

# *City of Luthersville*

Council Minutes

March 9, 2021

## **Council Members Present:**

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

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## **Work Session:**

The work session began at 5:35 p.m. with the Mayor and City Council discussing items on the agenda, the work session 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 9, 2021, council meeting to order.

## **Invocation**

Council Member Concetta Amey gave the invocation.

## **Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Cuttie led everyone present at the meeting with the pledge to the American flag.

## **Adopt Agenda**

Paul Parker made a motion, seconded by Vallarie Cuttie, and passed unanimously, to adopt the March 9, 2021, meeting agenda with one change of 1.) To add item # 7 Fire Hydrant Certification.

## **Public Hearing**

## **Routine Business**

## **Approval of Minutes:**

Vallarie Cuttie made a motion, seconded by Concetta Amey, and passed unanimously, to approve the February 2021, minutes.

## **Financial Reports:**

Vallarie Cuttie made a motion, seconded by Ricky Amey and passed unanimously, to approve the General and Administration Report.

Then, Paul Parker made a motion, seconded by Vallarie Cuttie and passed unanimously, to approve the Water System report.

## **Departmental Reports**

### **Fire:**

Chief Haney was not available to give his report for the volunteer fire department.

### **Library:**

Librarian, Gerilene Clemons shared the library report for February 2021. She mentioned that the library had been slow for the month.

### **Water System:**

James Stephens was not present at this time to give the report for the water system.

### **Meriwether County North Precinct:**

### **Mayor's Report**

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

1. Mayor Cuttie mentioned that last week Meriwether County experienced four fire-related incidents and two of them were in Lutherville. One was on Opal Street, a kitchen grease fire, and the other at 149 South Main Street, a home was lost due to a structure fire. He further went on to say, that he wanted to address the misinformation and rumors that have started around town concerning the fire hydrants not working properly and that the city did not have an adequate water supply or water pressure to put out the fire at 149 South Main St.

He went on to say that this past Saturday, March 6, he called in a professional, Larry Chestnut, who performed tests on the fire hydrants in the area of the structure fire and determined that the hydrants functioned properly pushing 650 gallons per minute at 28 psi when the state requires 500 gallons and 20 psi. Also, that it takes two minutes to refill the tanker trucks with water, and that Fire Chief, Allen Smith contacted the Coweta County Fire Department to send a truck for backup purposes. In addition, the Red Cross was called to assist the family in their losses of material items and they will also assist with the replacement of lost medication up to \$500.

Mayor Cuttie also mentioned that the Red Cross in conjunction with Meriwether County will donate free smoke detectors and have them installed in your home by going to the Red Cross website and applying.

2. Mayor Cuttie mentioned that the State of Georgia has begun a rental assistance program and that citizens in need may apply for assistance online at [georgiarentalassistance.ga.gov](http://georgiarentalassistance.ga.gov).
3. Mayor Cuttie mentioned that even though the water bills are mailed out by first-class mail as opposed to postcards, that water customers still complain that they are not receiving their bills. And that last month there was around 50 disconnected customer due to non-payment and this month it was reduced to about 15 due to the courtesy calls from the Water Clerk, Jackie Keener. Also, printed on the utility billing statements each month is given the date the payments are due, the date late fees are applied, and the disconnect date if accounts are not paid.
4. That the ruts in the street of Kelly Farm Drive have been repaired, and that the water drainage issue at the parking lot area of the City Park is currently being repaired. Also, that Mary Ellen Amey Street will soon be on its way to its paving project hopefully in a couple of weeks if the weather permits.
5. That last month Meriwether County Adjusted/Amended its Service Delivery Strategy Plan to allow cities in the county to take advantage of various project grants from the various state agencies like the one the city acquired from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs called a community block development grant (CBDG) to stabilize the outside of the old bank building and to acquire an additional one to complete the inside of the old bank building and the deadline is June 1, 2021, to apply for the CBDG.
6. That Safebuilt, the city's code enforcement agency, will be conducting a training class on the permitting process Wednesday, March 9, in the auditorium for surrounding cities that use their services.
7. That on April 7, The Broadband Office at the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) is offering a webinar on project development for communities seeking to expand broadband services through upcoming funding opportunities.
8. That on Friday, February 26, a resource fair was presented by the Georgia Municipal Association and the presentation consisted of different government agencies such as DCA, GMA, GEFA to name a few, outlining the different opportunities that each agency has to offer municipalities.
9. That last week, March 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, he attended an economic development training class that he will discuss during the council meeting.
10. That last Saturday there were some parents with small children using the recreation facilities at the complex, and the swing's support structure is unstable as it was moving when the children and parents swung. He mentioned that he would look into having a contractor evaluate the equipment for safety.

## Unfinished Business

1. **87 South Main Street:**

Mayor Cuttie mentioned that there was nothing to discuss as Mr. Stanley had not made an appeal to the planning commission concerning his property at 87 North Main Street.

2. **Improvements to 9 East Oak Street:**

Mayor Cuttie mentioned that he continued with the proposal from Donny Shelton for the replacement of the windows and siding at the fire station. And that the siding was replaced on three sides of the structure and that the building was pressure washed and had the cornice boards painted. The building repairs cost \$3000, and the windows \$800.

3. **Water System:**

Mayor Cuttie said that at next month's meeting there will be a major presentation concerning the water.

Mayor Cuttie mentioned that the proposal in the council packets was an unsolicited bid received from Krebs Engineering, Inc. The city used their services last October to examine all of the water system's mains and valves, however, not all of the city's water valves were located on the old paper maps. And this project analysis that they are currently proposing will develop a digital GPS water distribution map, develop a five-year master plan, along with other scopes of services, but will include all the water mains and valves locations and will cost around \$72,500.

4. **Georgia Economic Development Collaborative:**

Mayor Cuttie said this was the meeting that took place last Wednesday and Thursday.

- a. **Historic Preservation**
- b. **Gateway Signage**

He said that the goal would be to have the Luthersville historical registry and the gateway signage, which was mentioned at last month's council meeting, to be included in the Georgia Economic Placemaking Collaborative Plan to gain support and funding. This is a state-operated two-year program and it would allow the city to take advantage of some of the state's economic resources.

## **New Business**

### **1. Request of Catherine Gibbs for a Business License and Located at 73 North Main St:**

Ms. Gibbs explained to the Mayor and Council the plans she has for her art studio. Then, Vallarie Cuttie made a motion, seconded by Concetta Amey passed unanimously, for the city to issue an occupation certificate to Ms. Gibbs.

### **2. Landscaping Contract:**

Mayor Cuttie explained that seven Requests for Proposal bid packages were sent out and that he spoke with four of the seven however, the city received only two bids. One from Brooks Lawn Care and the other from L & H Lawn Care & Landscapes. He also said the bid packets were a little different this time as he separated the city park and the complex for additional maintenance as stated by the council. And another change to the contract is for the company to pick up litter over the entire city before mowing.

Next, Paul Parker made a motion, seconded by Vallarie Cuttie and passed unanimously, to award the bid to Brooks Lawn Care under the condition that a termination clause is written into the contract.

### **3. Intergovernmental Agreement Regarding Sewer System Development:**

Mayor Cuttie explained that the agreement would allow the city to partner with Meriwether County Water Authority for input, loan opportunities, and archeological study concerning the Luthersville Sewerage System.

Next, Paul Parker made a motion, seconded by Vallarie Cuttie, and passed unanimously, for the City of Luthersville to enter into an agreement with the MCWSA.

### **4. Courtware:**

Mayor Cuttie explained how Courtware, the current citation processing program used by the Municipal Court Clerk to enter tickets into the system, partners with GovernmentWindow to allow the citation holder the ability to pay their fines/fees over the internet, by phone, or credit card in the office. Also, there is no cost to Municipal Court to use the GovernmentWindow program as the processing fee is passed on to the ticket holder. He then asked for a motion to get started using the software.

Next, Ricky Amey made a motion, seconded by Concetta Amey, and passed unanimously.

**5. PlanFirst Program:**

Mayor Cuttie mentioned that the program is offered through the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and that the advantage to the city by applying for the three-year PlanFirst Program is that it will aid in assistance from DCA with the city's Local Comprehensive Plan. He then asked for approval to pay the fee of \$40.00 to attend the two-day on-line conference (Community Planning Institute) on April 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, that DCA is conducting.

Next, Paul Parker made a motion, seconded by Concetta Amey and passed unanimously, to pay the fee for the Mayor to attend the conference.

**6. Media Ordinance:**

The Mayor acquired a copy of a media ordinance from Meriwether County to ensure that the city is covered should any filming be held in Luthersville. He asked that the council read through the ordinance as he will modify the media production ordinance to apply to the City of Luthersville and make it available at next month's council meeting.

**The Agenda was Amended to Add item No. 7**

**7. Fire Hydrant Certification:**

Mayor Cuttie mentioned that Larry Chestnut of Moreland, GA has established a business of certifying fire hydrants, and he visits cities all over the state and certifies their fire hydrants. And that the water system currently has 186 hydrants connect to its water lines and he would like to have all of the hydrants in and out of the city certified to make sure all are working properly. The cost is \$45 a hydrant, and by doing so the city may raise its Insurance Services Office (ISO) rate. He then asked for a motion to not exceed \$9,000 in fees to certify the Luthersville Water System's fire hydrants.

Next, Vallarie Cuttie made a motion, seconded by Ricky Amey and passed unanimously, to pay the fee for the certification of the hydrants and paid through SPLOST funds if possible.

**Public Comments**

Fredrick Stanley

Mr. Stanley was complaining about why he should have to go through the city planning commission for approval to continue to work on his pole barn property.

Randy Gazaway

Mr. Gazaway of 67 Wortham Road mentioned that the Mayor had answered many of his questions concerning the fire at 149 South Main Street, as he has an interest in the property, when he addressed the rumors concerning hydrants and water pressure.

He went on to say that the ditches need pulling on Wortham Road as the rain floods his driveway. And that last year, the lawn care company didn't cut the right-of-ways properly in the city. He said he pays a lot of property tax in the city and that if the city could not maintain its streets properly, then the city needs to end and let the county maintain the ditches and streets.

**Council Member Comments**

**Attorney Comments**

**Executive Session**

**Adjournment:**

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