

LEE COUNTY COUNCIL  
TELECONFERENCE COUNCIL UPDATE OF COVID-19 VIRUS EMERGENCY  
MARCH 27, 2020  
LEE COUNTY COURT HOUSE

“Due to the Corona-COVID19 crisis, the public was not allowed to attend this meeting. This 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 were present by phone: Gordon Eckley, Vice-Chairman; Jackie Josey, Charles A. Beasley, David Addison, Johnette Caughman, Ron Fountain. Staff present were Alan Watkins, Julie Stokes, Danny Simon, Mike Bedenbaugh, Dwayne Huggins, Brandon Holloman.

**FOIA**

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

**OPEN MEETING AND INVOCATION**

Chairman Windham opened the meeting and thanked the councilmembers for joining by phone today. Vice-Chairman Eckley gave the invocation.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RECOMMENDED AGENDA**

Councilman Beasley made the motion to approve the agenda as written. Councilman Fountain seconded the motion. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

**UPDATE OF COUNTY OPERATIONAL LEVELS OF OFFICES AND DEPARTMENTS**

Mr. Watkins said that the County is sending out press releases every day and posting them on Face Book through Parks and Rec, county face book, Library, Chamber and Sherriff's Office and many people are sharing the information on their pages as well. Mr. Watkins said that Lee County currently has 2 confirmed cases, of which has remained constant for several days. He said that Kershaw has 70, Sumter has 10, and Darlington has 8.

Mr. Watkins said there is no curfew in place or restriction on travel. He said that gatherings cannot be more than 3 people. He did say that the City of Bishopville has put a curfew in place from 11 p.m. – 6 a.m. He said everyone is practicing social distancing, washing hands, covering your mouth when coughing and avoiding touching your face.

Mr. Watkins said the main symptoms of the virus are fever, shortness of breath, and coughing. If you have these symptoms or have been exposed to someone who has tested positive, you should self isolate.

Mr. Watkins said the county buildings are closed to the general public, however, the county offices are still handling business. He said that a listing of county offices and contact information is being shared. Mr. Watkins also said there is a hotline number, 484-5921, which is accessible Monday through Friday, 9-5 p.m.

He said that he and the Public Safety Leaders have a daily conference call with the Emergency Management staff from 46 counties, along with DHEC, SLED, EMD and Governor's Office.

Mr. Watkins thanked the staff and departments and said they have shown dedication to the county.

Chairman Windham thanked Alan for the great job he has done.

Sheriff Danny Simon said he was checking temperatures as his staff entered the building just to make sure that everyone was safe. He also said that if they see a gathering of three or more people, they will try to break it up and ask them to avoid that if possible

Mike Bedenbaugh said they are working to keep supplies up for everyone.

Dwayne Huggins said we are doing everything we can and we ask that everyone do the same.

Mr. Watkins said that SCDMV is waiving late penalties. He said the Treasurer's Office collects property taxes but cannot waive DMV fees.

Mr. Watkins said that you should have received the 2020 census invitation to complete the census. You can do it online or complete the questionnaire. He said the census is important because of state and federal money. He said that Lee County is getting a good response rate and asked that everyone take five minutes to complete the census.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:56 p.m. on a motion made by Councilperson Josey, seconded by Councilperson Caughman.

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CHAIRMAN

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VICE-CHAIRMAN

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CLERK TO COUNCIL

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MINUTES APPROVED