

**LEE COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MEETING
FEBRUARY 9, 2021, 9:30 A.M.
LEE COUNTY COURTHOUSE**

“Due to the Corona-COVID19 Emergency, the public was not allowed to attend this meeting. The meeting was conducted by phone and was also broadcast live on Face Book: Lee County Government.

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

Others present were Alan Watkins, Administrator; Julie Stokes, Assistant Administrator/Clerk to Council; Dwayne Huggins, Paul Fata, Danny Simon.

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 said that he wanted everyone to know that Councilman David Addison had passed away. Chairman Windham gave some personal comments about Councilman Addison and said that he had enjoyed getting to know him and working with him for the past 22 years.

Vice-Chairman Eckley gave the invocation.

REQUEST FOR MOTION ON ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDED AGENDA

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

REQUEST FOR MOTION ON ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 12, 2021

Councilperson Josey made the motion to approve the minutes as mailed. Councilman Fountain seconded the motion. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

REQUEST FOR MOTION ON FIRST READING APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE

A. TEMPORARY CONTRACT BETWEEN LEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND BISHOPVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE SERVICES IN THE CITY

Mr. Watkins said this would be a temporary contract between Lee County Sheriff's Office and City Police Department to provide services. He said the City reached out to us in regards to staffing and said they did not have enough officers and inquired about the Sheriff providing additional services. Mr. Watkins said we submitted a contract to the City for review. The contract said that the Sheriff's Office would run patrol in the City when not on duty in the County and the City would reimburse fuel and hourly pay. He said the County would be in a support role. Mr. Watkins said there would be more information by the second reading.

Councilman Beasley said to make sure Sheriff Simon is on board and Mr. Watkins said that he was.

No other comments from Council.

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

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Watkins said there has been a post holiday spike in COVID cases in January. He did say that the County is seeing a drop in the number of infections and positivity rate. He said that the County was at 200 active cases, and as of January 8, 2021, we were at 101 active cases. He said the positivity rate for the state was 30% and now it is at 7%.

Mr. Watkins encouraged everyone to continue wearing masks and social distancing.

He said that testing sites are still available at DHEC Monday through Friday in which you can register online and CareSouth. There is also testing on Tuesday at Chappell Park, which is a PCR saliva based test.

Mr. Watkins said that he is seeing progress with the COVID vaccines. He said that CareSouth did over 200 yesterday for people 65 and over.

He said the County is planning on a drive-up vaccine event soon at Chappell Park and will be able to provide 400 people with vaccines. He said that as soon as the County has the date, it will be publicly advertised. He did say that people will have to pre-register by calling the number on the flyer.

Mr. Watkins made some comments about Councilman Addison and said that he had really enjoyed working with him. He said that he served as Chairman of the Recreation Committee for most of his time on Council. He also served on Santee Wateree Regional Transportation Authority Board of Directors, the Santee Lynches Council of Government Board of Directors, the Santee Wateree Community Actions Board of Directors, served as Chairman of the Lee County Quality of Life Committee, and was also on Lee County Transportation Board of Directors. Mr. Watkins said that helped to facilitate many of the improvements in the facilities available to county residents in the area of recreation.

He said that he has known Mrs. Betty and the rest of his family for many years and extended his deepest sympathy to each one of them.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. COUNCIL WILL ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION ON CONTRACTUAL MATTER

Council entered Executive Session at 9:48 a.m. on a motion made by Councilman Fountain, seconded by Councilman Beasley.

Council came out of Executive Session at 10:11 a.m. on a motion made by Councilman Beasley, seconded by Councilperson Josey.

Chairman Windham said that no votes were taken.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 a.m. on a motion made by Councilman Fountain, seconded by Councilperson Caughman.

CHAIRMAN

VICE-CHAIRMAN

MINUTES APPROVED

CLERK TO COUNCIL

