

Lamar Town Council Meeting Minutes
March 11, 2024

Mayor Pro Temp Angele White-Bradley called the Lamar Town Council Meeting to order at 6:17 PM.

Councilwoman Inez B. Lee gave the invocation.

Councilwoman Bradley took roll call: Councilwoman Bradley, Councilman Tyler Cook, Councilwoman Mary Ann Mack, and Councilwoman Inez B. Lee were all present. Mayor James Howell was absent.

Others in attendance: Carl Scott (Chief of Police). Town Administrator Tim Dargan was absent.

Councilman Cook made a motion to accept the agenda for the March 11, 2024, Lamar Town Council Meeting. Councilwoman Lee seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Mack made a motion to accept the minutes from the February 12, 2024, Lamar Town Council Meeting. Councilwoman Lee seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Cook read a proclamation proclaiming the week of March 10 -16, 2024 Girl Scout Week in the Town of Lamar.

Doug Poston of Douglas R. Poston, Jr. CPA submitted the financial Report:

General Fund (February 2024): Receipts - \$137,601.75, Disbursements - \$39,200.70, Increase in cash - \$98,401.05, Ending cash balance - \$513,098.80 (\$219,002.45 of these funds are from the American Rescue Funds).

Utility Fund (February 2024): Receipts - \$47,194.06, Disbursements - \$41,854.00, Increase in cash -\$5,340.06, Ending cash balance - \$92,955.26 (\$35,804.01 available for operations; \$57,151.25 for restricted grant funds).

Councilwoman Lee made a motion to accept the financial report as information. Councilman Cook seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Teresa Jacobs from the Pee Council of Government (COG) submitted the SCIIP Grant Report:

Upcoming Activities:

- Rescoping of project review/approval by RIA prior to rebid.
- Rebidding of project to be held in March 2024.
 - Project must be advertised for 30 days.
 - Direct solicitations are required.
- QPR3 to be completed and submitted by March 29, 2024.

Councilwoman Cook made a motion to receive Ms. Jacobs report as information. Councilwoman Mack seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Bradley gave the Codes and Business Report:

Councilwoman Bradley didn't have anything new to report. If citizens have questions, they can contact her.

Councilwoman Lee gave the Beautification Commission Report.

The Great American Clean-Up is March 21-23, 2024. Asking citizens to clean all areas and the sidewalks if they can. We're not just cleaning for the Egg Scramble Jamboree but keeping the town clean. Let's work together to get this done.

Councilwoman Lee gave the Water & Sewer Report:

- The SCADA unit readings might not be accurate. This is being investigated.
- Water line repairs at Pear Street, Duke Street, South Darlington, and East Jackson Street. Asked citizens to slow down when driving on main Street.
- Helen Lane Project is ongoing.

Water Loss Report for the Month of February 2024:

Gallons Purchased: 4,943,320, Gallons Billed: 1,988,017, Gallons Loss: 2,955,303 (Paid to DCWSA -\$15,931.99)

Water leaks have contributed significantly to the water loss.

Councilwoman Mack gave the Streets and Sanitation Report:

- Reminded citizens to report street light outages to Duke Energy.
- Alerted citizens to driving hazards being caused by obstructions in the road, road work, new water and sewer lines being placed. Asked citizens to slow down when driving through town.
- Will ask Mayor Howell to get risers for the manholes so the manhole covers can be properly fitted.
- Looking for grants for parks and recreation.
- Discuss possibility of selling trees on property at South Davis Street (Hwy 401).
- There was another pedestrian struck by a vehicle in town. Chief Scott said that he would discuss the matter with Councilwoman Mack after the meeting.

Councilwoman Bradley went on record as saying she agreed with everything that Councilwoman Mack said.

Councilman Cook gave the Lamar Police Department Report:

- Discussed the speeding issue that seems to be on the rise.
- No updates on Animal Control numbers.
- Keep your dog on a leash.
- Encourage residents to call the Anonymous Tip Line at 843-326-1449 (non-emergency calls).
- Wished Officer Haley Silva a “happy Birthday”.

Chief Scott thanked Girl Scout Troop 1601 for visiting the Police Department a few weeks ago.

Councilwoman Bradley commented on a letter that the council received regarding the easement issue that was discussed in the February Town Council Meeting. Councilwoman Bradley, Councilwoman Mack, and Councilman Cook commented that Mr. Dargan was in contact with Darlington County and the Town’s lawyer to resolve several conflicts. They assured the citizens that the council would act on this matter as soon as possible; even if they must call a special meeting.

Councilman Cook made a motion to accept the letter as information. Councilwoman Lee second the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Bradley gave a report on upcoming events: Darlington County Sherriff’s Office Informational Brunch (March 20th), Harvest Hope Food Giveaway (March 28th), and the Lamar Egg Scramble Jamboree Festivities (Egg Scramble Taste, Yard Decoration Contest, and the Egg Scramble Jamboree)

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

Councilwoman Bradley adjourned the meeting at 6:42 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Councilman Tyler Cook and Timothy L. Dargan, Town Administrator