**Lee Town Council**

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

**May 7, 2024**

Mayor: James Ruzicka

Council President: Ronnie Bass

Council: Lloyd Burke & Ken Szostek

Town Manager/Clerk: Sona Hayslett

Attorney: Rhett Bullard

County Commissioner: Brian Williams - Absent

Absent: Edwin McMullen & Joyce Bethea

Mayor Ruzicka called the meeting to order.

**Amend or Update Agenda**

Council reviewed the agenda.

**Mayor asked for a vote:**

**Action Item**:

A motion to accept the agenda was made by Councilman Szostek. Councilman Burke seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

The Minutes for the April 2, 2024 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 April 2, 2024 Regular Council Meeting was made by Councilman Burke. Councilman Szostek seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

**Public Comments:**

Nanja Fulks spoke of her support for the music being played at the Edge of Town.

Bill Eckert, owner of Edge of Town and Bull Pen Bar and Grill, feels that the Edge of Town is being harassed because of people complaining about the noise and calling the Sheriff Department.

Dianne Beck, a resident that lives on Peachtree, wanted to clear up some things that are going around town. It is going around that the people complaining about the noise are against the whole thing (Edge of Town). They are not against the whole thing. The complainers just want the noise level to be turned down. Ms. Beck also stated the live bands are continuing to be loud at the Edge of Town even after meetings that she served on as a councilwoman addressing this issue. Ms. Beck was interrupted by someone that did not sign in to speak, and Councilman Burke had to remind him that her time was not up yet.

Council agreed to allow John, owner of Farmstead Creation, to speak since he did not sign in. John spoke of his support for Edge of Town.

Councilman Bass addressed Mr. Eckert, reminding him that we have granted him everything he has approached the council permission for. Mr. Bass also reminded him that the noise has been addressed at previous meetings and all the Council has asked is to lower the music. Mr. Bass played a recording of how loud the music was from inside of his home and stated that the music is still loud. Mr. Bass assured Mr. Eckert that the Council is not trying to shut the business down, they would like the music turned down.

Councilman Szostek explained this has been going on for months and does not understand why the music has to be so loud in such a small area.

Councilman Burke thanked the Public for their opinions. Councilman Burke stated that the Town of Lee has no control over who complains and when complaints are being made regarding the noise, nor has control over who calls the Sheriff Department. Councilman Burke stated that he just wanted to clear those items up and move on with the agenda.

**Old Business:**

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

2. Renee Demps, Lee Planning Consultant, monthly reports were reviewed.

**New Business:**

**Hearing for the First Reading of the Noise Ordinance for the Town of Lee.**

**Mayor asked for a vote:**

**Action Item**:

A motion to open the Public Hearing for the First Reading of the Noise Ordinance for the Town of Lee was made by Councilman Szostek. Councilman Burke seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

There was discussion on changes to be made on the sample Noise Ordinance.

**Public Comments:** Several asked when the public can get a copy of the Noise Ordinance. Rhett Bullard, Attorney for Town of Lee, stated that the procedure is to publish notice at least 10 days prior to the second reading.

The Public Hearing for the First Reading of the Noise Ordinance for the Town of Lee was concluded.

**Mayor asked for a vote:**

**Action Item**:

A motion to close the Public Hearing for the First Reading of the Noise Ordinance for the Town of Lee was made by Councilman Szostek. Councilman Burke seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

1. Discussion was made on the Noise Ordinance for the Town of Lee.

Councilman Szostek suggested changing the time under Section IV number 6 from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m.

**Mayor asked for a vote:**

**Action Item**:

A motion to accept the First Reading of the Noise Ordinance for the Town of Lee with the amendment of the time under Section IV number 6 from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. was made by Councilman Szostek. Councilman Burke seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

After the amendment has been made the Noise Ordinance for the Town of Lee can now move forward to the Second Reading.

**Mayor asked for a vote:**

**Action Item**:

A motion to move forward to the Second Reading with the amended Noise Ordinance for the Town of Lee was made by Councilman Burke. Councilman Szostek seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

2. Discussion was made on setting the 2024 tax rate for this year’s budge at our next meeting. Right now it is at 8.5%.

**Reports:**

**Fire Department:** None

**Town Manager:**

1. Kellie’s Kindergarten is a new tenant for the Business Complex.

2. We are working on a grant for the water.

3. We listed 2 lawn mowers at govdeals.com.

Bills:

Utility: **#3614 – 3628; ACH #665 - 668; EFT #0401U – 0402U**

Utility Deposit Account: **NONE**

Debt Service Account: **NONE**

General: **#9768 - 9788; ACH #1720 - 1731; EFT#0401 – 0413**

**Mayor asked for a vote:**

**Action Item**:

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

**Attorney Rhett Bullard:** None

**County Commissioner Brian Williams:** Absent

**Council Member Comments**:

Council President Bass: See Public Comments

Councilman Burke: See Public Comments

Councilman Szostek: See Public Comments

Councilwoman Bethea: Absent

Councilman McMullen: Absent

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

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James Ruzicka, Mayor

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

Trisha Burke, Deputy Clerk