

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

Members present were Travis Windham, Chairman; Gordon Eckley (call in); Charles A. Beasley, member; Jackie Josey, member; Johnette Caughman, member; Ron Fountain, member. Staff present were Alan Watkins, Administrator; Julie Stokes, Assistant Administrator/Clerk to Council; Paul Fata. Others present were Traci Watkins, Steve Watkins, Jeff Hamm, Ruby Gibbs, Keel Addison and family, Gee Whetsel.

**FOIA**

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

**OPEN MEETING, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

Chairman Windham opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Councilman Beasley gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**REQUEST FOR MOTION ON RECOMMENDED AGENDA**

Councilperson Josey made the motion to approve the agenda as mailed. Councilman Beasley 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 FEBRUARY 9, 2021**

Councilman Beasley made the motion to approve the minutes of February 9, 2021 as written. Councilman Fountain seconded the motion. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

**PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE HONORING COUNCILMAN DAVID ADDISON**

Chairman Windham presented a plaque honoring Councilman David Addison to his son, Keel Addison and his family for Councilman Addison's service to the county. Chairman Windham said it was an honor and privilege to work with Councilman Addison and said he will be missed.

**PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE TO RETIRING EMPLOYEE**

Chairman Windham presented Traci Watkins with a plaque recognizing her years of service with the Veteran's Affairs Office.

**JEFF HAMM, OF SANTEE WATEREE MENTAL HEALTH, WILL PROVIDE AN UPDATE TO COUNCIL**

Mr. Hamm was present to make Council aware that Lee County Mental Health had done a four year lease on the building that was formerly owned by Dr. Carl Whetsel. He also said that at the end of the four years, there was a possibility of purchasing it.

He said that Lee County Mental Health saw approximately 450 patients last year and thanked Council for their support.

Chairman Windham said that Council is aware of the Mental Health presence here in Lee County and was glad they were able to lease the building.

**REQUEST FOR MOTION ON SECOND 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 that he had spoken with Sheriff Simon, who could not be here because he had a commitment out of town. Mr. Watkins said that Sheriff Simon was in full agreement with the contract. He said that it was up to six months but either party could get out of it with a 10 day notice. He said that the contract referred to the Sheriff's Office providing resources to the City in which the Sheriff's Office would run patrol in the city on their day off. He said the City would pay cost of that employee's salary. He said the contract can be renewed by a vote of council.

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.

**AWARD OF BID FOR PICNIC SHELTER AT LEVY PARK**

Mr. Watkins said this project had been in discussion since before the pandemic. He said it would have expired, but PARD gave a year's extension to complete project. He said the project would entail building a combination picnic shelter to be used by local farmers market.

Mr. Watkins said there were two bids submitted. Mimms Construction was awarded the bid. The bid was for \$47,995 for a 60 x 40 shelter with a sidewalk. The project has to be completed by May 31 and the contractor will start ASAP.

Councilman Beasley made the motion to approve the award of the bid to Mimms Construction for the construction of the picnic shelter at Levy Park. Councilperson Caughman seconded the motion. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

**APPROVAL OF REAPPOINTMENTS TO THE LEE COUNTY DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS BOARD FOR FOUR YEAR TERMS**

- A. REV. EMANUEL SIMON
- B. MS. ARLENE SAMUEL
- C. MR. THADDEUS DICKEY

Councilperson Josey made the motion to approve the reappointments to the Lee County Disabilities and Special Needs Board for four year terms. Councilperson Caughman seconded the motion. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

**APPOINTMENT OF MR. ELIJAH DINKINS TO THE LEE COUNTY DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS BOARD TO FILL A RESIGNED POSITION WHICH WILL EXPIRE IN JUNE 2023**

Councilman Fountain made the motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Elijah Dinkins to the Lee County Disabilities and Special Needs Board to fill a resigned position which will expire in June 2023. Councilman Beasley seconded the motion. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

Mr. Watkins noted that Lee County DSN make recommendations to the Board of DSN.

**APPROVAL TO EXTEND THE EMERGENCY ORDINANCE 5-20 COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY**

Mr. Watkins said this Ordinance was originally done in March 2020 and has been renewed every 60 days since then. Mr. Watkins said the good news is that the numbers are coming down and there are still some restrictions and we are still in a pretty critical time, but we are better and heading in the right direction.

Mr. Watkins said the vaccine rates are going up and said that CARESouth are giving vaccines Monday through Friday by appointment only.

He said the Emergency Ordinance gives the Administrator and Chairman authority to alter the operations of the County if necessary. Mr. Watkins said the Ordinance can be terminated at any time.

Councilperson Josey made the motion to extend the Emergency Ordinance 5-20 Covid-19 State of Emergency for another 60 days. Councilperson Caughman seconded the motion. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **A. HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE**

Councilperson Josey said that seeing Mr. Addison's son made her think that Councilman Addison will truly be missed.

She said that as far as COVID, she is pleased that citizens are getting vaccinated. She encouraged everyone to continue to practice social distancing and wear face masks.

Councilperson Josey said that First Steps received a grant to give out food boxes in the communities every week and approximately 50 to 75 boxes were given out per community or site.

### **B. PLANNING, TAXES & PERSONNEL**

Councilman Beasley said they had no meetings. He said they would be planning some meetings soon to discuss personnel and additional positions at public works. He said that two slots had been filled. Mr. Watkins said they were fully staffed at this time.

### **C. BUILDINGS, LAND & PROPERTY**

Vice-Chairman Eckley is out of town. Mr. Watkins said that work in continuing at site ready pads. He also noted that prices have been finalized for the spec building and construction should start within 60 days.

### **D. PUBLIC SAFETY**

Councilperson Caughman said they had no meetings. She said that Councilman Addison was going to be missed. She said he was a good man to all of us, personally and professionally.

### **E. RECREATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Mr. Watkins said the County decided to move forward with spring baseball. He said that registration should finish up this week for ages 5-12. He also noted that the County will start limited rentals for the summer, starting in May.

### **F. WAYS AND MEANS**

Councilman Fountain said he had no meetings. He said that they will start working on the budget very soon.

### **G. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Watkins said that the Department Heads and Outside Agencies will be scheduling meetings with Ways and Means Committee in April. He said they will meet at Chappell Gym. Mr. Watkins

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said that financial requests are due in two weeks. He said that we still do not understand what the COVID impacts will be in regards to the budget.

He said the CTC Committee met on February 17 and the County requested \$100,000 to rock county roads. He said that public works is working on a list of roads to be rocked.

Mr. Watkins said the Storm Water Committee met and worked on projects and said that \$52,000 had been appropriated for those projects.

Mr. Watkins said that he made a presentation to the Emerging Leaders with the Link and said that 30 students from Lee and Sumter counties participated.

Mr. Watkins said that he virtually attended the Rural Economic Development Summit meeting on March 1 and March 2 and said that broadband was the important focus in SC.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ruby Gibbs said she had obtained a grant to hire someone to call and check in on seniors. She said they had increased food services by 25%.

She thanked Council and Parks and Recreation for their help in giving them a place to put their frozen food. She said they got freezers through a grant and hoped to remodel their kitchen through a grant she submitted.

She thanked Council and Administrator for any help they could give her in repairing the parking lot which has holes in it.

#### **ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:14 a.m. on a motion made by Councilman Beasley, seconded by Councilperson Josey.

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CHAIRMAN

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VICE-CHAIRMAN

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CLERK TO COUNCIL

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MINUTES APPROVED

