**Lee Town Council**

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

**June 6, 2023**

Mayor: James Ruzicka

Council President: Joyce Bethea

Council: Ronnie Bass, Edwin McMullen, Erika Robinson, Dianne Beck

Town Manager/Clerk: Sona Hayslett

Attorney: Rhett Bullard

County Commissioner: Brian Williams - Absent

Absent:

Mayor Ruzicka called the meeting to order.

**Amend or Update Agenda**

Council reviewed the agenda. An amendment needs to be made to the agenda to move Item # 1 Town of Lee auditor, Ken Daniels, to present 2021/2022 Audit report, under New Business, to the beginning of the meeting.

**Mayor asked for a vote:**

**Action Item**:

A motion to amend the agenda by moving Item # 1 under New Business to the beginning was made by Councilwoman Beck. Councilman Bass seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

The Minutes for the May 2, 2023 Regular Council Meeting were reviewed by the Council.

**Mayor asked for a vote:**

**Action Item**:

A motion to accept the minutes as printed for the May 2, 2023 Regular Council Meeting was made by Council President Bethea. Councilwoman Robinson seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

**Public Comments:**

Paige Sanders, store manager of Family Dollar, requested an exemption so they can obtain an alcohol license.

**Mayor asked for a vote:**

**Action Item**:

A motion to allow an exemption so that Family Dollar can obtain an alcohol license was made by Councilman McMullen. Councilwoman Beck seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

Amon Doyle expressed his appreciation to the Town for fixing SE Corinth Church road.

**New Business:**

1. Town of Lee auditor, Ken Daniels, presented the 2021/2022 Audit report.

**Old Business:**

1. The Council reviewed the updated list of Past Due accounts.

2. Renee Demps, Lee Planning Consultant, presented her monthly reports.

a. There was discussion on the duties and on the revision of the Contract for Planning Consultant.

**Mayor asked for a vote:**

**Action Item**:

A motion was made by Councilman McMullen to retain Renee Demps, Lee Planning Consultant, with the revision of her Contract. Councilwoman Beck seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

b. There was discussion on the Adoption Process for the Comprehensive Plan Amendment. A date needs to be set for a workshop.

3. Due to the Council retaining Renee Demps as the Lee Planning Consultant, discussion was not needed for the services from North Central Florida Regional Planning Council.

4. Discussion was made on the process of closing or repairing SE Ragans Avenue between SE Seaboard and U.S. Hwy. 90, Seaboard and 90 (Point), and Kent Lane.

**Mayor asked for a vote:**

**Action Item**:

A motion was made by Councilman McMullen to relinquish SE Ragans Avenue back to the property owner. Councilwoman Beck seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

**Mayor asked for a vote:**

**Action Item**:

A motion was made by Councilman Bass to close Seaboard and 90 (Point). Councilwoman Beck seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

**Mayor asked for a vote:**

**Action Item**:

A motion was made by Councilman Bass to close and forfeit Kent Lane back to property owners. Councilwoman Beck seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

**New Business:**

2. There was discussion on setting the 2023 tax rate.

**Mayor asked for a vote:**

**Action Item**:

A motion was made by Councilman McMullen to set the tax rate at 8% for 2023. Councilwoman Bass seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

3. Town Manager, Sona Hayslett, discussed Career Source holding a job fair at the pavilion and the Town Hall on June 16th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for the Truelieve workers.

4. Discussion was made on Florida Rural Water, Sercap, and engineer, Alan Hart, working with the Town on a SEARCH Grant application for the water system improvements.

**Mayor asked for a vote:**

**Action Item**:

A motion was made by Councilman McMullen to proceed to advertise an “Intent to Apply” and a “Request for Engineering Proposals” in the newspaper. Council President Bethea seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

5. Discussion was made on hiring a Public Works Supervisor.

**Fire Department:**

No Report

**Town Manager:**

1. Ethics webinar is scheduled for July 12th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

2. Financial disclosures are due Monday, July 3rd.

Bills:

Utility: **#3464 – 3478; ACH #616 - 619; EFT #0501U**

Utility Deposit Account: **No Activity**

Debt Service Account: **No Activity**

General: **#9541 - 9558; ACH #1587 - 1597; EFT#0501 - 0503**

**Mayor asked for a vote:**

**Action Item**:

A motion to pay the bills was made by Councilman McMullen. Council President Bethea seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

**Attorney Rhett Bullard:** None

**County Commissioner Brian Williams:** Absent

**Council Member Comments**:

Councilman Bass: None

Councilwoman Beck: None

Councilwoman Robinson: None

Council President Bethea: None

Councilman McMullen: None

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

James Ruzicka, Mayor

Attested: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Trisha Burke, Deputy Clerk