

LEE COUNTY COUNCIL
CALLED MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 19, 2020, 2:00 P.M.
LEE COUNTY COURT HOUSE

“Due to the Corona-COVID 19 crisis, the public was not allowed to attend this meeting. The meeting was conducted by phone and was also broadcast live on Face Book: Lee FD Pio and Lee Fire Rescue”

Chairman Windham was present and did a roll call of Councilmembers and the following was present by phone: Gordon Eckley, Vice-Chairman; Charles A. Beasley, David Addison, Jackie Josey, Johnette Caughman, Ron Fountain. Staff present were Alan Watkins, Julie Stokes, Mike Bedenbaugh, Brandon Holloman, Dwayne Huggins.

FOIA

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

OPEN MEETING AND INVOCATION

Chairman Windham thanked everyone for their participation and Vice-Chairman Eckley gave the invocation.

MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA

Chairman Windham said that all councilmembers had received the agenda. Councilperson Josey made the motion to approve the agenda. Councilman Beasley seconded the motion. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

Chairman Windham said this was more of a preparation in case we have to make stringent move at this time.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE OF COUNTY RESPONSE PLAN

Mr. Watkins said this meeting demonstrates to the citizens that the County is taking this virus seriously. He said the County is doing social distancing, posting updates on Face Book to keep

everyone informed, and has set up a hotline at the Lee County Library where people can call 484-5921 if they questions.

Mr. Watkins said the County is taking action to put contingencies in place if they are necessary. Mr. Watkins said that the County was encouraging people to conduct their business by phone, if possible. He said that people could pay taxes with a credit card and the County was waiving the 1.5% fee. Councilman Addison asked if the deadline to pay taxes had been extended. Mr. Watkins said that it had not been extended because the office was still open. Mr. Watkins did say that the state had extended income taxes to June 1 for state taxes.

EMERGENCY ORDINANCE 5-20 COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY

Mr. Watkins read the Emergency Ordinance declaring a local state of emergency in Lee County, which authorizes the activation of the Lee County Emergency Operations Plan and Procedures.

Councilperson Caughman made the motion to approve the Emergency Ordinance 5-20 State of Emergency. Councilman Beasley seconded the motion. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

Councilman Beasley said that it was self-explanatory and this emergency ordinance was good for 60 days, unless terminated before that time and said it could possibly be extended. He said that May 19 would be the 60 day deadline.

Mr. Watkins thanked all Department Heads and Elected Officials for their hard work and said that everyone has pulled together. He said the County will continue to provide press releases everyday on Face Book to keep everyone informed.

Chairman Windham thanked Alan for staying on top of this situation. He said that our number one responsibility is public safety.

Councilperson Josey thanked Alan and EMS for everything they are doing and encouraged everyone to stay safe.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 2:26 p.m. on a motion made by Councilman Beasley, seconded by Vice-Chairman Eckley.

CHAIRMAN

VICE-CHAIRMAN

CLERK TO COUNCIL

MINUTES APPROVED

