



Locust City Council Meeting Minutes Joel Huneycutt Community Room

7:00 PM

April 11, 2024

**Mayor
Council Members**

Mayor Steve Huber
Mayor Pro-Tem Larry Baucom, Mandy
Watson, Roger Hypes, Harry Fletcher, Mike
Haigler, Barry Sims, and Rusty Efird

1. Call to Order

Mayor Huber called the meeting to order at 7:03pm

2. Presentation of Colors, Prayer

Mayor Huber led in the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the invocation.

3. Adopt Agenda

M/S/A Council Members Harry Fletcher and Larry Baucom (7-0)
Motion to adopt the agenda as presented

4. Minutes - adopt March 9 & 14, 2024.

M/S/A Council Members Harry Fletcher and Larry Baucom (7-0)
Motion to approve minutes from both March 9th and March 14th, 2024 meetings

March 9, 2024 Budget Retreat Minutes

March 14, 2024 Minutes

5. Financial Reports

Heading into the final quarter of the fiscal year, both funds continue to perform well. Revenues in the General Fund exceed expenditures by \$2,200,008.92 (this includes the \$500,000 for the Senior Center that is yet to be

spent). Expenditures exceed revenues in the wastewater fund by \$121,995.86 but the City is still waiting to receive NCDEQ allocated funding to offset the deficit in the wastewater fund.

Financial Summary - March 2024

6. Mayor's Report

Nothing to report at this time

7. Manager's Report

Budget amendments and purchase orders were reviewed. City Manager Cesar Correa stated the City is in need to dispose of 1 (one) vehicle, a 2006 Dodge Magnum, which we would like to take to auction. We also have 2 (two) lawn mowers that are no longer in service. With your permission, we would like to donate these mowers to organizations (as permitted by NC Public Purchasing Laws). We received requests from the athletic department at CC Griffin middle school for the mower to be used by the middle school football program. This will allow the team to mow the field more regularly than the facilities department can currently accommodate. The second request came from former DPW Rocky Hupp who is now working with Sand2 Trade School. This group works with children with incarcerated parents in order to teach them skills and prepare them for success. Thanks to the city staff for all they do.

M/S/A Council Members Larry Baucom and Harry Fletcher (7-0)
Motion to approve purchase orders

M/S/A Council Members Harry Fletcher and Larry Bauom (7-0)
Motion to approve budget amendments

M/S/A Council Members Harry Fletcher and Roger Hypes (7-0)
Motion to approve asset disposal of 2006 Dodge Magnum

M/S/A Council Members Harry Fletcher and Roger Hypes (7-0)
Motion to approve donation of of mowers to CC Griffin Middle School and Sand2 Trade School

Disposal of Obsolete Equipment

8. Administration/HR

Nothing to report at this time

9. Parks

Baseball, softball and soccer are well underway. Had a record number of participants. walking club meets on Monday's at 1:00om. First movie night is Saturday April 20th featuring Moana and the Southside Sea Dancers. Hands on Locust is May 18th. Farmers market will be starting soon. THE dog park is back open after some sewer line installation. We are now accepting applications for the park advisory committee. Park Director Emily Jones has been working with our NCLM consultant for grant writing services. In addition to the PARTF grant, we've identified a second grant. The grant application deadline for both programs is May 1. With your permission, we'd like to continue to work with the consultant who will write, submit, and administer the grant (at no cost to Locust) on our behalf. The [PARTF Grant](#) is a 50% match with a maximum request of \$500,000 and the matching contribution can be either cash (which goes towards a project) or the value of new/existing land. The [Accessible Parks](#) grant has a 20% match with a maximum request of \$500,000. This grant can be used to

build accessible facilities or adapt existing facilities to meet the unique needs of children and veterans with physical and developmental disabilities. Our intent is to apply for this grant, and to use it to resurface the Jeff Shelton Memorial playground. Park Director Emily Jones gave a presentation regarding park needs that fit in the PARTF grant threshold. Identified needs are nature/walking trails, splash pad and pickleball courts. All of these are identified in our recently completed park master plan. Suggestion would be to proceed with the pickleball courts on the existing football fields at the current park. Roughly \$200,000 for complete project for 5 courts. Also included is a presentation identifying opportunities that qualify for the NC Parks and Rec Accessibility Grant that includes replacing the playground equipment that has reached it's lifespan of about 15 years and meets the minimum accessibility bar. Also pour ni place surfacing at a quote of \$215,000 and that does not include removing the old surfacing and equipment. Also the Stanly County Parks and Rec grant is a \$10,000 matching grant to remove and upgrade the small playground at the soccer field.

M/S/A Council Members Harry Fletcher and Barry Sims (7-0)
Motion to adopt and approve the PARTF Resolution applying for the PARTF grant

M/S/A Council Members Harry Fletcher and Barry Sims (7-0)
Motion to approve grant application for the NC Parks and Rec Accessibility grant

M/S/A Council Members Harry Fletcher and Barry Sims (7-0)
Motion to approve grant application for the Stanly County Parks and Rec grant

PARTF Grant Application Resolution

10. Facilities

The City is pleased to share with you the preliminary layout and elevations proposed for the Senior Center. Please know these are not final as we continue to work with architects. We expect to have pricing estimates available in the upcoming weeks, which would allow us to move towards a final design. City Manager Cesar Correa is also scheduled to present this to the West Stanly Senior Center in May. The intent of this brief “presentation” is for you to be aware of the dimension (more than twice the current facility) and provide any comments you may want to share on the elevations. Please remember that the layout has been prepared following 2 input sessions with the main stakeholders that have included the West Stanly Senior Center (both patrons and organizers), Stanly County Senior Services, Stanly County Family YMCA, Stanly County Nutrition Site, and the Stanly County Library. Following the working sessions, the architects began to work towards schematic design to help understand the use/flexibility of the space we intend to create.

Senior Center Update

11. Public Works

Flow report is steady. Update on the North Basin Sewer Projects. The sewer projects are actively moving forward. All 4 contracts, which comprise the North Basin Improvements, are simultaneously being constructed. Finance Director Stephania Morton and City Manager Cesar Correa have been working with NCDEQ and Stanly County towards receiving reimbursement for the payments made towards contractors. So far, the City has paid nearly \$1M toward the contractors without reimbursement. Please know that we have received confirmation from NCDEQ that all of our information required for reimbursements have been received. NCDEQ review of our information is nearly complete, and it's just a matter of time until we receive reimbursement. I bring this up to your attention because the Wastewater fund is currently showing a deficit. Please know it's not a true indication of the fund's performance so far this year. Once the reimbursements come in, a set of budget

amendments will take place (showing the new revenue as well as the expenditures already incurred) in order to balance the budget and show the true net position of the fund.

Monthly Report - March 2024

Update on North Basin Sewer Projects

12. ABC, Economic Development & Small Business Support

Last month Council allowed us to open the application window for the ABC Board vacancy. The City received 10+ applications for this vacancy. The recommendation is to appoint Richard Burr to fill the vacancy with a 2 year term to expire December 2026.

M/S/A Council Members Rusty Efird and Harry Fletcher (7-0)
Motion to appoint Richard Burr to the ABC Board

ABC Board Appointment

13. Public Safety

Monthly report was reviewed by Council Member Roger Hypes. He also commended the department for all that they do. The Officer of the Month for March was Officer Adam Hartsell. Council Member Roger Hypes also commended Detective Sergeant Brittany Tucker on her 15th anniversary with the Locust Police Department.

Monthly Report - March 2024

14. Planning & Zoning

Monthly report was reviewed by Council Member Michael Haigler. There is an alternate vacancy on the P&Z Board and an application was received by Jeff Claiborne.

M/S/A Council Members Rusty Efird and Harry Fletcher (7-0)
Motion to appoint Jeff Claiborne as an alternate to the P&Z Board.

Monthly Report - March 2024

15. Public Comment Period:

David Lloyd 216 Harrison Lane spoke about the noise from the Brew Room. That it can be heard in the their home over the sound of the TV.

Roland Banks 122 Kingston Drive also spoke about the noise from the Brew Room and the harassment the Lloyd's feel regarding the drunk patrons.

Penny Lloyd 216 Harrison Lane spoke about speeding through town center and what a hazard it is for those walking through town center. She is also requesting speed humps/bumps in town center to get drivers to slow down to prevent a tragic accident.

16. Board Closing Comments

Thank you to those who came out this evening and those who signed up to speak regarding their concerns. There are some good things happening in Locust. Thank you to Mr. Claiborne for his willingness to serve. Council Member Hypes spoke about leaving a legacy and passing a baton to the next ones willing to serve. Sharing several quotes regarding servitude. Thanks to Chief Shew and Parks and Rec Director Emily Jones for all they do. Council Member Larry Baucom spoke proudly about his grandson who is a Ranger in the Army going for Ranger of the year. All members spoke sentiments to Council Member Hypes and well wishes during this difficult time.

17. Executive Session

M/S/A Council Members Harry Fletcher and Larry Baucom (7-0)
Motion to enter into executive session at 8:45pm GS: 143.318.11 (5)

Out of executive session at 9:19pm

18. Adjourn

M/S/A Council Members Harry Fletcher and Rusty Efird (7-0)
Motion to adjourn at 9:19pm

Amy Furr, City Clerk

Stephen Huber, Mayor