

**LEE COUNTY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING
JUNE 9, 2020
LEE COUNTY COURT HOUSE**

“Due to the Corona-COVID19 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

Roll call of Councilmembers present: Travis Windham, Chairman; Gordon Eckley, Vice-Chairman; Charles A. Beasley, member; Jackie Josey, member; Johnette Caughman, member; Ron Fountain.

MOTION TO OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

The public hearing was opened at 5:30 p.m. on a motion made by Councilperson Josey, seconded by Councilman Beasley. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

A. LEE COUNTY BUDGET FY 20-21

Mr. Watkins said this was a virtual meeting and had been publicly noticed that anyone who wanted to participate could but no one contacted us about participation. He said anyone could contact the Clerk to Council or you can mail a letter to Council. He said that any comments that we receive will be sent to Council.

Mr. Watkins said there are a number of uncertainties and revenues impacted. The state has carried their budget over. We have decided to carry budget over as well. He said that current expenditures and revenues will roll into FY 21 and we will monitor the finances of the county and if need to amend the budget, we will make amendments as necessary.

Mr. Watkins said there were increases in property insurance and health insurance and workers comp came down but neutral results for all three in the budget.

Mr. Watkins said the revenue for the FY 21 budget will be \$13,721,009 and the expenditures will be \$13,721,009.

There were no questions from the Council. Chairman Windham said this is a common practice by state legislature, and we will amend the budget if we need to.

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The public hearing was closed at 5:36 p.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.

B. LEE COUNTY SCHOOL BUDGET FY 21

The public hearing was opened at 5:37 p.m. on a motion made by Councilperson Josey, seconded by Vice-Chairman Eckley. Chairman Windham called for the vote and motion carried. All voted in favor.

Mr. Watkins said he did reach out to Dr. Andrews via email and letter. He said the school district is also carrying their budget over. He said the mills for the school budget that the county is carrying over is 145.3 mills. Mr. Watkins said the County would revisit this budget.

There were no questions from Council. Mr. Watkins said the public can email or mail comments prior to the third reading on these budgets.

Councilperson Caughman made the motion for second reading approval of the school budget at 145.3 mills. Councilman Beasley seconded the motion. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried.

The public hearing was closed at 5:39 p.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.

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 9, 2020, 5:30 P.M.
LEE COUNTY COURT HOUSE**

FOIA

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

OPEN MEETING AND INVOCATION

Chairman Windham opened the meeting thanked the Council for their participation in this meeting and thanked the public for following the meeting on face book. Vice-Chairman Eckley gave the invocation.

Chairman Windham said that the County had lost one of our own, Mikkos Newman, an investigator with the Sheriff's Department. He said this was a tremendous loss to the Sheriff's office and to the County. His death was caused by COVID19.

REQUEST FOR MOTION TO APPROVE RECOMMENDED AGENDA

Mr. Watkins said the agenda needed to be amended with a deletion of 4A, which was the ordinance to authorize the execution and delivery of a first amendment to Fee Agreement between Lee County and South Atlantic Cannery.

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

REQUEST FOR MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES FROM REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF MAY 12, 2020

Councilman Beasley made the motion to approve the minutes from the meeting of May 12, 2020. Vice-Chairman Eckley seconded the motion. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

REQUEST FOR FIRST READING APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE

4B. AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE NO. 8-19 PUBLIC SAFETY PARCEL FEE ORDINANCE

Mr. Watkins said that Council put this ordinance in place last year to pay for fire staff and the language in this ordinance needs to be amended before second and third reading in reference to the penalty clause. Mr. Watkins said this will be reviewed with Public Safety Committee and Paul Fata and Wayne Capell before the second reading and public hearing.

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

REQUEST FOR MOTION ON SECOND READING APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE

A. LEE COUNTY BUDGET FY 21

Mr. Watkins said the budget figures would be rolled over into the new budget year at \$13,721,009.

Councilperson Josey made the motion to approve the Lee County Budget FY 21 at \$13,721,009 for second reading. Councilman Fountain seconded the motion. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

B. LEE COUNTY SCHOOL BUDGET FY 21

Mr. Watkins said that the budget for the school would be rolled over into next year's budget at 145.3 mills.

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Councilperson Josey made the motion to approve the school budget at 145.3 mills for second reading. Councilperson Caughman 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. REVISION OF MULTI-COUNTY PARK AGREEMENT WITH DARLINGTON COUNTY

Mr. Watkins said the public hearing for this matter was in the last meeting. He said that Darlington County is doing an expansion of an industry in their multi county park. He said that Darlington County will get 99% of FILO and Lee County will get 1% of proceeds.

Vice-Chairman Eckley made the motion to approve the revision of Multi-County Park agreement with Darlington County. Councilman Beasley seconded the motion. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

Chairman Windham said this is regulated by the state Department of Commerce and is a win/win for everyone.

B. FIVE YEAR UPDATE OF THE LEE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Mr. Watkins said a public hearing had been done on this matter and this was up for third reading approval.

Mr. Watkins said this comprehensive plan is a document that all counties are required to have. He said that it shows potential future growth and resources needed for that growth. He said that Santee Lynches COG helped put this together and said this is a great tool to help plan economic development. Mr. Watkins said the full revision is coming in the years ahead.

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

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Mr. Watkins said this a planning document with Santee Lynches and it is a plan to help identify where vulnerable areas are in the event of a disaster. Mr. Watkins read the resolution.

Vice-Chairman Eckley made the motion to approve the Resolution to adopt a Hazard Mitigation Plan. Councilperson Caughman seconded the motion. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Watkins said that County has altered operations plan for the Courthouse. He said the county offices had been closed, but as of yesterday, the county offices reopened, including the Magistrate's office and Sheriff's Office.

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He did say there are safety guidelines in place, i.e., everyone's temperature is taken upon entering the courthouse and people are encouraged to wear a mask. He said the County is still offering a number of services remotely. Some of the offices that are still closed are: Library, Veterans Administration Office, Parks and Rec, which is open to visitors but no rentals or activities.

He said that as of June 9, Lee County has 231 cases with 2 deaths. We are still encouraging residents to practice safety measures and social distancing.

Mr. Watkins said that county is still working on the census promotion and said that census personnel are starting to go out into the community. He said the most recent response rates are: US is 60.7%, SC is 55.3%, Lee County is at 49%. He said that we are partnering with City of Bishopville, Lynchburg and Rural Institute with some advertising that is being paid for with grant funds.

Mr. Watkins also said that Lee County was awarded a Tap grant from SCDOT for \$800,000 to go towards additional sidewalks and lighting out to Exit 116. He said this would encourage people to come off interstate because it will have enhanced lighting.

He said that Public Works was awarded \$100,000 in C Funds and was able to rock 16 roads in Lee County.

Mr. Watkins said that in the last 30 days, the County has lost seven of either current or former employees:

Dennis Johnson, Public Works

Mikkos Newman, Sheriff's Department

Jim Tallon, Lee County Planning Commission and former employee of Sheriff's Department

Bea Praylow, E-911 Dispatch and Sheriff's Department

Daniel Feeney, Sr., Sheriff's Department, retired

Rose Blackwell, former Lee County EMS

Melissa Bradt, wife of Brian Bradt

Mr. Watkins said the County sends out prayers to these families.

Chairman Windham thanked Mr. Watkins for recognizing these people and said they would continue to be in our thoughts and prayers.

Councilman Fountain also thanked Mr. Watkins for recognizing these people.

Councilperson Josey also thanked Administration for working with DHEC to get a testing and also thanked them for doing a telephone blast encouraging COVID testing.

Mr. Watkins said the County had 504 participants tested at Chappell Park. He said that CareSouth are still doing tests and test results are normally back in 24-48 hours at no cost.

Mr. Watkins said that for a county our size the numbers are extremely high and everyone should take this seriously. He said we thanked our public safety people every day for the risk they take on.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 6:11 p.m. on a motion made by Councilman Beasley, seconded by Vice-Chairman Eckley.

CHAIRMAN

VICE-CHAIRMAN

CLERK TO COUNCIL

MINUTES APPROVED