

City of Luthersville

Council Minutes
December 14, 2021

Council Members Present:

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

Work Session:

The work session began at 5:45 p.m. with the Mayor and City Council discussing the items on the agenda, and then the work session ended by 5:55 p.m. followed by the regular monthly council meeting.

Call to Order:

Mayor Cuttie called the December, 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

Vallarie Cuttie made a motion, seconded by Paul Parker, and passed unanimously, to adopt the December 14, 2021, meeting agenda **with one amendment**. The amendment is for the consideration of the TextMyGov program agenda item No. 5.

Public Hearing

Routine Business

Approval of Minutes:

Paul Parker made a motion, seconded by Concetta Amey, and passed unanimously, to approve the December 14, 2021, minutes.

Financial Reports:

Concetta Amey made a motion, seconded by Vallarie Cuttie, and passed unanimously, to approve the November, 2021, General and Administration Fund and Ricky Amey made a motion, seconded by Paul Parker, and passed unanimously, to approve the November, 2021, Water System Fund Financial Reports.

Departmental Reports

Meriwether Fire Chief, Allan Smith arrived late and gave his report during the public comments time of the following:

He mentioned that locally and in the county all is going well. And that Kandy Reeves of Luthersville has taken over the firefighter volunteers of Fire Station II. And that Matt Robinson is handling the training program for the volunteers. He also mentioned that he needed to replace a few of the Christmas stars and swap out two more.

Councilman Parker asked if the dispatch of Fire Station Two's truck had picked up. And Chief Smith said that they receive 18 calls a day throughout the county and that the Luthersville truck is being dispatched more often now. Also, he said that he has two EMS employees working to be certified to drive the fire truck.

Mayor Cuttie reviewed the Court Report for October that recorded 2 code enforcement violations and eight traffic ticket violations.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Cuttie Reported the Following:

1. That he would forgo his report this month to allow two guest speakers that were not on the agenda.
1. Mr. Rick Sweeny, Vice President of Operations for AmWaste trash services will give an update on the current trash pickup schedule for the city.

Mr. Sweeny apologized for the past week's mix-up in trash services. He mentioned that the route day for Luthersville has moved from Tuesday's to now Monday's, and that notification was not sent out insufficient time to the residents.

He said that with the automated trucks the company is now using, that the trash cans need to be placed 3-4 feet away from the curbs and with the handles facing the house.

Mayor Cuttie asked if the overflow from last week's trash will be picked up in addition. And Mr. Sweeny said yes, and in the future as well as long as the overflow is within a reasonable amount.

2. Stacy Hummer a representative of the REBOOT overcoming trauma program, shared a brief presentation about the organization as Mayor Cuttie mentioned that perhaps there were citizens in Luthersville who might like to host the reboot course for trauma from whatever the source, post-traumatic stress, suicide, etc. She further explained how groups are hosted in the evening with a meal being served and child care provided, and afterward the hosts and groups would then break off into smaller groups to work through the course materials, and that it is a six weeks Christian-faith based curriculum program that is free to the public.

Unfinished Business

1. City Limit Signage:

Mayor Cuttie mentioned that several entryway signs into the city have been damaged for a few years and need to be replaced. And in addition, that the signage was to be a collaborative effort with Meriwether County as a part of the comprehensive plan, but the county does not have the funds to take on the project as a part of tourism. And looking at and considering signs like the ones in for Moreland, GA made by a company from Peachtree City cost the town \$6,500. He also said that the signs for the city have not been ignored.

New Business

1. Request for a Business Licenses:

A. Maryjane Scott the Owner of MSaye Photography and to be Located at 2 East Oak Street:

Mrs. Scott was not available for questions and Council Member Vallarie Cuttie is currently concerned with the appearance of the inside of the building.

Next, Paul Parker made a motion, seconded by Vallarie Cuttie and passed unanimously, for the city to grant a business license to Mrs. Scott contingent upon the signing of the lease for the building.

B. John Hall Owner of H & H Auto Sales and to be Located at 149 South Main Street:

Paul Parker made a motion, seconded by Ricky Amey and passed unanimously, for the city to issue a license to Mr. Hall to operate a used auto sale company.

C. Lismery Okelley Owner of Café Con Leche and to be Located at 4 East Oak Street:

Paul Parker made a motion, seconded by Vallarie Cuttie and passed unanimously, for the city to issue a business license to Mrs. Okelly to operate a café/bakery.

2. Speed Sign Quote:

Mayor Cuttie reviewed the speed sign information shared in the council packets and discussed the various types of devices that cities may own to help slow down speeders. After the review, he called for a motion for the city to purchase five of the speed signs.

Vallarie Cuttie made a motion, seconded by Concetta Amey and passed unanimously.

3. Amendment to Ordinance 2005-2:

The 2005 ordinance deals with the material applied to commercial buildings on the Main Streets of having a front-facing brick or stone type of material. And the original ordinance did not have the word commercial in the title. Therefore, the amended ordinance includes the word commercial buildings only and not to be mistaken to include residential properties on the Main Streets.

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

4. Code Violation Citation Amendment:

Mayor Cuttie explained that an additional ordinance was not needed for code enforcement violations of the city, as to the type of delivery for citations to offenders and it is outlined in the city's adopted International Property Maintenance Code Book.

Item No. 5 is an agenda amendment.

5. TextMyGov Program Consideration:

Mayor Cuttie distributed information concerning the program to the city council and then explained that the program is a software app that can be downloaded to citizens' phones that it will enhance communication between the city and its residents. The program is for a two-year contract and will cost \$2,500 per year. And that it would be another tool to use to notify citizens about emergencies and other situations.

Then, Paul Parker made a motion, seconded by Concetta Amey, and passed unanimously for the city to purchase the software program.

Public Comments:

Limited to Three Minutes

1.) Algia Land of 76 South Main Street complained to the Mayor and Council about his property tax increase this year and he was unaware of the zoning from commercial to industrial for the property across the street from his property where the concrete mixing plant is being developed.

Mayor Cuttie mentioned to Mr. Land that the city posted the property with a sign of re-zoning and a public hearing held a council meeting for citizens to voice their concerns and no one voted against the development of the plant.

2.) Melissa Wortham of 9 Wesley Drive voiced her option concerning the TextMyGov program and suggested that the Mayor update the calendar on the city's website to convey happenings and concerns in the city and save the city some money instead of purchasing the software.

3.) County Commissioner Shirley Hines spoke for three minutes about a toy delivery from the Salvation Army to be given this Saturday, December 18th, at the municipal complex, and a visit with Santa Claus. And she mentioned that she working to build a better relationship with the Salvation Army.

Attorney Comments:

Council Member Comments:

Council Member Vallarie Cuttie commented that the city's Christmas Snowflake decorations look old and tired and suggested that next year the city add new decorations.

Executive Session:

Mayor Cuttie called for an executive session to discuss a legal matter.

Then, Vallarie Cuttie made a motion, seconded by Concetta Amey and passed unanimously, to enter into a closed session.

Next, Concetta Amey made a motion, seconded by Ricky Amey and passed unanimously, to exit the closed session and return to the regular council meeting.

Finally, Paul Parker made a motion, seconded by Concetta Amey and passed with one abstention, to offer the city's property at 2 East Street for lease to Maryjane Scott for her photograph business contingent upon that the ADA compliance repairs are made to the building, and then if there is need, the rent can be pro-rated for January, 2022.

Next, Paul Parker made a motion, seconded by Concetta Amey and passed unanimously, approving that the Mayor attest to the validity of the executive session by signing the resolution and affidavit.

Adjournment:

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