

# *City of Luthersville*

Council Minutes

March 10, 2020

Council Members Present:

Mayor Donald Cuttie,  
Concetta Amey, Ricky Amey, Vallarie Cuttie, Paul Parker

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## **Work Session:**

The second work session began at 5:36 p.m. with the City Council discussing items on the agenda, and ended by 6:00 p.m. followed by the regular monthly council meeting.

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## **Call to Order:**

Mayor Cuttie called the March 10, 2020, council meeting to order

## **Invocation**

Council Member Concetta Amey gave the invocation.

## **Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Cuttie led the citizens present in the pledge to the American flag.

## **Adopt Agenda**

Mayor Cuttie announced a couple of changes to the current agenda, 1.) To change agenda item #1 under new business from Kay Williamson to Brad McConnell for his Tank Maintenance presentation, and 2.) to move agenda item #8 up to and under agenda item #3.

Next, Paul Parker made a motion, and all city council seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously to adopt the March, council meeting agenda as presented with changes.

## **Public Hearing**

## **Routine Business**

## **Approval of Minutes:**

Vallarie Cuttie made a motion, and all city council seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the February, 2020, minutes.

### **Financial Reports:**

Ricky Amey made a motion, seconded by Vallarie Cuttie and passed unanimously, to approve the March, 2020, financial reports for the General and Administrative Fund as presented.

Next, Paul Parker made a motion, seconded by Concetta Amey and passed unanimously, to approve the Water Fund Account financial report as presented.

### **Departmental Reports**

#### **Fire:**

Chief Haney was not available and did not distribute a report for the month of February for the volunteer fire department.

#### **Library:**

The Librarian, Gerilene Clemons, did not attend the council meeting however, she previously disbursed her report for February, and it was included in the council packets.

Next, Mayor Cuttie shared the report with the council and citizens that one adult checked out a book and 11 people used the computers in the library.

### **Water System Report**

The report from James Stephens of SG Technology, LLC, whom maintains the city's water system, was included in the council packets. Also, he did not attend the meeting, therefore, Mayor Cutting gave the water system report/update for the month of February of 429 meters were read for the past month, 19 disconnects of water, one meter replaced, 38 requests for 811 locates, 29 system checks, and one new water tap connection.

Then, Council Member Vallarie Cuttie pointed out that we did not have a report from the Sheriff's Department for the North Precinct. And Mayor Cuttie mentioned that he would look into having a report submitted on a monthly basis.

### **Mayor's Report**

#### **Mayor Cuttie Reported the Following:**

1. That he attended a trip to the capital in Atlanta on February 16, supporting "Meriwether County's Day at the Capital." And a group of citizens from Meriwether County boarded a bus and headed to the capital. Also, he mentioned that there was a group at the capitals supporting healthy mothers and babies of Meriwether County, inasmuch as Meriwether County has a high percentage of infant issues. The agency is looking for a site to set up its office and our complex would have worked out perfectly, however, they wanted to be more centralized in the county, so Greenville is where it will be established.

2. That he has been notified that there are grants which the city could receive concerning improvements to the city park.
3. That the Roosevelt Institute in Warm Springs in years past was one of the highest tourism attractions in the state. However, now the tourism has slowed down inasmuch as the younger generations do not know the history of the institute and President Franklin D. Roosevelt's involvement.
4. That Senator Robinson is in support of Meriwether County School's needs.
5. That the Chamber of Commerce has been informed that there are newly elevated changes to the Work Force Development Program.
6. That the Meriwether County Chamber of Commerce is developing an Eco-Tourism program to attract greater tourism in the county. Also, that the Chamber is looking to expand the Geo Cash Tourism program in the county and to possibly include Luthersville's City Park area.
7. That the Board of Education has put in place new programs to assist school children in Meriwether county, 1.) The Wraparound Clinic Program and, 2.) The Telemedicine Program. These programs will assist parents if their child becomes sick at school through the school nurse contacting the child's practitioner and having prescriptions sent directly to your pharmacy. However, health insurance could be an issue, as the parents have to have an active policy.
8. That the TSPOST will become effective April 1, 2020, and that cities will be funded monthly beginning May. The number values of the City of Luthersville will be 400 thousand over the five year period that calculates out to be 80 thousand a year.
9. That the upcoming SPLOST for the period 2020-2026, will not be disbursed in a lump sum as in the past, but, will be distributed on an annual basis inasmuch as the county did not purchase bonds this SPLOST period to have all the funds up front.
10. That last week he communicated with MUNICODE to cleanup wording and typing errors in the city's zoning ordinance. And a phone conference is planned for March 19, which is working towards the finalization of the codification of the city's ordinances.

### **Unfinished Business**

#### **1. Update of the City's Ordinances:**

**Park & Recreation:** Mayor Cuttie included a new park ordinance for the city council to review before the next month's meeting, and to be ready for the first reading of the ordinance in April.

**Tree Ordinance:** Mayor Cuttie mentioned that the original tree ordinance included in the packets was not being amended, but that it needed some of the wording changed as indicated throughout the document.

## **2. City Owned Property:**

**Bank Building at 2 East Oak Street:** Mayor Cuttie mentioned that during the work session this agenda item was discussed and no action is needed at this time.

**20 Wortham Road:** Mayor Cuttie mentioned that he was unable to find an appraisal company at this time to have an appraisal scheduled, however, he is going to list the property with a realtor named Angelia Hand.

**City Hall Complex Septic:** That last week the city had to have three septic tanks pumped out in an emergency repair. And that the proposal in the council packets to replace the septic risers and new lids from Scogin & Sons, LLC, will be tabled until next month.

### **New Business**

#### **1. Brad McConnell Representing American Tank Maintenance:**

Mr. McConnell recently inspected the city's water tank that is located at 33 College Street. He photographed the tank inside and outside put the pictures together in a booklet for his presentation to the Mayor and Council. He discussed the fees involved in the company's tank maintenance program. Afterwards, the Mayor thanked him for attending the meeting.

#### **2. County Mass Notification System – Brin Jones, Director Public Safety:**

Mr. Jones spoke to the Mayor and Council concerning the Civic Ready program. It is a program in which the citizens may go to the Meriwether County web site and sign-up for emergency notifications over their phones.

#### **3. 2020 Census – Brin Jones:**

Mr. Jones explained to the council and citizens present that the Census Bureau will begin mailing information concerning the different ways everyone can take their survey and be counted as the process begins April 1, 2020, And that every person counted will make a huge impact on the various funding's that each city and the county can receive from the State and Federal Governments.

#### **4. After Hour Phone Numbers:**

Mr. Jones mentioned that 911 has a list of after hour phone numbers that citizens may call for assistance.

Then, the city council asked for information concerning the corona virus and Mr. Jones gave the latest information that he knew at that time of, limit contact with groups of people, wash hands, do not touch your face, if sick self-quarantine. In addition, the county is making available hand sanitation stations. And that the virus effect the elderly and citizens with underlying health conditions.

**5: Intergovernmental Agreement Regarding Codes Enforcement:**

Mayor Cuttie mentioned that he was in communication with Cathy Johnson of the Meriwether Co. Building and Zoning Department concerning the agreement to assist the city in code enforcement. And that next, Theron Gay, County Administrator, and then, the Meriwether Co. Board of Commissioners for final approval.

**6. Landscaping Agreement:**

Mayor Cuttie mentioned that he had been in contact with Brooks Lawncare & Landscaping for additional services over and above the annual contract for maintenance of the city streets. These additional services would increase the annual contract by \$4,800 per the season or \$300 per cut. The services requested by the city are to bring the city sidewalks, park, and park walking path up to maintenance level, and to continue to do so during the cutting season with additional edging, weed control in the city park, and around the government buildings.

Next, Paul Parker made a motion, seconded by Vallarie Cuttie and passed unanimously, for the city to accept the proposal from Brooks.

**7. Proposal from Suez for Well Rehabilitation:**

Per Mayor Cuttie, that the water system received an invoice from Utility Services Company, Inc for the repair of one of the water system's wells last fall in the amount of \$37,836, and that through negotiation the company has agreed to invoice the amount of \$1,576.50 over the next 24 months.

Then, Ricky Amey made a motion, seconded by Concetta Amey and passed unanimously, for the Mayor to accept the proposal from Utility Services.

**8. Request for a Business License by Nitin Gupta for Prince Food Mart, at 5 South Main Street:**

Paul Parker made a motion, seconded by Concetta Amey and passed unanimously, for the city to grant a business license to Mr. Gupta providing he obtains all applicable permits to operate a convenience store.

**9. Setting of Firm Dates for City Council Work Sessions Concerning Streets, City Hall Complex, and Water System:**

Upon council members' discussion, Monday, March 30, from 5 – 7 pm, will be the next 2 hour work session.

**Public Comments**

Johnsie Reeves of Leroy Robinson Road reminded the Mayor that the senior's dancercise program was on the same evening of Thursday, March 19, as was the scheduled election voter machine training for the citizens of the county. Then, Mayor Cuttie mentioned that

some other meeting arrangements would be made for the senior program.

Commissioner Shirley Hines mentioned that the State of Georgia paid for the new voting machines, but not the training needed for the general public and that the Board of Election was not getting paid to provide this service.

She then left flyers to be handed out to citizens with the city clerk concerning the training at the municipal complex.

### **Council Member Comments**

No Council Member Comments at this time.

### **Attorney Comments**

City Attorney, Danielle Sewell had no comments at this time.

### **Executive Session**

Mayor Cuttie called for a motion to enter into closed session. Then, Paul Parker made a motion, seconded by Ricky Amey and passed unanimously.

Next, Paul Parker made a motion to exit the closed session, seconded by Concetta Amey and passed unanimously.

Finally, Paul Parker made a motion, seconded by Ricky Amey and passed unanimously, authorizing the Mayor to sign the meeting Affidavit and the Resolution contesting to the validity of the closed session to discuss a land/property matter.

### **Adjournment:**

There being no further business to discuss, Concetta Amey made a motion, seconded by Ricky Amey, and passed to end the council meeting.