



**LUCAMA BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, MAY 1, 2023
LUCAMA TOWN HALL
BOARD ROOM**

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Mayor, Jeff Johnson, (hereinafter “Mayor Johnson”) called to order the regular meeting of the Town of Lucama Board of Commissioners (hereinafter “Board”) at 6 pm on May 1, 2023.

2. Roll Call

Mayor Johnson conducted roll call – by use of sign-in. The following were present:

Commissioner, David Johnson (hereinafter “Comm. Johnson”)
Commissioner, Peggy Lamm (hereinafter “Comm. Lamm”)
Commissioner, Judy Mason (hereinafter “Comm. Mason”)
Town Administrator, Darlene Newsome (hereinafter “Admin. Newsome”)
Utility Billing Clerk, Ashleigh Hooks (hereinafter “Clerk Hooks”)
Town Attorney, Gabe DuSablou (hereinafter “Attorney Dusablou”)
Absent- Commissioner, Michael Best
Absent- Commissioner, Keely Pate

3. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting

Mayor Johnson gave the Board opportunity to review the proposed minutes from the April 3, 2023, meeting and monthly financial report, and April 13, 2023, from the special called meeting for proposed park on Spring St.

MOTION: Comm. Mason made motion to approve the April 3, 2023, meeting minutes and financial report and the meeting minutes for April 13, 2023, seconded by Comm. Lamm. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Commissioner Johnson asked about the area lights at Gabriel’s Landing. Mrs. Newsome replied that the town’s attorney is checking into it.

4. Welcoming of Guests and Public Comments

Mayor Johnson welcomed guests and opened the floor for public comments.

Danna Layne of Nunn, Brashear, & Uzzell, P.A. (Town Auditor) notified the board on the progress of the 2018-2019 audit. She and her team have completed 95% of their field work and spend two days and they have gone as far as they can. They are waiting for one last item from Mr. Overton. Mrs. Layne mentioned that the prior audit did not give good figures. She and her team will be issuing an “unmodified opinion” due to previous information being misdated, overstated deposits, and information missing such as: bank statements, board minutes and budget amendments. Due to the audit not being done by 2019, Mrs. Layne asked the board to sign an amended contract that needed to be turned into the LGC. The next goal is going to be to test the beginning and ending figures. She believes that the current staff is able and willing to do the work that needs to be done and correct what needs to be corrected. She asked the board to stay on top of Mr. Overton to make sure that he gets work done in a timely manner so the audits can continue to move forward. Mrs. Newsome signed a letter requesting that the previous audit company release information to the current town auditor, however, Mrs. Layne states that she has worked with this company in the past and she doesn't believe they will release anything. Once the audit is complete, the office staff will need to submit a written response stating the plans they have to correct past issues going forward. In closing, she asked the board to decide on a definitive deposit fee.

MOTION: Comm. Johnson made motion to accept and approve the amended contract; seconded by Comm. Mason. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Matt Creech, of 107 E Blalock Rd, addressed the board asking about the town's water project. Mayor Johnson told him it was 95% complete. There was much discussion regarding the town's water and the plans to improve water quality.

Kim Joyner, of 101 Pine Street, was very complementary of the town. She was very pleased with the work that was done on her road and was happy the speed bumps were installed. Mrs. Joyner mentioned the linemen did a good job while it was storming over the weekend.

5. Request for Board Approval

MOTION: Comm. Johnson made a motion to accept and approve the grant for the bank building. Comm. Mason seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

MOTION: Comm. Johnson made a motion allowing Main Street to be closed on May 12th due to the Food Rodeo; seconded by Comm. Mason. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

MOTION: Comm. Mason made a motion to accept the loan forgiveness grant; seconded by Comm. Lamm. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

MOTION: Comm. Johnson made a motion to table UTEC; seconded by Comm. Lamm. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

6. Departmental Reports

Comm. Mason reported that the Fire Department had 12 First Responder calls, 5 auto accidents and 1 weather related call. It was a good month.

Comm. Mason reported the town purchased \$89,000 on electricity last month.

Comm. Johnson asked if the water is still passing state requirements and Mayor Johnston confirmed that it is passing.

Comm. Best was absent for the board meeting. Admin. Newsome reminded the board about the Food Truck Rodeo on May 12th. There was nothing to report for the street department.

Comm. Pate was absent for the board meeting. Admin. Newsome gave information that the Sheriff's Department had 222 total calls, 186 self-initiated and 36 calls for service.

Comm. Lamm reported that the door count for the Library in April was 202, computer usage was 20, there were 266 materials checked out and five library cards issued. During the month of May there will be story time on the 4th, 11th, and 18th.

Comm. Lamm mentioned that everything is going well at the Community Building. She said people are leaving the building nasty and she doesn't want this to result in town residents not being able to rent it. She asked if the board would like to make the rental for people that reside within the town's ETJ. Comm. Mason agreed that something needed to be changed. Mayor Johnson suggested that the town reach out to neighboring towns/counties to see what they are implementing. Comm. Johnson agreed.

7. Updates

Admin., Newsome asked the board to review and approve the new utility application that was submitted in the board packet. During the review of utility application there was much discussion about customer deposits. It was agreed that the deposits would be:

SERVICE	STANDARD	HIGH RISK
ELECTRIC	\$400	\$800
WATER	\$60	\$120
SEWER	\$60	\$120
IRRIGATION (if applicable)	\$60	\$120
TOTAL	\$60 - \$580	\$120-1160

8. Closed Session

Mayor Johnson requested that the Board go into closed session pursuant to NCGS §143-318.11 regarding personnel matters.

MOTION: Comm. Johnson made a motion to move into closed session; seconded by Comm. Lamm. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

9. Re-opening of Open Session

MOTION: Comm. Johnson made motion to adjourn the closed session and move back to open session; seconded by Comm. Mason. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mayor Johnson spoke about the well site behind the church. He showed the board pictures of the storage site for jugs containing chlorine and the damage it is causing. He said he would like to have something built to put the barrels on to prevent any more damage. Mayor Johnson said this did not need to be voted on right now, but he did want to give everyone a heads up about what will need to be done. Comm. Johnson replied that the town needed to get prices and go ahead and get it done.

Admin. Newsome mentioned an annexation application was reviewed by the Town Attorney due to a couple of businesses being interested in possible annexation. One business would be located next to “Dollar General” and the other across the road from “Cuts by Chuck”.

MOTION: Comm. Johnson made motion to accept the annexation; seconded by Comm. Mason. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

10. Adjournment

Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:00 pm, May 1, 2023, upon motion of Board.

MOTION: Motion was made to adjourn by Comm. Johnson; seconded by Comm. Lamm. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted: Ashleigh Hooks, Utility Billing Clerk