to go online to see if DOT has information available to the public.

Mayor Howell said that she should contact Thomasina McClain (Davis). Mr. Dargan said that he and Chief Scott previously met with officials from DOT and asked that they let the Town know in advance. Mr. Dargan thinks that the issue may be the sub-contractors that DOT contract to do some of the work. Chief Scott added that the main purpose for asking DOT to do this was so the Town could notify the citizens and first responder about road closures.

Councilwoman Mack also read a letter that was submitted by Lisa Gibson concerning the overgrown lots located near her family's home; Ms. Gibson was in attendance. Councilwoman Mack said that there are seven lots adjacent to Ms. Gibson's property and that 5 of them are overgrown – 3 of them are heirs' property. She must study the Town's ordinances to see what enforcement right the Town has in getting these property owners to clean up their property. Councilwoman Mack said that she would be willing to contact the property owners.

Mayor Howell said that the overgrown property would be addressed along with the dilapidated buildings. He had hope to have the information ready for this meeting.

Councilwoman Bradley asked Janie Howell if she could help explain the ordinance since she did a lot of work with the ordinances. Mrs. Howell said that they sent letters to the property owners telling them that there would be consequences if they did not clean off their property. She said that some of them cleaned their property, but some didn't because they knew that the Town would not enforce the ordinance.

Ms. Gibson said this situation goes back to 2016 when Hurricane Matthew came in and nothing has been done. She also added that their home is just as valuable to their family as other people's home are to them. She feared that animals or even deceased people could be in the "forest", and no one would know about it. Councilwoman Bradley shared some of the similar issues that she faced in her neighborhood. Mayor Howell said that he would talk to Ms. Gibson at the conclusion of the council meeting

Councilman Cook gave the Lamar Police Department Report:

- Lamar Fun Day Event at the Spaulding Park on Saturday, July 23 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- Women's Self-Defense Course at the American Legion Post on June 16 at 6:00 pm
- Recruitment: The Lamar PD is still accepting applications for potential police officers. Candidates are asked to apply to the Town. \$2,000 sign-on bonus, \$16 per hour, and benefits.
- Burn Permits: Call Darlington County at -800-986-3742 to obtain a permit to burn within the Town limits.
- 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 Bradley gave the Codes and Business License Report:

Councilwoman Bradley gave a review of the Standardization Business License Law that was discussed in the last Town Council Meeting.

Councilwoman Bradley discussed the issue of getting the proper equipment to conduct and livestream Lamar Town Council Meetings. Councilwoman Mack said that the Egg Scramble Jamboree would donate \$1,500 towards this equipment. Mayor Howell asked about the additional equipment that was purchased several months ago. Mr. Enoch-Smith said that this equipment was minimal and proved to be inadequate for what the Town really needs.

Councilwoman Bradley read a proclamation proclaiming the month of June as Men Health Month. Councilwoman Bradley made a motion to accept the proclamation. Councilman Cook seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously

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

Water Customer Amnesty Day (June 6-8), Delinquent water accounts disconnection notice (beginning on June 13), Harvest Hope Food Give Away (June 17), Sesquicentennial Public Servants Event (June 16), and Sesquicentennial Military Event (July 16).

Councilwoman Bradley made a motion to adjourn the Lamar Town Council Meeting. Councilwoman Lee seconded the motion. Mayor Howell adjourned the meeting at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Timothy L. Dargan, Town Administrator
Town of Lamar

Lamar Town Council Meeting Minutes
July 11, 2022

Mayor James Howell called The Lamar Town Council Meeting to order at 6:150 PM.

Deacon Tim Dargan gave invocation.

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

Others in attendance were Town Administrator Tim Dargan, Police Chief Carl Scott, and Eljha Enoch-Smith (livestream operator). Jannie Lathan and Doug Poston attended via conference call.

Councilwoman Lee made a motion to accept the agenda for the July 11, 2022, Town Council Meeting. Councilwoman Bradley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Cook made a motion to accept the minutes from the June 13, 2022, Lamar Town Council Meeting. Councilwoman Bradley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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

RIA (Rural Infrastructure Authority) Grant.

The grant was awarded for \$500,000 to rehab the Zion Road Pump Station. The construction contract was competitively bided, approved for award by RIA, and awarded for Site Concepts, Inc. for an adjusted cost of \$498,883. The current status and schedule are:

Notice to Proceed: 7/25/22

Construction Substantial Completion: 3/15/2023

Project Monitoring/Audit and Closeout: 5/10/23

Note: A Grant Amendment Request was submitted and approved by RIA to support the construction completion and close-out dates.

SRF (State revolving Fund) Grant.

This grant was 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. Additionally, 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 (SRF), by Lathan Consulting Corporation on March 14, 2022. This grant was not approved. While not approved by RIA, the grant was under consideration by SRF. However, SRF could not move forward with consideration because the Town is still delinquent in filing its 2020 annual audit (and the 2021 audit which is due, now). A conference call was held June 6, 2022, with the Town's accounting firm and SRF to discuss the grant application status and the submittal status of the required annual audits. We have received grant funding for the design. The engineering design for the new Railroad Pump Station is completed (we are still waiting for a copy of the required recorded deed from the Town's Attorney), and we are still looking for other grant funding avenues to pursue.

Future Infrastructure Grants for Lamar:

A meeting was held to discuss submission requirements for two additional infrastructure grants to be submitted this Fall for the Town of Lamar. At the June 15, 2022, meeting, Mayor Howell gave approval to submit a grant application for developing a Stormwater Master Plan for the Town. Development of this grant application is underway. We are waiting for a response from the Town's Engineer for the cost for submitting a grant application to upgrade the Cambridge Pump station and a new drinking water treatment plant.

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

General Fund: Receipts - \$110,032.64, Disbursements - \$92,240.97, Increase in cash - \$17,791.67. Ending cash balance - \$281,073.02 (\$122,756.13 of these funds are from the American Rescue Funds).

Utility Fund: Receipts - \$74,939.36, Disbursements - \$58,477.86, Increase in cash -\$16,461.50
Ending cash balance - \$72,313.86 (\$16,961.52 available for operations; remainder is grant funds)

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

Water & Sewer:

- Gathering information for Mr. Willie Morgan of SERCAP to perform the DHEC Water Audit.
- Water samples to be taken from select citizens' home (to be tested for lead & copper).

Beautification Commission Report:

- Damaged or missing street signs need to be replaced
- Trash roll carts need to be updated.
- Beautification Commission asked if the council could make the Town Clock Fund a budget item (they have received a total of \$760.00 in donations)

Mayor Howell said that there are some street signs in the public works warehouse that could possibly be used. Mayor Howell said that the Town Clock Fund would not be added to the Town's budget.

Councilwoman Bradley wants Jannie Lathan to secure a grant for new trash roll carts.

Councilwoman Mack gave the Streets and Sanitation Report:

- Street sign down at East Main & Pearl Street
- Some areas still need to be patched
- An in-house application (and proposal) was made for the position of Public Works Supervisor.

Councilwoman Mack gave an impassioned plea about the growth of the Town of Lamar:

- Population growth – population decreased by 30% since 1990 (1125 people in 1990)
- 2020 Census shows 938 people in the Town limit of Lamar
- Medium income is \$36,000
- Medium house cost is \$155,000
- 84 % of the citizens have High School Diplomas. 18% have an Associate Degree or higher.
- 35% of the population is 65 years or older. 45% of the population is 50 years or older (50 - 64)

Councilwoman Mack asked the council, “What are our goals”? She said the goal should be to make the Town thrive. She pointed out that most young people can’t afford to buy a home in Lamar and will continue to move away. She suggested that when new businesses come to town, they are looking to employ young people. She said that council must stop fighting against the citizens or else the Town will die.

Councilwoman Mack said that some citizen’s lot are so small that the only home they can put on their property is a mobile home. She asked the council, “What are we going to do the help the Town grow and survive”.

Councilman Cook agreed with Councilwoman Mack. He stated why he moved to Lamar and that he saw the potential. He talked about the low cost that he paid for his current home, how the Town is accessible to larger towns, and the peacefulness of a small town. He said that council should try to recruit young families to the Town.

Councilman Cook gave the Lamar Police Department Report:

- Lamar Fun Day Event at the Spaulding Park on Saturday, July 23 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- Recruitment: The Lamar PD is still accepting applications for potential police officers. Candidates are asked to apply to the Town. \$2,000 sign-on bonus, \$16 per hour, and benefits.
- Burn Permits: Call Darlington County at -800-986-3742 to obtain a permit to burn within the Town limits.
- Stray Animals Ordinance (Ordinance Number 3.211)
- TextMyGov: Please sign up for TextMyGov by texting “Hi” to 843-326-0266.

Councilwoman Bradley gave the Codes and Business License Report:

There were no updates, but Councilwoman did tell the citizens that if they have questions about the new Business Tax Law that they should contact her or Town Hall before the new Business License Year.

Councilwoman Bradley read the Spaulding High School Reunion Month Proclamation. Councilwoman Bradley made a motion to accept the proclamation. Councilwoman Mack seconded the motion the motion carried unanimously.

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

Sesquicentennial Events: Military Event (July 16) and Farmers/Merchants Event (August)

Councilman Cook made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss an internal employee [Section 30-4-70 (A) (1)]. Councilwoman Bradley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Bradley made a motion to exit Executive Session. Councilman Cook seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Cook made a motion to adjourn the Lamar Town Council Meeting. Councilwoman Lee seconded the motion. Mayor Howell adjourned the meeting at 7:48 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Timothy L. Dargan, Town Administrator
Town of Lamar

Lamar Town Council Meeting Minutes
August 8, 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, Councilwoman Angele White-Bradley, Councilman Tyler Cook, and Councilwoman Mary Ann Mack.

Town Administrator Tim Dargan was also in attendance.

Councilwoman Mack made a motion to accept the agenda for the August 8, 2022, Town Council Meeting. Councilwoman Lee seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Tim Dargan presented the Town of Lamar Municipal Audit FYE 2020 as information to the council.

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

Water & Sewer:

- Gathering information for Mr. Willie Morgan of SERCAP to perform the DHEC Water Audit.
- In the process of gathering water samples from select citizens' home (to be evaluated for lead & copper) for DHEC.
- Working on Leak at Pearl Street.

Beautification Commission Report:

- Still working on items that they discussed in their last meeting.
- Darlington County Crew that helps with street and trash maintenance was in Lamar only once in the last month. They are playing catch up.
- Councilwoman Lee asks that the Town of Lamar Public Works Employees, Darlington County Employees, Beautification Commission, and all citizens pick up trash and help maintain the streets.

Second Reading of Water & Sewer Rate Increase – Councilwoman Lee

Effective October 1, 2022, the following will apply:

There will be a 5 % increase in Monthly Water Rates

There will be a 5 % increase in Monthly Sewer Rates

Water Tap Fees...\$1,000.00

Sewer Tap Fees...\$1,500.00

Councilman Cook voiced his concern about the 5% increase for water and sewer rates but acknowledged that the council does not have a choice in this instance. Mayor Howell added that the increase to Lamar's citizens water & sewer rates are a result of Darlington County & Water Sewer Authority increasing their rates. Councilwoman Bradley had several questions about the water and sewer tap fees. after an in-depth discussion about the fees, Councilwoman Mack made a motion to accept the second reading. Councilwoman Lee second the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Mack gave the Streets and Sanitation Report:

- A constituent (citizen) had a concern about tractor trailer trucks driving through residential areas and damaging driveways. She and Chief Scott evaluated the area, as well as reached out to DOT. Chief Scott is in the process of drafting a response letter to the citizen.
- Sanitation issues. These issues will be addressed by Mayor Howell.
- The Town should investigate starting a solar panel farm on land owned by the Town and/or on the town hall building. Funds should be available through an Energy & Climate Change Initiative that will be rolling out soon. Mayor Howell said that he was already looking into this project.

Councilman Cook gave the Lamar Police Department Report:

- The Lamar Police department sponsored Lamar Fun Day on July 23 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- Announced the hiring of Officer Freeman Brown as a full-time certified officer.
- Recruitment: The Lamar PD is still accepting applications for potential police officers. Candidates are asked to apply to the Town.
- Burn Permits: Call Darlington County at -800-986-3742 to obtain a permit to burn within the Town limits.
- Stray Animals Ordinance (Ordinance Number 3.211)
- TextMyGov: Please sign up for TextMyGov by texting "Hi" to 843-326-0266.

Councilwoman Bradley gave the Codes and Business License Report:

- Asked if anyone knew what was going on at the old Subway building.
- The Code Enforcer, Alvin Chambers, will be checking businesses to ensure they have a backflow device installed.

Mayor Howell said that a hair shop will be locating in the old ice cream shop.

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

Back-to-School Supplies Give-away at St. Mark Pentecostal Holiness Church (Wednesday, August 10)

Sesquicentennial Events: Farmers/Merchants Event (Saturday, August 27)

Councilman Cook 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 7:02 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Timothy L. Dargan, Town Administrator
Town of Lamar

Lamar Town Council Meeting Minutes
September 12, 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: Mayor Howell, Councilwoman Inez B. Lee, Councilman Tyler Cook, and Councilwoman Mary Ann Mack. Councilwoman Angele White-Bradley participated via Zoom.

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

Councilman Cook made a motion to accept the agenda for the September 12, 2022, Town Council Meeting with a suggestion that the order of Financial Report and the Municipal Audit Report be switched on the agenda. Councilwoman Mack Lee seconded the motion with the revision. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Cook made a motion to accept the minutes from the August 8, 2022, Lamar Town Council Meeting. Councilwoman Lee seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Foster McKinney, CPA of Hamilton, McKinney, & Moss presented the Town of Lamar Municipal Audit for the FYE 2020 and FYE 2021. Mr. Foster explained some of the difficulty he encountered in doing both audits simultaneously, including gathering the requested information from the Town and completing audits for previous retained clients. Several findings were consistent with findings that you would find with a small town such as the Town of Lamar; nevertheless, Mr. Foster issued a good opinion for both audits. He was very complimentary of the assistance that he received from Town of Lamar staff members, Tim Dargan and Gloria Joye, and from the Town's accountant, Doug Poston. Mr. Foster said the Town should hire a firm for the FYE 2022 audit as soon as possible.

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

General Fund (July): Receipts - \$15,749.31, Disbursements - \$53,685.11, Decrease in cash - \$37,935.80. Ending cash balance - \$243,137.22 (Some of these funds are from the American Rescue Funds).

Utility Fund (July): Receipts - \$33,472.58 Disbursements - \$19,652.23, Increase in cash -\$13,820.35 Ending cash balance - \$86,134.21 (\$30,796.93 available for operations; remainder is grant funds).

General Fund (August): Receipts - \$28,659.42 Disbursements - \$75,266.74, Decrease in cash - \$46,6077.32. Ending cash balance - \$196,529.90 (Some of these funds are from the American Rescue Funds).

Utility Fund (August): Receipts - \$27,929.34 Disbursements - \$43,348.69, Decrease in cash -\$15,419.35 Ending cash balance - \$70,714.86 (\$15,374.84 available for operations; remainder is grant funds).

Mr. Poston said that the next payment made to Xylem (Godwin Pump) would bring the account current.

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. There was an adjusted cost of \$498,883. There will be no construction for the next several months due to supply chain issues.
- SRF (State Revolving Fund) Grant – Grant was awarded for \$423,652 to conduct a Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Survey of Lamar’s Sewer System. This work is underway.
- SC DHEC Grant – Grant was awarded for \$350,000 to support improvements to the Town’s water & sewer systems. The work has been completed the Grant Administrator (Lathan Consulting Corporation) is in the process of closing out the grant.
- SCIIP (South Carolina Infrastructure Investment Program) Grant Application New Grant Application. Grant application was submitted to RIA on September 12, 2022. The grant is for the upgrade/replacement of the Railroad Pump Station. The total project amount for this grant is \$1,108,750.
- Stormwater Master Plan – Lathan Consulting Corporation submitted a grant application on July 28, 2022, for funding to develop a stormwater Master Plan for the Town of Lamar. The grant was approved, and the Town will be receiving \$145,200 for the development of the plan.

Mr. Dargan applauded Ms. Lathan for going over and beyond the call of duty to get the SCIIP Application submitted before the deadline including working at nights and on Sundays to secure the information. In addition to thanking Mr. Dargan and Mr. Poston for their help with this matter, Ms. Lathan also said that She would like to meet with Mayor Howell, Mr. Dargan, and Mr. Poston to work on a Capital Improvement Plan and an Asset Management.

Alvin Chambers CBO, CFM, MBL (Code Enforcement) Report:

Mr. Chambers presented and explained the 2021 South Carolina Code Adoptions that must be adopted and implemented as of January 1, 2023. Councilwoman Bradley did the first reading for the ordinance. Councilwoman Bradley made a motion to adopt the updated ordinance, Councilman Cook seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Chambers also talked about the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance; this ordinance has been deferred until the council has a better understanding of it.

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

Water & Sewer:

- SERCAP – 1) Provided map for Railroad Lift Station, 2) ESRI Field Map App to assist with pipe and manhole locations, and 3) Mr. Morgan is still working on water audit for DHEC.
- Mike McDonald collected water samples from selected citizens to test for lead and copper.
- Chris Caldwell of Pete’s Duty & Associate is still waiting on parts to replace damaged SCADA Unit at the Pearl Street Water Tank.
- Several water breaks repaired, including major repair of a water valve at the traffic light.
- Notify Town if you see a leak

• **Beautification Commission Report:**

Gave an overview of the Beautification Commission Meeting held on Friday, September 9,

2022 Councilwoman:

- Welcomed new member Zachary Cogon to the Commission.
- Will place copy of Monthly Connection at Library and Piggly Wiggly.

- \$1,020 has been received for the clock fund.
- Will ask ROTC to help with the upkeep of Veteran's Park, Library Park, 401 North & South signs.
- Need task list for Darlington County workers on the Monday of the week that they are coming.

Councilwoman Mack gave the Streets and Sanitation Report:

- Missing Street Signs need to be replaced.
- House numbers need to be on every house.
- Ditches and Easements
- Reminder from Public Works Department to citizens
 - ❖ Don't take trash out of containers. Animals tear the bags and scatter trash.
 - ❖ Trash must be secured in bags. Cannot pick up loose trash.

Councilman Cook gave the Lamar Police Department Report:

- The Lamar Police Department announced the hiring of Officer Freeman Brown
- Still accepting applications for potential certified part-time police. In the process of setting interviews.
- Tara Amerson invited Chief Carl Scott to speak to the second-grade classes at St. John Elementary. The Chief's topic was "What does it mean to be an American".
- Burn Permits: Call Darlington County at -800-986-3742 to obtain a permit to burn within the Town limits.
- Stray Animals Ordinance (Ordinance Number 3.211)
- TextMyGov: Please sign up for TextMyGov by texting "Hi" to 843-326-0266.

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

Community Prayer Walk, Harvest Hope Food Giveaway, and Sesquicentennial celebrations for October including the Sports Recognition and the Health fair.

Councilwoman Mack made a motion to adjourn the Lamar Town Council Meeting. Councilman Cook seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Mayor Howell adjourned the meeting at 7:21 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Timothy L. Dargan, Town Administrator
Town of Lamar

**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 - \$21,242.92, 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).
- SCIP (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

**Lamar Town Council Meeting Minutes
November 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: 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, Janie Howell, Marlon Thomas, and Colt Shirley. Doug Poston attended via zoom.

Councilwoman Mack made a motion to accept the agenda for the November 14, 2022, Town Council Meeting. Councilwoman Lee seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Cook made a motion to accept the minutes from the October 10, 2022, Lamar Town Council Meeting. Councilman Lee seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Mack gave an overview on the upcoming Egg Scramble Jamboree “Enchantment Under the Sea”:

Saturday, March 25, 2023 – Taste of Lamar

Friday, March 31, 2023 – Night Parade

Saturday, April 1, 2023 – All day Festival

Janie Howell of the Christmas on Main gave an overview on the upcoming Christmas on Main Festivities:

Lighting of the Christmas tree – Thursday, November 24 @ 6:00 pm

Festival – Saturday, December 3, 1-5 pm

Parade – Saturday, December 3 @ 5:30 pm

Dr. Marlon Thomas, Principal of Lamar High School, shared his vision for a mural that is going to be painted in the entrance way of Lamar High School. He wants the mural to capture various aspects of the history of the Town, both past and present. Dr. Thomas asked council members to share some of the historical things that come to mind when they think about the Town of Lamar. Council members and citizens listed several landmarks, events, and individuals that Dr. Thomas and Colt Shirley, the muralist, said would be beneficial to this project. Dr. Thomas said that citizens have a few weeks to contact him with more historical information about the Town.

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

General Fund (October): Receipts - \$256,472.03 Disbursements - \$41,259.92, Increase in cash - \$215,212.111
Ending cash balance - \$431,095.50 (Some of these funds are from the American Rescue Funds).

Utility Fund (October): Receipts - \$30,364.30 Disbursements - \$33,403.90, Decrease in cash -\$3,039.60
Ending cash balance - \$82,810.58 (\$31,263.94 available for operations; \$51, 546.64 for restricted grant funds).

Councilwoman Mack gave the Streets and Sanitation Report:

- Councilwoman Mack asked about the status of the hole that needs to be repaired at the traffic light. Mayor Howell and Chief Carl Scott said that DOT was going to do a temporary repair for now but will come back and pave it at the beginning of the year.
- There appears to be a leak at Reynolds and Main that need to be addressed. Mayor Howell said that the Public Works Department know about the leak and that it is being monitored.
- Hole at Pearl Street needs to be repaired.
- Councilwoman Mack would like to contact Bobby Richardson about street signs for the Town. Mr. Dargan suggested that she speak with the County Administrator, Charles Stewart, instead. She said that there are 101 signs, but some of them are old and some do not have hardware. She has a list of all the signs.
- Councilwoman Mack went on the record to say that the Town is taking too long to do what needs to be done so that FEMA can replace a condemned mobile home in the Town of Lamar. She questioned if the Town would be liable if something happened to that family while they are waiting on the Town to act. Mr. Dargan remarked that this was one of the issues that was going to be discussed during the Executive Session.
- Councilwoman Mack went on the record to say that there needs to be a discussion about premium pay for policing and the Town's staff from the ARPA Funds. Mayor Howell said that would be discussed during Executive Session.

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

Beautification Commission Report from November 10, 2022, meeting:

- Contacting DOT concerning guardrails at dangerous places.
- Asking merchants to help keep streets clear of debris.
- Areas being addressed via protocol:
 - ❖ Loading docks
 - ❖ Trash cans and flowerpots
 - ❖ Roads and signs

Water & Sewer:

- Several small leaks have been taken care of.
- DHEC Water Drinking Survey in December.

Mayor Howell said that the street and Jackson and Reynolds will have to be dug up to evaluate the issue that is making the street sink. He is waiting for Kirk Rouse to set a date when this project can be done.

Councilwoman Bradley ask if the Town can get a licensed company to evaluate this and fix it instead of waiting on Mr. Rouse. Mayor Howell replied that we must be careful with the budget, but Councilwoman Bradley said that she thinks it would be worth it to fix this problem. She also asked about the Water Loss Report; specifically, how much is the Town spending versus how much it is losing. Councilwoman Lee said that she is working on it and will have it at the December meeting.

Councilwoman Mack said that it would be hard to get a true picture on the water loss because of the water being used at the ballfield (they are not metered).

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.
- Anonymous Tip Line at 843-326-5555 (non-emergency calls)
Residents can also contact Chief Scott directly at 843-639-3900 or 843-326-555
After-hours non-emergency line at 843-398-4920
All emergency calls should be made to 9911
- TextMyGov: Please sign up for TextMyGov by texting “Hi” to 843-326-0266.

Councilwoman Mack asked what the qualifications for a non-certified officer were. Councilman Cook replied that they would need a High School Diploma. He also said that they would like to see some type of correction or security work. The non-certified officers would undergo training and be sent to the Police Academy before they would be allowed to work independently.

Chief Scott mentioned that you can give tips anonymously via the telephone tip line, online tip line, and “Text My Gov”.

Code and Business License Report – Councilwoman Angele White- Bradley

Councilwoman Bradley went on record to say that she would also like to discuss the issue with the citizen’s home delivery being delayed.

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

St. Mark PH Church Community fish Fry, Darlington County Community Action Agency Outreach Event, and Christmas on Main. He also discussed the Sesquicentennial celebrations for November (Journey Through Education) and December (Closing events).

Mr. Dargan presented Town Council with a trophy and \$2,500 that he received from the SCMIRF (South Carolina Municipal Insurance and Risk Financing Fund) “In recognition of outstanding commitment to safety and excellent loss experience”.

Councilwoman Mack made a motion to enter Executive Session. Councilwoman Bradley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Lee made a motion to enter the Town Council Meeting. Councilwoman Bradley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Bradley made a motion to allow the demolition of a citizen’s home in the Town of Lamar and the demolished home be replaced in the same spot by a new home if the land and home dimension meets the Town’s Ordinance requirement. Councilman Cook seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Howell adjourned the meeting at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Timothy L. Dargan, Town Administrator

**Lamar Town Council Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2022**

Mayor James Howell called The Lamar Town Council Meeting to order at 6:158 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 and Chief Carl Scott. Doug Poston attended via zoom.

Councilman Cook made a motion to accept the agenda for the December 12, 2022, Lamar Town Council Meeting. Councilwoman Mack seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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

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

General Fund (November): Receipts - \$45,265.97 Disbursements - \$43,783.85, Increase in cash - \$1,482.12
Ending cash balance - \$432,577.62 (Some of these funds are from the American Rescue Funds).

Utility Fund (November): Receipts - \$33,593.18 Disbursements - \$36,514.11, Decrease in cash -\$2,920.93
Ending cash balance - \$79,889.65 (\$28,335.15 available for operations; \$51, 554.50 for restricted grant funds).

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

Water & Sewer:

- Discussed Weekly Water & Sewer Report submitted by Elijha Enoch-Smith, Public Works Supervisor.
- Reported that there was water break at the demolition site of Lamar Elementary on Thanksgiving Day.
- Discussed DHEC Annual Drinking Water Survey. Report sounded good, but there are a few ongoing issues that need to be addressed.
- Reported on November water loss (Purchased – 2,908,830, Billed – 2,096,630, Loss – 812,200)

Beautification Commission Report from November 10, 2022, meeting:

- Commission met on December 12, 2022, and discussed the following future events:
 - ❖ Trash cans.
 - ❖ Area at Spaulding Middle School.
 - ❖ Trying to get Street Signs
- Congratulated the Christmas on Main Committee for doing a wonderful job with the decorations and the Christmas on main events.
- Asked all citizens to clean up around their homes and yards.

Councilwoman Mack gave the Streets and Sanitation Report:

- Reported that members of the Beautification Commission said that they would go around town and see where signs needed to be replaced; she also rode around town to look herself. Councilwoman Mack reported that a lot of the signs around town needed to be replaced. There are some that can potentially be cleaned, but others are bent or have leaning poles. She suggested that the Public Works Department can possibly assist by straightening leaning signs. Mayor Howell said that he will check on this the first of next week to see what signs are salvageable.
- There are at least three Town Limits Signs that are missing and need to be replaced (Sanko, Pine Street, and Lee State Park Road).
- Councilwoman Mack asked about the status of the hole that needs to be repaired at the traffic light. Councilwoman Bradley also asked how much of Main Street was going to be paved by DOT. Mayor Howell said that DOT is coming back at the beginning of the year and that the paving would be from Lee State Park Road and then turn and go up Davis Street.
- Councilwoman Bradley stated that the hole at Pearl Street needs to be repaired.

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.
- The Lamar Police Department recently obtained two patrol cruisers.
- Anonymous Tip Line at 843-326-5555 (non-emergency calls)
Residents can also contact Chief Scott directly at 843-639-3900 or 843-326-555
After-hours non-emergency line at 843-398-4920
All emergency calls should be made to 9911
- Lamar had two robberies at the end of November. One suspect is in custody; The LPD and DCSO are working together and hope to have additional arrest soon.
- Please watch your speed limit around town. The speed limit in town is between 25-35 MPH. Had at least one major accident recently.
- TextMyGov: Please sign up for TextMyGov by texting "Hi" to 843-326-0266.

Code and Business License Report – Councilwoman Angele White- Bradley

Councilwoman Bradley announced that the Town has two new businesses, Carquest and a bakery. She thanked them both for coming to our small town to open a business. Mayor Howell interjected that he would discuss the new businesses in his report. He stated that Carquest opened today and that the bakery would open in April.

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

- Mr. Dargan thanked all steering committee members and chairpersons for their participation in the Towns' Sesquicentennial Celebration. Sesquicentennial Souvenir Sport Booklets (\$10) and Commemorative Ornaments (\$11) are on sale at Town Hall during normal business hours.
- Thanked the churches and volunteers who assisted with the Harvest Hope food box giveaways during the year.
- Discussed the Lamar Library Park dedication in memory of Ethel Jane Reynold.
- Announced the events that are planned for the 2023 Egg Scramble Jamboree Festival.
- Announced the passing of long-time business owner, Larry Crolley (Craig's Industries).

Mayor Howell introduced several new businesses that have recently opened in the Town of Lamar: Carquest, Two Sisters, Beehive, Mercantile, Clover style Boutique, and Eatz on Main. A bakery will open in April 2023. Mayor Howell urged the Town's citizens to support the new businesses.

Councilwoman Mack made a motion to enter Executive Session. Councilwoman Bradley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Lee made a motion to enter the Town Council Meeting. Councilwoman Cook seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Cook made a motion that for the year 2022 only, the Town's full-time employees would have a choice of using unused vacation days, being paid for unused vacation days, or a combination of the two. Councilwoman Bradley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Bradley made a motion that Town purchase an audio recorder to assist Mr. Dargan in recording the Lamar Town Council Meetings. Councilwoman Lee seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Cook made a motion the Town's three full-time employees, and one part-time employee all receive \$500 each premium pay from the second installment of the ARP (American Rescue Plan) Funds. The recently hired employee would receive \$250 from the General Fund. Councilwoman Bradley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Cook 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 8:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Timothy L. Dargan, Town Administrator