

## Lamar Town Council Meeting Minutes December 9, 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 Inez B. Lee, Councilwoman Angele White- Bradley, Councilman Tyler Cook, and Councilwoman Mary Ann Mack were present.

Others in attendance: Tim Dargan

Councilman Cook made a motion to accept the agenda for the December 9, 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 November 11, 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 (November 2024): Receipts - \$59,888.75, Disbursements - \$58,245.33, Increase in cash - \$1,643.42, Ending cash balance - \$566,203.15 (\$162,745.79 of these funds are from the American Rescue Funds).

Utility Fund (November 2024): Receipts - \$36,123.80, Disbursements - \$41,943.82, Decrease in cash -\$5,820.02, Ending cash balance - \$85,512.89 (\$28,287.82 available for operations; \$57,225.07 for restricted grant funds).

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

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

Councilwoman Bradley gave the Business License Report. As of December 9, 2024:  
Business License Letters Mailed Out:**121**, Licenses Renewed:**107**, New Licenses:**90**, Pending Licenses:**14**

Councilwoman Lee Beautification Commission Report:

Thanked the Christmas on Main Committee for the Christmas Decorations displayed throughout the Town of Lamar, and for the Christmas on Main Festival and Parade.

Waterline Issues:

- Ongoing issue with water lines at Warren & Rogers, Darlington & Reynolds, and Main & Reynolds. Mayor Howell said the issue would be evaluated this week and worked on when the local schools are for Christmas break.
- Jackson & Darlington water leak. Mayor Howell said that there is an issue with the valve that prevents it from cutting the water off. This is being addressed.
- 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:4,588,900 Gallons Billed:2,250,132 Gallons Loss:2,338,768 [\$15,253.94 paid to DCWSA]

Councilwoman Lee reported that DES (formerly DHEC) visited the Town of Lamar to conduct the Annual Sanitary Water (drinking water) Survey Inspection. This inspection included checking reports from fire hydrants, valves, water leaks, and the town's elevated water tanks. The results of the inspection have not been received; they will be made available upon receipt.

Mr. Dargan thanked SERCAP (Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project) and SCWRA (South Carolina Rural Water Authority) for the technical support they provided to town in preparation for the inspection.

Councilwoman Bradley asked citizens to please slow down and drive with caution when they see hazard cones and flashings hazard lights. This is for the safety of town employees and the town's citizens.

Mayor Howell stated that the town's water bill has been higher than usual for the past 3 months. He pleaded with citizens to please report water leaks when they see them.

Councilwoman Mack gave the Streets and Sanitation Report:

Councilwoman Mack continues to monitor and report streetlight outages.

Councilwoman Lee asked about the manholes that are not properly covered. Mayor Howell remarked that they must use coal patch to cover the lids for now; however, they must be marked for the records.

Councilwoman Bradley stated that the water valves needed to be clearly defined. Mayor Howell and Councilwoman Lee said that SCWRA is coming in January to assist with that project.

Councilman Cook gave the Lamar Police Department Report:

- Chief Carl Scott resigned as the Chief of Police on Friday, November 15, 2024. Chief Scott is assisting with the transition as the Town seeks a new Chief of Police. He will maintain his Town e-mail address and phone number for the time being. The Darlington County Sheriff's Office and the Lamar Police Department's Officer Calip Floyd are covering the Town in the interim. Councilman Cook is scheduling officers until a new Chief of Police is found.
- The Town of Lamar is hiring a new Chief of Police.
- The Police Department received an indefinite extension for the South Carolina Department of Commerce Grant. Next quarterly report is due on January 31, 2025. Councilman Cook and Mr. Dargan (Town Administrator) will manage grant until a new Police Chief is hired.
- 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).
- A citizen complained that they called the county for law enforcement, but her call was not answered.

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 6:41 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Timothy L Dargan