

Lamar Town Council Meeting Minutes November 11, 2024

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

Councilwoman Inez B. Lee Dargan gave the invocation.

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

Others in attendance: W. Foster McKinney, Tim Dargan, and Carl Scott.

Councilwoman Mack made a motion to accept the agenda for the November 11, 2024, Lamar Town Council Meeting. Councilwoman Bradley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Bradley made a motion to accept the minutes from the October 14, 2024, Lamar Town Council Meeting. Councilwoman Mack seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

There were no comments from citizens during the public comment portion of the meeting.

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

General Fund (October 2024): Receipts - \$8,561.95, Disbursements - \$41,274.01, Decrease in cash - \$32,712.06, Ending cash balance - \$564,559.73 (\$170,945.37 of these funds are from the American Rescue Funds).

Utility Fund (October 2024): Receipts - \$37,719.91, Disbursements - \$39,021.67, Decrease in cash -\$1,301.76, Ending cash balance - \$91,332.91 (\$34,115.91 available for operations; \$57,217.00 for restricted grant funds).

Councilwoman Bradley made a motion to receive the financial report as a record. Councilwoman Lee seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

W. Foster McKinney of Hamilton McKinney & Moss presented the Financial Statements from the FY2023 Municipal Audit to the Lamar Town Council. Mr. McKinney concluded that the Town of Lamar received a clean opinion (the financial statements were presented fairly and in accordance with accounting principles, and there were no major issues with internal controls), and that the Town was in good financial standing. Mr. McKinney thanked Mr. Dargan, Gloria Joye, Doug Poston, and Chief Scott for their assistance. Councilwoman Mack made a motion to accept the results of the audit. Councilwoman Bradley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dargan reminded the council that they had to allocate all remaining ARP funds by December 31, 2024. Councilwoman Bradley called for an Arp Workshop to allocate the funds and to table all discussions until that time.

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.

A status report on The Railroad Avenue Lift Station Project was submitted by Preston Watson of Davis & Floyd). Councilwoman Bradley made a motion to accept the report as information. Councilman Cook seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Bradley gave the Business License Report. As of November 11, 2024:
Business License Letters Mailed Out:**121**, Licenses Renewed:**105**, New Licenses:**80**, Pending Licenses:**16**

Councilwoman Lee Beautification Commission Report:

Thanked Christmas on Main Committee for Christmas Decorations displayed throughout the Town of Lamar. She also reminded businesses and residents to clean around their properties.

Waterline Line Issues:

- Ongoing issue with water line at Waren & Rogers. Mayor Howell said the issue would be evaluated this week.
- Grooms Water Tank Issues. Alarm keeps going off. She thinks that this may be an electrical problem.
- Leak at Main & Darlington Ave 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:14,726,000 Gallons Billed: 1,742,625 Gallons Loss:2,983,375 [**\$15,706.37** paid to DCWSA]

Councilwoman Bradley apologize to citizens for receiving late announcements about water breaks.

Council to evaluate a possible hike in the water & sewer rates.

Councilwoman Mack gave the Streets and Sanitation Report

- Councilwoman Mack continues to monitor and report street light outages.
- Barrels are still in the streets. They need to be removed in a timely manner.
- Tim Dargan to check on Street signs.

Councilman Cook gave the Lamar Police Department Report:

- Thanksgiving Dinners. If any church in the area is interested in sharing meals for the less fortunate during the Thanksgiving holiday, please 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 Bingo Trip (November 19), Christmas Tree Lighting (November 28) and Christmas on Main Festivities (December 7).

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

Councilwoman Mack made a motion to re-enter the regular Lamar Town Council Meeting. Councilwoman Bradley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously

Councilwoman Mack 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 7:22 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Timothy L Dargan

