

# *City of Luthersville*

Council Minutes

April 21, 2020

Council Members Present – During the Virtual Council Meeting Held through GoToMeeting and Hosted by Mayor Donald Cuttie.

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

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## **Work Session:**

Council Members Present – During Virtual Council Work Session: Mayor Cuttie, Vallarie Cuttie, Concetta Amey, Paul Parker

The work session began at 5:30 p.m. with the Mayor and City Council discussing items on the agenda, and ended by 6:00 p.m. followed by the regular monthly council meeting.

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## **Call to Order:**

Mayor Cuttie called the April 21, 2020, 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 Ricky Amey and passed unanimously, to adopt the April meeting agenda.

## **Public Hearing**

## **Routine Business**

## **Approval of Minutes:**

Concetta Amey made a motion, seconded by Vallarie Cuttie and passed unanimously, to approve the March, 2020, minutes as presented.

**Financial Reports:**

Ricky Amey made a motion, seconded by Vallarie Cuttie and passed unanimously, to approve the March, 2020, financial reports for the General and Administrative Fund as presented.

Next, Paul Parker made a motion, seconded by Concetta Amey and passed unanimously, to approve the Water Fund Account financial report as presented.

**Departmental Reports**

**Fire:**

Chief Haney was not available and did not distribute a report for the month of March for the volunteer fire department.

**Library:**

The Librarian, Gerilene Clemons, was not available during the meeting and did not disburse a March report for the library inasmuch as the library has been closed due to the pandemic.

**Water System Report**

The report from James Stephens of SG Technology, LLC, whom maintains the city's water system, mentioned that motor unit at well # 1 was pulled today and that new parts have been ordered and will be installed by the end of next week by Suez. And that while during this time an inspection of the well casing will be performed. He also mentioned that at the Charlie Fuller Road pumping station that the water system has two wells and that one well is running and the other well is a backup. He mentioned that everything was running great with the system.

**Mayor's Report**

**Mayor Cuttie Reported the Following:**

1. That we should all look at the current situation that everyone is going through during this time and the lessons we have learned to be better prepared for the future and a few shortcomings the city experienced.
2. That on March 23, 2020, Meriwether County called a conference call to hold a virtual emergency meeting to address the Covid-19 virus situation and adopted an ordinance mandating certain guidelines for the citizens to follow such as curfew, schools closing, size of crowds, and certain businesses closing. And that the City of Luthersville did not adopt its own ordinance addressing these issues inasmuch as the city does not have a police department to enforce its local ordinances.

3. That during this pandemic, several weakness in the city have come to light such as the means to mass communication with citizens and he mentioned a tool that the county has put into place call Civic Ready and that Meriwether County citizens must sign up to receive emergency alerts. And in example should there be an emergency water situation for Luthersville, that the city could use this tool to send its message to the citizens of Luthersville.

4. That virtual meetings have become the thing of normalcy here lately, and that it is not uncommon to attend 3-4 meeting a day with information concerning programs to assist our local business, and brainstorming about how to repair the damages done to businesses effected by the Covid-19.

5. That currently farmers are throwing out food they cannot sell or transport, while on the other hand, the local food banks have the longest lines recently seen. And that Lone Oak has now established its food bank. And that during this month, Luthersville's Food Bank from Feed the Valley, was assisted in giving out the food to citizens by the Georgia National Guard.

### **Unfinished Business**

#### **1. Update of the City's Ordinances:**

Mayor Cuttie mentioned that these items were included in the packets so that they do not lose our attention to address the items.

#### **Park & Recreation:**

**Tree Ordinance:** Mayor Cuttie mentioned that some of the wording of this ordinance was changed to reflect the city's current situations during the last meeting with Municode.

#### **2. City Owned Property:**

**Bank Building at 2 East Oak Street:** Mayor Cuttie mentioned that the city is a victim of mandated rules concerning the bank's finalization of restoration, and that he has reached out to the DCA through recent email requesting follow up to our current issue and that the DCA is overwhelmed like all government entities handling the Covid-19 dilemmas.

**20 Wortham Road:** Mayor Cuttie mentioned that he included in the packets the 2018 CBIZ appraisal replacement value of this property, and that he should have the current 2020 market place appraisal next week.

**City Hall Complex Septic:** Mayor Cuttie mentioned that the proposal in the packets is for the replacement of broken lids on the septic system at the complex as it is a safety hazard, and for septic system camera probing to have a current map of the field lines. He then called for a motion to accept the proposal from Scogin and Sons, LLC.

Next, Paul Parker made a motion, seconded by Concetta Amey and passed unanimously, for the Mayor to accept the proposal in the amount of \$5,000.

**3. Intergovernmental Agreement Regarding Code Enforcement:** Mayor Cuttie mentioned that agreement was recommended by Kathy Johnson of the Meriwether County Building and Zoning Department to the County Administrator Theron Gay and that it should be on the next county meeting agenda to go before the Board of Commissioners. And then the city will have the ability to have code enforcement for situation that may arise concerning property in the city. In example, several issues have already been addressed in the city by the county code enforcement concerning septic systems, and a stop work order on a resident who did not have a city issued permit. Also, with this agreement, while in the city, code enforcement will have the ability to issue citations.

### **New Business**

**1. Proposed Amendments to the Current SG Technology, LLC, Contract (Water System):**

Mayor Cuttie mentioned in addendum #1, of Mr. Stephens document, that Mr. Stephens would like for all past electrical bills of the water system and treatment chemicals as well as all future electrical bills and chemicals to be exempt from his contract. Then, Mayor Cuttie said that the current contract clearly states that Mr. Stephens is to be responsible for these items, and the answer is no to the past owed electrical reimbursement charges and treatment chemicals, but the future will be considered. And also Mr. Stephens has several increases in various fees concerning the turning off and on of water customers, locates, meter lids and boxes, tap fees, and water meters. Next, Mayor Cuttie called for a motion to accept the proposed addendum.

Finally, Ricky Amey made a motion, seconded by Paul Parker and passed unanimously, to accept the changes requested by SG Technology, LLC, concerning the water system's contractual agreement.

**2. Proposed Contract with Georgia Municipal Association for IT (information technology) in a Box:**

Mayor Cuttie outlined the various components provided by the service of IT in a Box in which some of the items are: backup and recovery of the city's data and email, implementing and maintaining a website for the city that will aid in communication with Luthersville citizens, as well training for all employees to utilize the program. He went on to mention the levels of support offered by Sophicity, with an annual cost for the program of around \$4,400 that works out to be around \$370 monthly. He then called for a motion to accept the proposal for the IT in a Box service.

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

**3. Request for a Business License by Octavia Marshall of 80 Cheryl St.:**

Ms. Marshall was not present at the meeting, however, council understood the type of business she operated which is residential and commercial cleaning services. Then, Concetta Amey made a motion, seconded by Vallarie Cuttie and passed unanimously, for the city to issue an occupational certificate to Ms. Marshall.

**4. First Class Mailing of Water Bills/Statements:**

Mayor Cuttie reviewed the various issues with the current postcard method of mailing out bills and mentioned that there would be a monthly price increase for the envelopes, paper, and postage stamps in an estimated amount of \$ 151. He then called for a motion to start mailing the water bills out first class.

Next, Vallarie Cuttie made a motion, seconded by Paul Parker and passed unanimously.

**5: Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Discussion:**

Mayor Cuttie began by explaining that the 2020 - 2026 TSPLOST and SPLOST would not be allocated to each city in Meriwether County in a one-time lump sum deposit as it has in the past, and that it will be based on the 1% monthly sales tax over the course of the 5 year period and the city has no current experience with this type of funding. And having said that, that the city could borrow money to finance projects that need immediate repair, however, he feels the city should wait given the uncertainty of the economy at this time, and until the city is sure of its monthly/quarterly TSPLOST and SPLOST distribution.

Then, he reviewed the revenue streams by line item and the various expenditure year-to-date at 3/31/2020 period. He mentioned that he would like to increase the expenditure item of public safety to include night coverage. And he mentioned that in May he will schedule a work session to review the FY 2021 budgets. Also, Mayor Cuttie mentioned that the city really needs four different budgets of the following: Operational, Water System, Operation Capital Projects, and Water Capital Projects.

**Public Comments**

Roger Mohlenhoff mentioned that he would like to see an increase in night public safety coverage.

**Council Member Comments**

Councilman Parker mentioned the following:

- 1.) When is the Keep Meriwether Beautiful cleanup day? And Mayor Cuttie said that it had been postponed.
- 2.) If Summer Hill Mobile Home Park could post the different Phases of A, B, & C's lot addresses as the EMS are having trouble finding the correct address. And Mayor Cuttie mentioned that he would contact the owner concerning the matter.

- 3.) That he has never reviewed anything in writing concerning the TSPOST, no document, no letter etc. And Mayor Cuttie mentioned that he would look into the matter.
- 4.) Perhaps the city could enact a no-jet brake ordinance to stop the trucks coming into town all during the night hours or place no-jet brake signage on the highway. And Mayor Cuttie mentioned that he would contact the county for help.

### **Attorney Comments**

City Attorney, Danielle Sewell mentioned that she had been reviewing the water contract with SG Technology.

### **Executive Session**

### **Adjournment:**

There being no further business to discuss, Vallarie Cuttie made a motion, seconded by Ricky Amey, and passed to end the council meeting.