



**LUCAMA BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, JULY 3, 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 July 3, 2023.

2. Roll Call

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

Commissioner, Michael Best (hereinafter "Comm. Johnson")
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, Keely Pate
Absent- Town Clerk, Dena Owens

3. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting

Mayor Johnson gave the Board an opportunity to review the proposed minutes from the Budget Preparatory Meetings May 8, May 15 and June 2, 2023, meeting, and Budget Public Hearing Meeting June 20, 2023.

MOTION: Comm. Mason made motion to approve the May 8, May 15 and June 2, and June 20, 2023, meeting minutes, seconded by Comm. Best. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mayor Johnson gave the Board opportunity to review the proposed minutes from the June 5, 2023, meeting and monthly financial report.

MOTION: Comm. Johnson made motion to approve the May 8, May 15 and June 2, and June 20, 2023, meeting minutes, seconded by Comm. Mason. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

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. Mrs. Layne presented the 2019 budget and findings. She noted that the previous auditor said the town's previous balances were not correct. However, although the beginning balances were not correct, Mrs. Layne feels good about the ending balances. She notified the board that the LGC will send a letter regarding the items that were found during the audit, and the town will need to respond to the four findings. She asked the board to approve the contract to begin the auditing accounts for fiscal year ending 6/30/2020.

MOTION: Comm. Johnson made a motion to accept and approve Danna Layne's presentation; seconded by Comm. Best. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

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

5. Request for Board Approval

Regarding the annexation of Family Dollar, the board discussed where it would be located and where the entrance could potentially be. Also, the electricity and water/sewer services were briefly discussed. Attorney DuSablou made the board aware that the only thing that needed to be voted on at this time was to give the Town Clerk permission to begin investigating the matter of annexation.

MOTION: Comm. Johnson made a motion to accept and approve the Town Clerk to begin findings/investigating annexation of Family Dollar. Comm. Best seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mayor Johnson announced the nominees for the planning board: Steve Bradshaw, James Parker, Dennis Ford, Gary Wright, David Johnson and asked for approval from the board.

MOTION: Comm. Johnson made a motion to accept and approve the planning board members. Comm. Best seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Administrator Newsome asked for the board to review and approve the Community Building Advisory board members: Ann Little, Jeff Lewis, Jody Teague, and David Johnson. They will oversee what the building needs and its upkeep. Also, if any policies need to be changed, they will present it to the board.

MOTION: Comm. Best made a motion to accept and approve the Community Building Advisory board members. Comm. Johnson seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

6. Departmental Reports

Comm. Mason reported that the Fire Department had 15 First Responder calls, 2 auto accidents and 1 vehicle fire. There were 30 calls total.

Electrical Dept has been working hard on many streets around town, built a tap on Blalock Street and worked on the lift station on Anthony Street.

Comm. Johnson asked if a pump at the sewer station was ok, and Mayor Johnson responded it was.

Comm. Pate was absent for the board meeting. Admin. Newsome gave information that the Sheriff's Department had 163 self-initiated calls and 23 calls for service totaling 186 total calls.

Comm. Best commented that the end of school bash was a success and noted that the park looks good. The park committee will be working on something for fall, but not sure what it will be at this point. Comm. Best asked about the progress of the sidewalks. Mrs. Newsome replied that the contractor started the sidewalks in May and is supposed to be done by August 14th, 2023. Comm. Best asked how much is left to do. Mayor Johnson answered saying that Goldsboro, Spring, Hill, and Oak Streets still need to be done. There was discussion about giving the contractor four months (one street per month) to complete the job. Comm. Mason asked if the contractor is being paid ahead of the work being done. Mrs. Newsome said he is paid as completed. She also stated that Thom will be monitoring this contractor very closely to make sure he is doing the work in a timely manner.

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 apprised the board of the summer programs that are being offered for children and the dates: 6th - Strong Bridges, 13th - Wind Powered Cars, 17th

National Ice cream Day, 27th Bookmarks. As always, there are kits available for pick up. There was discussion about looking into finding someone to clean the library. Mrs. Newsome stated she would need to call other libraries to see how they do their cleaning. Mayor Johnson agreed. Referencing the Community Building, Comm. Lamm notified the board of a possible leak under the toilet and the faucet in the kitchen is dripping. The Town Administrator and Mayor made the board aware that the leak has been worked on a couple of times already. Clerk Hooks explained that a work order had already been given to Tyler Johnson/Water Dept. to address the leak in the bathroom.

7. Updates

Mayor Johnson spoke on the issue of the town's rates. He told the board about a year ago Kevin O'Donnell advised the town to increase electric rates by 15 percent. The rates were raised by 5 percent and the town absorbed the other 10 percent. However, due to the town being unable to absorb that cost in this fiscal year, the rates will need to increase again. The electric rates are being raised 10 more percent for this coming year. Also, tax rates went from .50 to .55. Lucama is one of the lowest tax rated towns based on information from surrounding towns. The garbage rate is increasing by \$2, and recycling is no longer going to be contracted out to GFL. They were given a month's notice and our contract will end August 2023.

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

9. Re-opening of Open Session

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

There was much discussion about the Sidewalk Contractor. Mayor Johnson suggested that the town could give the contractor until July 28th to finish where he started on Oak Street. Comm. Johnson asked if the town could get paid if he did not finish on time. Attorney DuSablou answered, "No because the date is projected, and weather will be taken into account. The town has no right to

terminate the contract, but the town is able to amend the contract. A date must be specified on the amended contract in order to terminate or liquidate. “

10. Adjournment

Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:00 pm, July 3, 2023, upon motion of Board.

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

Respectfully Submitted: Ashleigh Hooks, Utility Billing Clerk