



MINUTES
LANDRUM CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, January 14, 2020

Mayor Robert B. Briggs called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. in the Landrum City Hall Council Chambers.

Members Present: Mayor Robert B. Briggs, Council Members: Johnny Carruth, Billy Inman, Daniel Prince, Shannon Dotson, Joyce Whiteside, Tammy Cox

Members Absent: None

The Invocation was given by Mayor Robert Briggs and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Robert Briggs makes a motion to accept the December 2019 Minutes as written. All approved.

The Financial Statements

The financial statements from December 2019 were accepted as written.

Presentations

1. A presentation of the FY2018-2019 Annual Audit by McAbee, Schwartz, Halliday & Co. Karyn Lemon and John Scoggins from the accounting firm addressed the council and explained the cities financial statements for the fiscal year. Each council member was provided a bound copy of the financial statements and communication letter prior to the council meeting. Karyn Lemon asked the council if they had any questions or concerns after reviewing the financial documents. They audited each major fund; she stated that they encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management relating to the performance of the audit. She appreciated all the help that the staff provided in collecting and procuring the data and documents needed to conduct the audit. The City of Landrum ended the FY2018-2019 in a great financial position.
2. Caitlin Cothran, Manager for Collection Programs of the Municipal Association of South Carolina discussed with the Mayor and Council of the State of South Carolina proposed Business License legislation. In the 2019 session of the SC General Assembly bill H4431, a business license tax reform bill, was introduced. This bill would complicate the calculation of the business license fee, allow some businesses to avoid the business license tax altogether, give preferential treatment to businesses located out of town, not to those inside the city limits and the State of SC Secretary of State would be involved in the collection and administering of the license. Local elected officials need to be allowed to make local decisions to meet the needs of their residents and businesses. The MASC is working on behalf of the small municipalities in the state to keep this legislation from passing, it will impact the small municipalities which depend on the business license revenue for a portion their yearly operation revenue. Mrs. Cothran urges the Mayor and Council to contact their state legislators to voice their disagreement with this bill and to urge them to vote against this legislation.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed amendment to the City of Landrum Personnel and Operations Manual, Section 4-1 Annual Leave. Proposal to add Section 4-1-3a as follows: An employee in good standing may receive the value of a one-time cash out of up to 80 hours of accumulated vacation leave provided the employee retains at least 80 hours of vacation during the calendar year, subject to the approval of the City Administrator for the exclusive use of:

- a. Down Payment assistance with a purchase of a home with a Landrum address.
- b. Major medical expenses for the employee, their spouse or children over and above the employee's health care plan satisfied deductible.
- c. Funeral expenses associated with the passing of an immediate family member.

Council Member Billy Inman makes a motion to approve the amendment to the Personnel Manual by adding Section 4-1-3a. Council Member Johnny Carruth 2nd the motion. All voted and approved the addition of Section 4-1-3a to the City of Landrum Personnel and Operations Manual.

Consideration of Appointment to Architectural Design Review Board. The Mayor and Council interviewed and spoke with Georganne Murphy at the Work Session and decided she would be the right candidate for the position. Council Member Johnny Carruth makes a motion to appoint Georganne Murphy to the Architectural Design Review Board, Council Member Billy Inman 2nd the motion. All voted and approved the appointment of Georganne Murphy.

OLD BUSINESS

The council was updated on the closure of Roland Ave from S. Shamrock to S. Church Street during the work session. The council has no action to take at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

Reports

City Administrator- Rich Caplan announces that the Streets Dept assessed the street signs throughout the City and found a lot of them were in bad condition or missing and in need of replacement. The City has ordered 40 new street signs to replace the ones that were considered missing or damaged.

Landrum Area Business Association- Fire Chief Warren Ashmore gave the report, he stated that the December events were successful. \$450 from the Brunch with Santa ticket sales were donated to the Police Department. He reports that the Christmas parade was well attended. The board released the yearly events calendar as follows: St. Patrick's Day Event: March 14, 2020. The Dark Corner Classic Car Show, April 25, 2020. A Taste of Landrum in May. Hogback Mountain Day September 12, 2020. Halloween Stroll, October 31, 2020 and the Christmas Parade and Stroll on December 12, 2020. All dates are subject to change, weather permitting.

Police Department – Police Chief Kris Ahler gave the report. He gave an annual overview report for the year 2019, which covered updates on the PD remodel project, staffing, newly enacted policies, LABA events, MASC compliance, uniform and vest replacement, evidence room, internal affairs, Victim's Advocate, School Resource Officers, ticket report highlights and completed training. The full printed detailed report may be requested from the City Clerk's Office.

Code Enforcement – Ordinance Officer Jack Davis gave a yearly report. He issued 130 total complaints during the year, with 68 coming into compliance, the violation notices were as follows: Violation Letters-94. Tickets-10. Weeds-grass-35. Rubbish-Debris-51. Animal Complaints-10. Vehicle-22. Tree Hazards-1. Structure Problem-9. No Power-Water-1. Sign Ordinance-1. Business License-1. Compliance-68. He also presented a slide show of pictures of properties in direct code violation found during a recent city-wide sweep to locate and

improve the upkeep of city limit property. He stated that most property owners were cooperative and were continuing to attempt to come into compliance with city property codes.

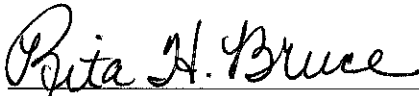
Fire Department – Fire Chief Warren Ashmore gave the report for the month of December, they responded to 53 calls; 5 auto accidents, 1 smoke alarm, 8 trash/woods/grass fires, 1 line down, other 6, other 2, residential structure fires 5, medical 25. He also reported that the Fire Marshall division was actively performing routine inspections on businesses to make sure they were in compliance with updated fire plans. They were also still installing smoke alarms to city residents who requests them.

Landrum Rescue Squad – No one was present

Spartanburg County Report – County Council Member Bob Walker reported for the County, he states that as of January 01, 2020, Spartanburg County employees were to receive raises to bring their pay scale up to surrounding counties, around 3 million dollars in salary increases, without raising the taxes. He also reported on the various activities of the Lions Club during the month of December.

Friends of the Library – Anita Briggs reports on the upcoming events for all ages during the month of January. She announced that the library will be closed Monday, January 20, 2020 in observance of Martin Luther King Day and that on Thursday, January 23, 2020, the preschool story time will be hosted by the Landrum Police Department, “Books with the Blue.”

Regular meeting adjourns at 7:40p.m



Attest: Rita H. Bruce
City Clerk/Treasurer