

LEE COUNTY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING
JUNE 27, 2023, 9:30 A.M.
FAMILY COURT ROOM – SECOND FLOOR OF THE COURTHOUSE

Members present were Travis Windham, Chairman; Gordon Eckley, Vice-Chairman; Keel Addison, member; Charles A. Beasley, member; Jackie Josey, member; Ron Fountain, member. Staff present were Alan Watkins, Administrator; Julie Stokes, Assistant Administrator/Clerk to Council; Paul Fata, Lisa Baker, Sheriff Danny Simon, Teresa Brown, Michael Davis, Brandon Holloman, Arlene Samuel. Others present were Lauren Baker, Kelvin Baker, Rev. Jerome McCray, Hampton Rembert, Shareka Anderson, Bernard McDaniel, Regitt James, Wayne Capell, Joseph Scarborough.

FOIA

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, all individuals requesting notifications were so notified.

PUBLIC HEARING

- A. PROPOSED ZONING MAP AMENDMENT TO REZONE TMP 030-11-00-103 OWNED BY COUSAR MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FROM LIGHT INDUSTRIAL (LI) TO GENERAL COMMERCIAL (GC)

The public hearing was opened at 9:30 a.m. on a motion made by Vice-Chairman Eckley, seconded by Councilperson Josey. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

Mr. Watkins said this was a recommendation from Planning Commission to allow church to do a cemetery.

Public Comment:

Vice-Chairman Eckley said that this property does join Cousar Memorial Presbyterian Church.

No other comments.

The public hearing was closed at 9:32 a.m. on a motion made by Councilman Fountain, seconded by Councilperson Josey. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

B. ORDINANCE TO ADOPT VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL AND STANDARD CODES RELATING TO INSPECTION ACTIVITIES OF THE COUNTY OF LEE, SOUTH CAROLINA AND ENFORCEMENT OF BUILDING PROVISION AS PROVIDED IN SAID CODES

The public hearing was opened at 9:34 a.m. on a motion made by Councilman Beasley, seconded by Vice-Chairman Eckley. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

Mr. Watkins said that any construction requires building codes to build to a certain standard. He said counties are required to update building codes and the County is adopting the building code required under state statute.

Public Comment –

Chairman Windham said this was to protect the general public.

The public hearing was closed at 9:36 a.m. on a motion made by Vice-Chairman Eckley, seconded by Councilman Beasley.

CALLED MEETING
JUNE 27, 2023
FAMILY COURT ROOM – SECOND FLOOR OF THE COURTHOUSE

OPEN MEETING, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Chairman Windham opened the meeting and welcomed everyone and Vice-Chairman Eckley gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

REQUEST FOR MOTION ON ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDED AGENDA

The agenda was approved as written on a motion made by Councilman Beasley, seconded by Councilperson Josey. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

PRESENTATION OF RETIREMENT PLAQUE TO LISA BAKER

Chairman Windham presented retirement plaque to Lisa Baker with 35 years of service. He said that he appreciated the great job she had done for the county.

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION TO HAMPTON REMBERT

Chairman Windham presented the proclamation to Hampton Rembert and congratulated him on his receiving the Folk Art Award. Vice-Chairman Eckley read the proclamation and Mr. Rembert thanked everyone for this recognition.

REQUEST FOR MOTION ON SECOND READING APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE

- A. PROPOSED ZONING MAP AMENDMENT TO REZONE TMP 030-11-00-103 OWNED BY COUSAR MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FROM LIGHT INDUSTRIAL (LI) TO GENERAL COMMERCIAL (GC)

Chairman Windham said the Council just had the public hearing.

Vice-Chairman Eckley made the motion to approve the ordinance for second reading. Councilman Addison seconded the motion. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

- B. ORDINANCE TO ADOPT VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL AND STANDARD CODES RELATING TO INSPECTION ACTIVITIES OF THE COUNTY OF LEE, SOUTH CAROLINA AND ENFORCMENT OF BUILDING PROVISION AS PROVIDED IN SAID CODES

Chairman Windham said the Council just had the public hearing.

Councilman Beasley made the motion to approve for second reading. Councilperson Josey seconded the motion. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

REQUEST FOR MOTION ON THIRD READING APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE

- A. LEE COUNTY BYDGET FY 24

Mr. Watkins said the Lee County Budget FY 24 is \$15,260,299, which is a balanced budget with no tax increase.

He said the jail costs have come down, and the County was able to give cost of living raises with a sliding scale of 9%,with a range of three to nine percent, focusing more on salaries starting at \$28,000. He said this allowed the County to move starting full time salaries above \$30,000, and the part time employees received 5%, or no less than \$10 an hour.

Chairman Windham thanked the Ways and Means and the Administrator and Finance for their hard work in working on the budget.

- B. LEE COUNTY SCHOOL BUDGET FY 24

Councilperson Josey made the motion to approve the Lee County School Budget with a 2 mil increase, making it 148.6. Vice-Chairman Eckley seconded the motion. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

Mr. Watkins said the request was for 7 mil increase. He said that when he looked at overall budget, he said that the school was asking for a \$51,349 increase in ad valorem taxes, and the value of a mil is \$27,000,when you divide the request by the value of a tax 1.9 mils would meet that request.

He said that with the new solar projects, FILO agreements, and the one new industry with \$15 million and 53 jobs and the SAC expansion, and over the next 12-24 months we project an increase of \$225,000 with new revenue coming to the school district. He also said that operating costs should decrease with consolidation of new school.

Chairman Windham said the total budget for the Lee County School Budget FY 24 is 148.6 mills. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

APPROVAL TO AWARD A BID FOR SERVICES WITH ADVANCED POSTING FOR DELINQUENT PROPERTY NOTIFICATION

Mr. Watkins said that the County had split delinquent tax a few years ago, but Treasurer's Office has agreed to combine the two under the Treasurer's Office. He said that all properties going into delinquency will be get noticed and the posting of the properties will be done by a third-party vendor. The vendor will charge \$23.00 to the County per parcel post, record on photo and submit evidence back to Shirley.

Mr. Watkins said that Council is authorizing the bid to be awarded to Advance Posting for \$23.00 per parcel per posting and the cost will be approximately \$16,000 - \$18,000.

Councilman Fountain made the motion to approve for the bid to be awarded to Advance Posting for \$23.00 per parcel. Vice-Chairman Eckley seconded the motion. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

Chairman Windham thanked Mr. Watkins and Mrs. Dixon for working on this.

Chairman Windham said that there would be a swearing in ceremony for Cecil Stevens on Thursday, June 29, 2023 at 3:00.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 10:08 a.m. on a motion made by Vice-Chairman Eckley, seconded by Councilman Addison. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

CHAIRMAN

VICE-CHAIRMAN

CLERK TO COUNCIL

MINUTES APPROVED

