



CITY OF LAVONIA COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING – MINUTES

NOVEMBER 4, 2024

5:30 PM

Present: Mayor Courtney Umbehant
Councilman - Eddie Floyd
Councilman - Michael Schulman
Councilman - Jeremy Madden
Councilman - Andrew Murphy

Media: Charlie Eavenson – Franklin County Citizen
M.J. Kneiser - WLHR

Staff: City Manager - Charles Cawthon
Asst. City Manager – Daniel Carson
City Clerk – Angela V. Greer
Police Chief – Shane Edmisten
DDA – Barbara Busby
Mainstreet - Ashley Rose Dodd

Attendance: LaNora Andrews, LaDonna Andrews, Eddie and Helen Bowman, Thurley Mangrum, Joe Harden, Sarah Young, Charlie and Shelly Jordan, Martin Eckles, Sr., Robert Wilkinson, Susan Blakely, and Randell Young.

Item 1. Call to Order
Mayor Courtney Umbehant called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Item 2. Invocation and Pledge of Alliance to the American flag: led by Mayor Umbehant.

Item 3. Consent Agenda Items & Approval of Minutes:
Motion by Jeremy Madden, seconded by Eddie Floyd to approve the Consent Agenda items as follows. Motion carried.

- a) Confirmation of Quorum.
- b) Approval of November Agenda as presented.
- c) Approval of Minutes: October 7, 2024 - Regular Council Meeting, and the October 29, 2024 - Work Session as presented.
- d) Approval of the October 2024 Financial Report as presented.

Item 4. New Alcohol Licenses Approval:
Motion by Eddie Floyd, seconded by Michael Schulman to approve the Alcohol Licenses for the Family Dollar Store – 12280 Augusta Road – Applicant – Stephanie Jones; contingent upon background check approval. Motion carried.

Item 5. DDA BOARD APPOINTMENT:

Motion by Andrew Murphy, seconded by Michael Schulman to approve the appointment of Russell Snow to the Downtown Development Board. Motion carried.

Item 6. Wholesale Water Contract Extensions – Hart and Franklin County:

Motion by Eddie Floyd, seconded by Andrew Murphy to give City Manager Charles Cawthon permission to negotiate and extended a one-year contract with both Hart County and Franklin County for wholesale water to include an increase in CPI rate. Motion carried.

Item 7. FY2025 Budget Review and First Read:

Motion by Michael Schulman, seconded by Jeremy Madden to accept and approve the first reading of the 2025 Budget review and proposal as follows: Motion carried.

<u>FY 2025 Budget</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	
General Fund	\$3,979,600	\$3,566,200	\$3,226,500	110
Confiscated Assets	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	210
Downtown Development	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$43,000	230
Cemetery	\$17,000	\$17,000	\$15,000	235
Hotel Motel	\$600,000	\$580,000	\$555,000	275
2023 SPLOST	\$345,000	\$345,000	\$287,500	324
Water/Sewer	\$3,902,500	\$3,087,000	\$3,178,000	505
Solid Waste	\$675,000	\$540,000	\$445,000	540
Municipal Court	\$375,000	\$250,000	\$165,000	745
	\$9,976,125	\$8,465,200	\$7,920,000	

Item 8: Legal: Backyard Poultry Ordinance:

Motion by Andrew Murphy, seconded by Michael Schulman to approve the second reading and adoption of an ordinance to amend the official code of ordinances of the City of Lavonia to regulate ownership of backyard poultry within the corporate limits of the City of Lavonia, and for other purposes Motion carried.

Item 9. Mayor's Report:

ELECTION DAY IS TOMORROW

As General Election Day approaches tomorrow, it's a pivotal moment for our community and our nation. This day is an opportunity for every eligible citizen to make their voice heard and participate in shaping the future of our society.

Pray for wisdom and discernment for yourself and others, as well as for the leaders who will be elected. Pray for unity and peace in our nation. Your participation in the election is vital.

OCTOBER KINDNESS INITIATIVE

Throughout October, our kindness initiative highlighted Breast Cancer Awareness. We extend our gratitude to St. Mary's Hospital for collaborating with us by providing ribbons for our businesses and organizing an awareness lunch for our staff. It's important to note that 1 in 8 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer, and the impact of cancer extends to the entire family, not just the individual affected. Please remember to encourage others to schedule their yearly mammograms.

NOVEMBER KINDNESS INITIATIVE

November's Kindness Initiative is Shop Small Businesses. We urge everyone to explore the unique treasures found in our local shops. Whether you're searching for the perfect gift, enjoying a meal at a cozy café, or discovering a new favorite venue, shopping small not only supports local entrepreneurs but also fortifies the ties that make our community vibrant and resilient. Be on the lookout for special events, promotions, and stories from our wonderful small businesses throughout the month. Let's celebrate the spirit of community and the importance of choosing local.

UPCOMING CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Christmas is just around the corner! Join us for our annual Christmas events, including the highly anticipated Christmas Parade on Sunday, December 1st, at 3 PM, and our annual Christmas Tree Lighting on Tuesday, December 3rd, from 5-7 PM. This year, the DDA & Main Street are excited that the Coke-Cola semi-truck will be there. Mark your calendars to be part of the festivities.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

As we embrace the spirit of thankfulness this November, we reflect on the many blessings we share in our beloved community. This time of year, offers a perfect opportunity to express our gratitude for the wonderful people, places, and experiences that make our town extraordinary. I'm thankful for citizens that are engaged and employees who work hard to make Lavonia better each day.

Item 10.

City Manager Report:

Mr. Cawthon stated that he was very impressed by the pre-construction meeting with ABM. He said that the Mayor and Council should be applauded for their participation in the project. He said that this would touch every citizen, and they will see the improvements that will be made; this will be a project that we can all be proud of. This includes improvements to the Spring Street Park & Gym, Water Treatment Plant, Library, Train Depot, Police Station, Wastewater Management Facility, Agricultural Building, and the Maintenance Shop. He advised that he would give them more information as he gets it. He said that we would be pleased with the outcome.

Councilman Floyd asked if they had a projected start date. Mr. Cawthon said it was tricky and has not nailed it down yet, but they want all these projects notwithstanding any delays on equipment, done by this time next year. Councilman Floyd said that a lot of this will be seen and a lot of it will not be seen by the public due to the fact it will be cutting our energy costs; it will help the City to save money in the long run. Mr. Cawthon has already asked the company to get their PR arm of the organization to start planning that it was important for the public to know what is going on.

Item 11. Final Comments:

Mayor asked for any final comments. Chief Edmisten stated that Stephanie Jones did pass the background check, so the licenses could be given to Family Dollar Store.

There were no further comments.

Item 12. Adjourn:

Mayor Umbehant adjourned the meeting at 5:47 P.M.

Upcoming Meetings:

November 19, 2024 – Work Session @ 6:00 P.M. - Tentatively

November 25, 2024 - Planning & Zoning @ 5:30 P.M. - Tentatively

December 2, 2024 – City of Lavonia Regular Council Meeting @ 5:30 PM

Courtney Umbehant, Mayor

Angela V. Greer, City Clerk