



**LUCAMA BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, JUNE 5, 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 June 5, 2023.

2. Roll Call

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

Commissioner, Michael Best (hereinafter “Comm. Best”)
Commissioner, David Johnson (hereinafter “Comm. Johnson”)
Commissioner, Peggy Lamm (hereinafter “Comm. Lamm”)
Commissioner, Judy Mason (hereinafter “Comm. Mason”)
Commissioner, Keely Pate (hereinafter “Comm. Pate”) via phone conference
Town Administrator, Darlene Newsome (hereinafter “Admin. Newsome”)
Town Clerk, Dena Owens (hereinafter “Clerk Owens”)
Town Attorney, Gabe DuSablou (hereinafter “Attorney Dusablou”)

3. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting

Mayor Johnson gave the Board an opportunity to review the proposed minutes from the May 1, 2023, meeting and monthly financial report.

MOTION: Comm. Mason made motion to approve the May 1, 2023, meeting minutes and financial report; seconded by Comm. Best. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

4. Welcoming of Guests and Public Comments

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

There were no public comments.

5. **Request for Board Approval**

Mayor Johnson presented a grant project ordinance for the utilization of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds from the American Rescue Plan Act. The ordinance appropriates funds for Fiscal Year 22/23 and Fiscal Year 23/24 for salaries in the Administrative, Street, Water and Sewer, and the Electric Department.

MOTION: Comm. Best made motion to accept the ARPA Grant Project Ordinance; seconded by Comm. Johnson. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mayor Johnson presented a Capital Project Ordinance for the Meter Replacement Project. The ordinance authorizes the replacement of electric and water meters throughout the Town and the purchase of equipment and software to read the new meters. The total amount appropriated for the project is \$500,000.

MOTION: Comm. Best made motion to accept the Capital Project Ordinance for the Meter Replacement appropriating \$500,000 for said project; seconded by Comm. Johnson. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mayor Johnson presented a Capital Project Ordinance for the Spring Street Community Park. The revenues anticipated for the project are from Loan Proceeds, PARTF Grant Funds and a transfer from the General Fund. The total cost of Revenues and Expenditures for the project is \$513,633 respectively.

MOTION: Comm. Best made motion to accept the Capital Project Ordinance for the Spring Street Community Park; seconded by Comm. Mason. Motion passed as follows: Yay – Comm. Best; Comm. Lamm, Comm. Mason, Comm. Pate; Nay – Comm. Johnson.

Mayor Johnson presented Budget Amendment Number Six (6) for approval.

MOTION: Comm. Best made motion to accept Budget Amendment Number Six; seconded by Comm. Mason. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mayor Johnson presented a contract for general engineering services between the Town and Utility Technology Engineers – Consultants, PLLC (UTEC). During the Board meeting in April, the contract was tabled for purposes of study. This company was introduced to the Town by previous engineer, Kevin O'Donnell. Mayor Johnson mentioned that Sharpsburg and Stantonsburg are currently under contract with UTEC. The expenditure for the contract is within the FY 23/24 budget.

MOTION: Comm. Mason made motion to approve the contract between the Town and UTEC; seconded by Comm. Lamm. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

6. Departmental Reports

Comm. Mason reported that the Fire Department had 14 First Responder calls, one auto accident, a bomb threat, two structure fires, and nearby towns were aided. She mentioned it wasn't a bad month but was concerned about the bomb threat.

Comm. Mason mentioned that the electric department had done work at Blalock Farms, trained Linwood on trimming trees, and aided the water department with leaks and sewer problems, due to them being major events and there being a need for help. Trees continue to be cut back off the lines and right of ways. Two transformers were replaced. The department works hard.

For the water and sewer report, Comm. Johnson mentioned a two-inch water line that had been broken near the wellsite at the Lucama Elementary School and nearly drained the water tank. There were two leaks being repaired at the same time. Admin. Newsome mentioned that the men were here from 7 to 11:30 pm to correct the leaks.

Comm. Pate gave information that the Sheriff's Department reported calls for the month. There were 197 self-initiated and 35 calls for service, one being a shots fired call. Comm. Pate questioned Corporal Magana regarding the shots being fired. She mentioned that a citizen shot killing a snake in the yard.

Comm. Best mentioned that work is still being done on the new sidewalks. Comm. Johnson mentioned that the sidewalks are currently being used and the area around it needs to be cleaned of debris. He also mentioned that gravel needs to be placed around the cement at driveway entrances.

Comm. Best mentioned that he was at the park on Saturday to walk and noted that the grass had either not been cut, or if so, was cut on a high number setting. He also mentioned at the parking area on Blalock Road that there was a bush that needed to be trimmed back due to hanging into the walking trail area. Otherwise, he mentioned that the park looked good.

He mentioned that an event was planned on Wednesday from 4 to 7 pm at the park for an end of school celebration, "School's Out Blowout". There will be a food truck, bouncy house, icy truck, a gaming trailer, and DJ. This is an event for kids to come out and have a great time. He requested that the Board spread the word about the event.

Comm. Lamm reported that the door count for the Library in May was 216, reference questions 79, computer usage was 12, there were 273 materials checked out and 24 library cards issued. During the month of May the outreach table at the Cinco de Mayo event at Lucama Elementary School provided information to 50 families and 20 signed up for library cards. The Mother's Day program had over 18 in person participants. Beginning on June 22nd, the annual summer reading program will kick off and each Thursday thereafter will have a 3 pm special program offered. Also planned during June on the 15th is a story time at 10:30 am and a Father's Day program at 3:30 pm. During the June 22nd Summer Reading Program there will be an activity time, Love Bug Message Clip.

Comm. Lamm requested if the faucet had been repaired in the kitchen of the Community Building. Admin. Newsome mentioned that a work order had been written but was unaware if the repair had been completed. She will check.

7. Mayor and Town Administrator's Report

Admin. Newsome mentioned that she had been contacted by Drew Thomas of Davis Water Service out of Zebulon. He is interested in purchasing the water that is expelled for hydrant flushing. A meter can measure the amount of water being used for purposes of billing. Comm. Johnson mentioned that a portable meter would need to be purchased for measurement purposes. The charge for the water will be studied. Mayor Johnson mentioned that more information would be gathered and will be brought to the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.

8. Closed Session

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

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

9. Re-opening of Open Session

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

A public hearing for the FY 23/24 Budget will be held on Tuesday, June 20th at 4:30 pm.

Admin. Newsome mentioned that the audit for 2019 should be done during the week and it is hoped that the audit for 2020 will be done by month's end.

10. Adjournment

Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:49 pm, June 5, 2023, upon motion of Board.

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

Respectfully Submitted: Dena Owens, Town Clerk