

Lamar Town Council Meeting Minutes October 14, 2024

Mayor James Howell called the Lamar Town Council Meeting to order at 6:18 PM.

Deacon Tim Dargan gave the invocation.

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

Others in attendance: Tim Dargan and Carl Scott.

Councilman Cook made a motion to accept the agenda for the October 14, 2024, Lamar Town Council Meeting. Councilwoman Mack seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Bradley made a motion to accept the minutes from the September 9, 2024, Lamar Town Council Meeting. Councilman Cook seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Pamela Johnson of the Pee Dee Coalition gave a brief overview of Domestic Violence Month. Ms. Johnson left contact information for those that wish to speak to her or the agency. The Domestic Office (843—383-0420) and her cell phone (843-624-0015). Councilman Cook read the Domestic Violence Month Proclamation.

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

General Fund (September 2024): Receipts - \$33,788.65, Disbursements - \$37,788.66, Decrease in cash - \$4,000.01, Ending cash balance - \$597,271.79 (\$175,094.95 of these funds are from the American Rescue Funds).

Utility Fund (September 2024): Receipts - \$35,774.00, Disbursements - \$28,546.53, Increase in cash -\$7,227.47, Ending cash balance - \$99,862.14 (\$42,653.48 available for operations; \$57,208.66 for restricted grant funds).

Mr. Dargan pointed out that the Utility Fund Report had a date of August 31, 2024, but should have been September 30, 2024. Mr. Poston verified this information.

Mr. Dargan gave an update on the 2023 Municipal Audit. He stated that the accountant conducting the audit, Foster McKinney of Hamilton, McKinney, and Moss, would present the financial statements at the November Lamar Town Council Meeting.

Mr. Dargan and Councilwoman Mack stated that the remaining ARP funds must be allocated before the end of 2024. The funds must be spent by the end of 2026. Councilwoman Mack went on the record to say that she thought the premium pay given to the Town of Lamar staff should have been a much larger amount.

A status report on The Railroad Avenue Lift Station Project was submitted by Teresa Jacobs of the Pee Dee COG (Council of Government). Councilwoman Bradley made a motion to accept the report as information. Councilman Cook seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Bradley will give the Codes and Business Report at the November Town Council meeting.

Councilwoman Lee Beautification Commission Report:

Councilwoman Lee stated that her cell phone crashed and therefore the commission canceled their regularly scheduled meeting.

Waterline Line Issues:

Teachers Drive – water break issue

Warren Street – water break issue
Grooms Water Tank – no issues
Darlington Ave – Leak has been repaired

*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 September 2024:

Gallons Purchased: 5,161,080 Gallons Billed: 2,708,172 Gallons Loss: 2,452,908 [\$17,142.13 paid to DCWSA]

Councilwoman Mack gave the Streets and Sanitation Report:

- Councilwoman Mack continues to monitor and report street light outages. Thanked Chief Scott, his officers, and staff for assisting with reporting outages that they find.
- Asking homeowners to check their shrubbery that are near the street. Overgrown shrubs are creating driving hazards by being in the path of the drivers causing them to cross lanes. We appreciate your help in addressing this problem.
- Working with Councilwoman Lee to identify properties located on the ditched in town. Using the County Tax maps, all ditches and properties have been identified within the town limit (of Lamar). The purpose of this exercise is to get new easements signed in advance for properties that need to be cleaned. We think that going door-to-door is not feasible; therefore, we will set dates for citizens to come in and sign the easements.
- Some ditched are maintained by the county, some are maintained by the state. Councilwoman Mack asked Mayor Howell to ask the county if they would cut back the trees. The mayor will check and get back with her.

Councilman Cook gave the Lamar Police Department Report:

- The Town of Lamar will host Trunk-or-Treat on Thursday, October 31, 2024, from 6:00 – 8:00 pm.
- If any church in the area is interested in sharing meals for the less fortunate during the Thanksgiving holiday, please contact the Lamar Police Department for additional information. Chief Scott said that interested parties should contact Lee Knight at 843-245-4722.
- The South Carolina Department of Commerce Grant update is due on Thursday, October 31, 2024. Updates will be given at the November 11, 2024, Council meeting.
- 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).

Mr. Dargan gave the following updates: Lamar Recreation Lunch Trip (October 17), Lamar High School Homecoming (October 18) & Alumni Tailgate (October 19), Christmas on Main Festivities (December 7), and Christmas on Main “Christmas Wreath Tribute Wall” (deadline November 1).

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

Mayor Howell adjourned the meeting at 6:56 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Timothy L Dargan

