



**LUCAMA BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2022
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 November 7, 2022.

2. Roll Call

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

Commissioner, Michael Best (hereinafter “Comm. Best”)
Commissioner, Peggy Lamm (hereinafter “Comm. Lamm”)
Commissioner, Julia Mason (hereinafter “Comm. Mason”)
Commissioner, Keely Pate (hereinafter “Comm. Pate”)
Town Administrator, Darlene Newsome (hereinafter “Admin. Newsome”)
Town Clerk, Dena Owens (hereinafter “Clerk Owens”)
Town Attorney, Gabe DuSablon (hereinafter “Attorney Dusablon”)

3. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

Mayor Johnson gave the Board opportunity to review the proposed minutes from the October 3, 2022, meeting and monthly financial report.

MOTION: Comm. Best made motion to approve the October 3, 2022, meeting minutes and financial report; seconded by Comm. Lamm. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

4. Welcoming of Guests and Public Comments

Roy Harris was present at the meeting and spoke with the Board regarding the customer who inadvertently lost his food in his refrigerator due to being disconnected in error. He mentioned that he understands that accidents happen but felt that the Town should reimburse him for the loss.

Kim Joyner was present at the meeting and requested when Pine Street would be paved. Mayor Johnson mentioned that the street will be paved, but that it is on

hold because of the work to be done on the sewer system through a grant. It will be paved once the work is completed.

Mrs. Joyner also asked for further information regarding how the water and electric meters will be read. Mayor Johnson mentioned that the Board is looking into a new system where meters will be read manually through a system located in the Town Office.

Mrs. Joyner asked about the possibility of moving the Board meeting to 7 pm, allowing others that work the ability to attend the meeting at the later time.

Charles Bullock asked about the sidewalk on Goldsboro Street regarding the anticipation of completion. He has held off on doing driveway work because it is unfinished. Mayor Johnson mentioned that the previous contractor awarded the job was unable to complete his contract and that the Town was placing the job back out to bid.

Mr. Bullock also mentioned the convenience fee that is being charged to use debit or credit cards to make payments. His understanding was that the fee is three percent and was concerned about the reason for such a fee and wondered what the maximum would be that could be charged. Admin. Newsome responded that the Town has no control over the amount or percentage charged, but that the fee is what is being charged by the bank. Mr. Bullock asked if the amount of fee and percentage could be negotiated with the financial institution. Comm. Best mentioned that the Town had previously be absorbing the cost for customers use of credit or debit cards. Admin. Newsome mentioned that there were other means of making payment for bills. Mr. Bullock was aware of the other means but appreciates having the confirmation and ability to use cards but felt \$12 on a \$400 bill was excessive. He again asked if the rate could be negotiated with the card company. Comm. Best mentioned that we would ask to see about any negotiation. Admin. Newsome stated that we did attempt to negotiate but that the fee was what was required by the vendor. Mr. Bullock asked if Admin. Newsome would check to see if there was a cut off or maximum amount that could be charged. Admin. Newsome said that she would contact the company to ask about the maximum charge.

5. Departmental Reports

Comm. Mason reported that the Fire Department responded to 15 first responder calls, five automobile accidents, and one fire alarm. She mentioned that it had been a busy month.

Comm. Mason did not have any information to share regarding the Electric Department.

Comm. Johnson was not present at the meeting to report on the water or sewer department.

Comm. Pate gave information that the Sheriff's Department reported calls for the month. There were 192 total calls, 154 were self-initiated and 38 calls for service. The report also showed three traffic stops.

Comm. Pate mentioned that he had observed the crew putting up new signs in town. He mentioned a concern about a manhole cover at the corner of Anthony and Lucas Streets. He said that would people cross the cover at a certain spot, the cover will flip up and leave an opening. The manhole cover is not fitting properly. Mayor Johnson mentioned that the cover is small, and that a cover would be ordered to fit correctly, however, it will take a while before the cover would come in.

Comm. Best reported that on December the 2nd the Town would have a Christmas event at the Park, including Santa Claus and other things. He mentioned that two events took place in October, the Food Truck Rodeo and Trunk or Treat. He mentioned that the turnout for the events was great and appreciated everyone taking part. He further mentioned that both events were a huge success and was glad the Town's people were coming out and supporting what was planned.

Comm. Best asked when the Christmas decorations would be in place. Admin. Newsome mentioned it would take place within the next week.

Comm. Lamm reported that the door count for the Library in October was 220, reference questions 65, computer usage was 33, there was 261 materials checked out and one library card issued. The food drive items will be distributed just before Thanksgiving. Sixty people were served during the Cancer Awareness Initiative. There are two programs planned for November. On the 17th there will be a preschool story time at 10:30 am and then at 3:30 on the same day, there will be a program "Pumpkin Full of Thanks".

Comm. Lamm reported that the Community Building has been left nasty after those renting the building have left. Although she understands that the parking lot needs to be paved, the footprints left when entering the building are uncalled for and unsightly. Comm. Lamm read a letter written to the Board from the Senior Meals Site Manager, Myra Basinger, who has concerns because the Center is graded by the Health Department. She mentioned that when leaving the building on Friday, the Center is extremely clean, but it isn't so when they return on Monday mornings. She suggested the possibility of having someone come in to clean the building after the events and to rent to Lucama residents only. Comm. Lamm does feel that the Town will need to toughen up on renters.

Gene Taylor was at the meeting and mentioned that he had not received his deposit back from renting the building during 2021. Admin Newsome mentioned that she would research the concern.

Much discussion was rendered regarding the Community Building and ways to correct the issue to renters leaving the building unclean. Mayor Johnson suggested that Admin. Newsome research what other Town's rules and regulations are for rental of their community buildings.

Comm. Best is interested in knowing the amount of revenue collected per year for rental of the community building. He is afraid that it may come to a point where no one is interested in renting the building. He feels we need to be sure to have funding to cover the expense generated for the facility but does not want to price the Town out of renters.

6. **Updates**

Mayor Johnson shared two quotations from Schafter for the purchase of solid waste cans needed by the Town. One is for the purchase of 50 cans and one for 100. Freight will be the same regardless of the number of cans purchased. The purchase order is placed against one that the State Highway Patrol is currently working through, meaning that the purchase will not have to be bided out.

MOTION: Comm. Best made motion that 100 cans be purchased; seconded by Comm. Mason. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mayor Johnson presented the annual tax settlement from Crawford Bolton, Tax Administrator for Wilson County for the 21/22 Fiscal Year. The Board will need to approve the reconciliation.

MOTION: Comm. Mason made motion to accept the tax settlement for the 21/22 Fiscal Year; seconded by Comm. Best. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

7. **Closed Session**

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

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

8. Re-opening of Open Session

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

9. Adjournment

Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:11 pm, November 7, 2022, upon motion of Board.

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

Respectfully Submitted: Dena Owens, Town Clerk