

LEE COUNTY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING
MARCH 12, 2024, 9:30 A.M.
MAIN COURT ROOM – SECOND FLOOR OF THE COURTHOUSE

Members present were Travis Windham, Chairman; 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; Teresa Brown, Michael Davis, Kaulonda Lewis. Others present were Roy Dixon, Eddie Durant, Earl Wright.

FOIA

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

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

- A. AN AMENDED AND RESTATED ORDINANCE TO CREATE A JOINT MULTI-COUNTY BUSINESS PARK WITH KERSHAW COUNTY, THIS MULTI-COUNTY BUSINESS PARK TO BE COMPRISED OF PROPERTY LOCATED IN LEE COUNTY AND KERSHAW COUNTY AND ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS OF 1976 4-1-170, ET SEQUITUR, AS AMENDED; TO PROVIDE FOR AN AMENDED WRITTEN AGREEMENT WITH KERSHAW COUNTY PROVIDING FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE PARK, THE PERCENTAGE OF REVENUE APPLICATION, AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF FEES IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES TO THE COUNTIES AND RELEVANT TAXING ENTITIES AND, TO PROVIDE THAT JOBS TAX CREDITS ALLOWED BY LAW BE PROVIDED FOR INDUSTRIES LOCATING IN SAID PARK, AND TO PERMIT A USER FEE IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXATION.

The public hearing was opened at 9:30 a.m. on a motion made by Councilman Beasley, seconded by Councilperson Josey.

Mr. Watkins said that this involved a solar farm development. He said that this was a multi-county park agreement that Kershaw County has with Lee County. Mr. Watkins said that an area has been established within the two counties to be a multi-county park. Lee County

will receive 1% of the tax revenue fees as a result of project locating in Kershaw County, and this will be no cost to Lee County.

Public Comment –

There were no public comments.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

The public hearing was closed at 9:34 on a motion made by Councilperson Josey, seconded by Councilperson Caughman.



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 14, 2024
MAIN COURT ROOM – SECOND FLOOR OF THE COURTHOUSE

OPEN MEETING, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Chairman Windham opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He said that Councilmen Eckley and Addison have conflicts and were unable to attend the meeting.

Councilman Beasley gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

REQUEST FOR MOTION ON ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDED AGENDA

The agenda was approved as mailed by Councilman Beasley, seconded by Councilman Fountain. 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 13, 2024

The minutes were approved as written by Councilman Beasley, seconded by Councilperson Caughman. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

REQUEST FOR MOTION ON ADOPTION OF SECOND READING APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE

- A. AN AMENDED AND RESTATED ORDINANCE TO CREATE A JOINT MULTI-COUNTY BUSINESS PARK WITH KERSHAW COUNTY, THIS MULTI-COUNTY BUSINESS PARK TO BE COMPRISED OF PROPERTY LOCATED IN KERSHAW COUNTY AND LEE COUNTY AND ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS OF 1976, 4-1-170, ET SEQUITIR, AS AMENDED; TO PROVIDE FOR AN AMENDED WRITTEN AGREEMENT WITH KERSHAW COUNTY PROVIDING FOR

THE EXPENSES OF THE PARK, THE PERCENTAGE OF REVENUE APPLICATION, THE EXPENSES OF THE PARK, THE PERCENTAGE OF REVENUE APPLICATION, AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF FEES IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES TO THE COUNTIES AND RELEVANT TAXING ENTITIES; AND TO PROVIDE THAT JOBS TAX CREDITS, ALLOWED BY LAW BE PROVIDED FOR INDUSTRIES LOCATING IN SAID PARK, AND TO PERMIT A USER FEE IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXATION.

Mr. Watkins said that the Council just had the public hearing for this matter. Councilman Fountain 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.

APPROVAL TO APPOINT YANCEY GREEN TO THE LEE COUNTY 250 COMMITTEE TO FILL A VACANCY

Councilman Beasley made the motion to approve the appointment of Yancey Green to the Lee County 250 Committee. Councilperson Josey seconded the motion. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

Chairman Windham also added that the legislature allocated \$8 million for 46 counties to educate their communities about the Revolutionary War. He said that it would be the 250th anniversary would be July 4, 2026. He said that a committee had been formed and had been very active in the process of planning festivities leading up to the 250th anniversary that will take place over the next several years. He said that all 46 counties are participating and are planning events. He said that Lee County 250 Committee is eligible to receive a \$3000 grant and they have decided to update some markers as well as do some special events.

APPROVAL TO REAPPOINT NICOLE SIMON TO THE LEE COUNTY DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS BOARD FOR A FOUR-YEAR TERM

Councilperson Josey made the motion to approve the reappointment of Nicole Simon to the Lee County Disabilities and Special Needs Board. Councilperson Caughman seconded the motion. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE

Councilperson Josey said that everyone needed to stay vigilant regarding the pandemic. She said that DHEC has made some changes to their guidelines.

B. PLANNING, TAXES & PERSONNEL

Councilman Beasley said that his committee did have a meeting last month on updated projects and a personnel matter.

C. BUILDINGS, LAND & PROPERTY

Vice-Chairman Eckley not present.

Mr. Watkins said that the old Bishopville High gym has received a facelift and the floors have been waxed and look great. The bathrooms on the football field have been remodeled and the bathrooms at Chappell Park have been done, also.

He also said that economic development is working with two active prospects.

D. PUBLIC SAFETY

Councilperson Caughman said that her committee had no meetings.

She said that Public Works has been working on county roads in her area.

E. RECREATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Councilman Addison not present.

Mr. Watkins said that Parks and Rec had a successful signup of baseball with 152 kids making up 16 teams of baseball and softball.

The Recreation Department personnel are now able to remotely control the lighting of the park and tennis courts and locking of the doors. They have also installed cameras around the gym and baseball field areas. He also commented that the pickleball and tennis courts are really being used, and the county has received many positive comments.

F. WAYS AND MEANS

Councilman Fountain said that the County would be working on the new budget soon.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Roy Dixon said that a lot of things are happening in Bishopville and said the Council was doing a great job.

He said that he attended a game at Bishopville High School and noticed some stuff under the bleachers that needed to be cleaned out.

Eddie Durant, of Price Lane, said that his road had not been scraped in four months and wanted to know how often the roads are scraped. Mr. Watkins said that it depends on several factors and said the next area to be done would be Highway 15 and across the river.

He said that he asked Jason Prater to do a number of aprons and put a list together so that a contractor could give the County a quote. He said that DOT used to do them but no longer do them.

Roy Dixon asked about Lightwood Knot Road and wanted to know if it was a private road. Mr. Watkins said that Public Works has a list of roads that the County maintains and they only accept a new road if it meets certain criteria; otherwise they don't take on new roads for maintaining.

Earl Wright was present and said that the City tore down houses and after this was done, there were tires that were dumped in the community, and he wanted to know when the tires were going to be moved. Mr. Watkins said that he spoke to the City and was told they were trying to make the contractor do it since he was responsible.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Watkins said that the County has started the VA office upgrades, which will entail paved parking and some remodeling of the office. He said that he hopes the move will take place by Memorial Day.

Mr. Watkins said that the County has had a problem with tire dumping. He said the Public Works has to send tires to recycler and the costs have gone up significantly. He said that if anyone sees someone dumping tires there is a 1-800 number to call and report the person to DHEC.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. COUNCIL WILL ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION ON AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MATTER

The Council entered Executive Session at 10:05 a.m. on a motion made by Councilperson Caughman, seconded by Councilman Beasley.

The Council came out of Executive Session at 10:25 a.m. on a motion made by Councilman Beasley, seconded by Councilperson Josey. Chairman Windham said that an economic development matter was discussed and no votes were taken.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 10:26 on a motion made by Councilman Fountain, seconded by Councilman Beasley.

CHAIRMAN

VICE-CHAIRMAN

CLERK TO COUNCIL

MINUTES APPROVED

