**Lamar Town Council Meeting Minutes**

**April 8, 2024**

Mayor James Howell called the Lamar Town Council Meeting to order at ­­6:16 PM.

Councilwoman Inez B. Lee gave the invocation.

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

Others in attendance: Tim Dargan (Town Administrator) and Carl Scott (Chief of Police). Pamela Prince of the Pee Dee Coalition appeared via zoom.

Councilman Cook made a motion to accept the agenda for the April 8, 2024, Lamar Town Council Meeting. Councilwoman Mack seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Pamela Prince of the Pee Dee Coalition shared information on Sexual Assault Awareness Month which is observed in the month of April. She thanked the Town of Lamar and Chief Scott for working with the coalition. Ms. Prince pointed out Chief Scott working with children and the Durant Center and for sharing toys with them. she will be visiting different entities throughout the month to talk about sexual assault and will bring banners and a display board to Lamar Town Hall by April 10th.

Councilman Cook read a Sexual Assault Awareness Month Proclamation for the Town of Lamar.

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

Activities Currently On-Going/Completed:

* Rescoping of project review/approval by RIA prior to rebid.
* Quarterly progress report was submitted on March 28, 2024.
* Project schedule updated. Changed reflected in:

\*Bid advertised \*Bids opened \*Construction NTP \*Initiation of Operations Date

Upcoming Activities:

* Rebid in the latter part of April 2024
* Bid opening May 2024

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

Council members had several questions about the lack of progress on the Railroad Ave. Lift Station project. They asked if the COG had the ability to secure additional funds if they were needed to complete the project. The council requested the appearance of representatives from the Grant Administrators (Pee Dee COG) and the Official Engineers (Davis & Floyd) at the May Council Meeting.

Councilwoman Bradley gave the Codes and Business Report:

Councilwoman Bradley reminded merchant to renew their business licenses by the April 30th deadline. She gave the following report (as of April 8, 2024):

* 118 Renewal Letters were mailed out.
* 5 Business licenses were renewed.
* 3 Business Licenses Renewal are pending.
* 2 New Business License issued.

 Councilwoman Lee Beautification Commission Report:

* Committee continues to work on giving a different look to the trash cans. Work is ongoing.
* The Great American Clean-up held from March 21 – March 23, 2024, was successful. The last clean up day was April 4, 2024.

Councilwoman Lee gave the Water & Sewer Report:

* Water is settling in a ditch from Duke Street around Davis Street; the water almost fills the ditch. The water has caused a blockage on Davis Street. There are pictures that show limbs and roots in the ditch.
* Issues on Boykin Street have been resolved.
* The Helen Lane Project is ongoing. The council appreciates citizens heeding precautions in that area.
* Other streets and water leakage are being assessed as needed.

Water Loss Report for the Month of February 2024:

Gallons Purchased: 3,771,620, Gallons Billed: 1,619,676, Gallons Loss: 2,151,944 (Paid to DCWSA -$12,182.55)

Councilwoman Mack gave the Streets and Sanitation Report:

* Reminded citizens to report street light outages to Duke Energy.
* Disruption on streets due to uncovered manholes and risers not fitting on manholes. Chief Scott said that DOT recommended using cold patch to level off manholes.
* Curve drop-off/hole on Warren Avenue near Gay-Ann Store.

Councilman Cook gave the Lamar Police Department Report:

* Concealed Weapons Permit Class to be held on April 27, 2024, from 7:15 am – 4:00 pm. The cost is $35 if you have your own gun and ammunition; $55 if you don’t. No updates on Animal Control numbers.
* Lamar Fun Day will be back his summer. Contact Chief Scott if you would like to participate.
* The quarterly report for the SC Department of Commerce Grant for the Lamar Police Department will be submitted by April 30th. The last quarterly report resulted in the SCDOC releasing the remaining $75,000 to the Town of Lamar.
* The COPS Hiring Grant has not reopened for FY2024. When it does, the Lamar Police Department will submit paperwork to secure funds.
* Reminded citizens to watch their speed when driving around town.
* Please contact the Animal Shelter if you need a trap in your area.
* Encourage residents to call the Anonymous Tip Line at 843-326-1449 (non-emergency calls).

Councilwoman Mack asked about a bike lane at Pearl Street and Davis Street. She said that the surface was not good for motorized wheelchairs.

Mayor Howell announced that a pediatrician office will open in the Town of Lamar in August 2024.

Tim Dargan stated that Mercantile213 will host a Spring Pick-A-Palooza on April 13th from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm.

Councilman Cook made a motion for council to enter Executive Session to discuss a contract for code enforcement and the sale of property related to an easement. Councilwoman Bradley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

After a lengthy discussion, Councilman Cook made a motion to re-enter General Session. Councilwoman Bradley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Bradley made a motion for the Town of Lamar to hire Brent Bullard as the Town’s Code Enforcement Officer. Councilman Cook seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Cook made a motion for the Town of Lamar to grant an easement to Bernard and Pamela Scott from property that it owns on Davis Street. This will allow the Scotts to have a driveway to access their home. The cost of the sale will be $500. Councilwoman Bradley seconded the motion. Mayor Howell, Councilman Cook, and Councilwoman Mack voted in the affirmative. Councilwoman Bradley and Councilwoman Lee voted in the negative. The motion passed with three (3) “Yays” and two (2) “Nays”. Councilwoman Bradley and Councilwoman Lee stated for the record that the cost of the sale should have been $5.00.

Councilwoman Lee and Councilwoman Bradley made a motion to adjourn the Lamar Town Council Meeting. Councilwoman Mack seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Howell adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

 Timothy L. Dargan