

Lamar Town Council Meeting Minutes July 8, 2024

Mayor James Howell called the Lamar Town Council Meeting to order at 6:20 PM.

Councilwoman Inez B. Lee gave the invocation.

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

Others in attendance: Tim Dargan, Carl Scott, Ann Huyler, and Lindsay Privette.

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

Councilwoman Bradley made a motion to accept the minutes from the June 10, 2024, Lamar Town Council Meeting. Councilman Cook seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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

General Fund (May 2024): Receipts - \$50,830.56, Disbursements - \$42,042.95, Increase in cash - \$8,787.61, Ending cash balance - \$527,012.06 (\$201,354.27 of these funds are from the American Rescue Funds).

Utility Fund (May 2024): Receipts - \$42,562.11, Disbursements - \$46,317.29, Decrease in cash -\$3,755.18, Ending cash balance - \$80,636.92 (\$23,461.02 available for operations; \$57,175.90 for restricted grant funds).

Ann Huyler, Urban Forestry Specialist for the Pee Dee Region of the SC Forestry Commission gave a presentation on behalf of the commission which included information on becoming a "Tree City", the available 2023 Urban Forestry Grants, and sample proclamations for various tree-related projects. Ms. Huyler also provided contact information and a schedule for upcoming webinars. She stipulated that that if the Town was to become a "Tree City", the trees could only be planted on land owned by the Town.

Lindsay Privette of the Pee Dee Council of Government didn't have a formal report, but she was in attendance to address the council personally. Besides the Quarterly Report being submitted to RIA, there was no news or updates. Ms. Privette spoke to Abby Linden of RIA about funding, but there were no updates. She mentioned that there may be more funding available in the fall, but it will not be enough to cover the Town's shortfall. There is also no guarantee that the Town will get the funds. Ms. Privette stated that the Town is still in better shape than most of the surrounding municipalities. Ms. Privette stated that she could not speak for Davis & Floyd (Engineer for the Railroad Project) to which Mr. Dargan suggested council members submit questions to him to forward to Davis & Floyd for answers.

Councilwoman Bradley gave the Codes and Business Report. As of July 8, 2024:

- 121 business license renewal letters were mailed out.
- 96 business licenses were renewed.
- 57 new business licenses were issued.
- 25 business Licenses are pending renewal Councilwoman Bradley encouraged business to obtain their business license before the deadline to avoid costly penalties.

Councilwoman Lee Beautification Commission Report:

Councilwoman Lee reported that the Beautification Commission is continuing with their "Great American/Palmetto Pride Clean-up" project and are hoping to partner with the are schools to create a "Day of Caring". This event is not set in stone, but hopefully it will transpire in the future. The SC Forestry Commission Presentation was part of the Beautification Commission Report.

Water Line Repairs / Alarm Issues:

- Warren Avenue leak, and (2) leak at Main St. entrance to Police Department have been repaired.

- A work order has been placed for Pearl Street.
- The Grooms Water Tank alarm started going off on Thursday. Hopefully, this issue will be resolved soon.

*For water breaks, please call Councilwoman Inez B. Lee at (843) 230-7137.

Councilwoman Lee gave the Water & Sewer Report:

Water Loss Report for the Month of June 2024:

Gallons Purchased:3,754,100 Gallons Billed: 2,632,895 Gallons Loss: 1,121,205

(Did not include the amount of the June invoice)

Councilwoman Mack gave the Streets and Sanitation Report:

- Councilwoman Mack reported that the new trash roll carts that were ordered for the Town's citizens have arrived.
- Continuing to monitor and report street light outages. Reminded citizens to report outages as well.

Councilman Cook gave the Lamar Police Department Report:

- Lamar Fun Day is July 20, 2024, from 11 am – 2 pm at 400 Cartersville Highway.
- The next quarterly report for the South Carolina Department of Commerce Grant is due at the end of July. .
- Reminded citizens to watch their speed when driving around town.
- Please contact the Animal Shelter if you need a trap in your area at 843-398-4011.
- Encourage residents to call the Anonymous Tip Line at 843-326-1449 (non-emergency calls).

Councilman Cook did a brief recap of the proposed Chicken Amendment to the Town of Lamar Ordinances. He is going to add goats, ducks, and pigs to the ordinance. Councilman Cook would like to have the first reading at the next council meeting. Mr. Dargan said that citizens should be aware of the proposed ordinance by that time.

Tim Dargan discussed the upcoming events:

- The Christmas on Main Committee is hosting a "Christmas in July" raffle tickets event (drawing daily throughout the month of July).

Councilwoman Bradley 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 7:27 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Timothy L Dargan