

**LEE COUNTY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING
MARCH 14, 2023
FAMILY COURT ROOM – SECOND FLOOR OF THE COURTHOUSE**

Members present were Travis Windham, Chairman; Gordon Eckley, Vice-Chairman; Keel Addison, member; Charles A. Beasley, member; Johnette Caughman, member; Ron Fountain, member. Councilperson Josey was absent. Staff present were Alan Watkins, Administrator; Julie Stokes, Assistant Administrator/Clerk to Council; Teresa Brown, Brandon Holloman, Michael Davis. Others present were Lindsay Brazell, Taylin Misenheimer, Anna McPherson, Chloe McCutchen, Carrie Gass, Nathaniel Best, Naomi Price, Bridget Kirkland, Ruby Gibbs Williams, Mattie Mack, Gee Whetsel.

FOIA

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

PUBLIC HEARING

**A. AN ORDINANCE TO PURCHASE PROPERTY FOR CONSTRUCTION OF VOLUNTEER
FIRE STATION IN DISTRICT 6**

The public hearing was opened at 9:30 a.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.

Mr. Watkins said this was a project under the 2018 capital penny sales tax. He said that the County was trying to place volunteer fire stations in areas with the most parcels outside a five mile area. He said the residents of the St. Charles Community area will see a reduction in their home insurance as well as have adequate fire protection.

Mr. Watkins said that the County is purchasing road front property in the amount of one acre from Unionville AMEC Church in the amount of \$5,000. He said the County will be responsible for making improvements to the property.

Brandon Holloman said the Fire Department did an analysis of the area and it showed there were 72-100 parcels not currently within five miles of an area fire department. He said there

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will be a few not within the five-mile radius, but auto aid agreements will come in and provide the necessary fire protection.

Brandon Holloman said that everything in County and Lynchburg is a class 5 fire rating, and that is an insurance savings to the resident.

There were no public comments.

The public hearing was closed at 9:38 a.m. on a motion made by Vice-Chairman Eckley, seconded by Councilman Beasley. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

**LEE COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 14, 2023
FAMILY COURT ROOM – SECOND FLOOR OF THE COURTHOUSE**

OPEN MEETING, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Chairman Windham welcomed everyone to the meeting and Vice-Chairman Eckley gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

REQUEST FOR MOTION ON ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDED AGENDA

Councilperson Caughman 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 14, 2023

Councilman Beasley made the motion to approve the minutes from regular meeting of February 14, 2023 as written. Vice-Chairman Eckley seconded the motion. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

PROCLAMATION OF CONGRATULATIONS TO LEE ACADEMY VARSITY CHEERLEADING SQUAD

Chairman Windham recognized Lindsay Brazell, as Lee Academy Cheerleader Sponsor, and Taylin Misenheimer, Anna McPherson, and Chloe McCutchen for their accomplishment in winning the 1A SCISA Cheerleading Championship.

Chairman Windham read the Certificate of Appreciation and thanked them for attending.

REQUEST FOR MOTION ON ADOPTION OF SECOND READING APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE

A. PURCHASE OF PROPERTY FOR CONSTRUCTION OF VOLUNTEER FIRE STATION IN DISTRICT 6

Chairman Windham said that the Council had just had the public hearing regarding this matter.

Councilman Beasley made the motion to approve the purchase of property for construction of volunteer fire station in District 6. Vice-Chairman Eckley seconded the motion. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

KAYLA EDWARDS, OF THE LEE COUNTY LIBRARY, WILL GIVE PRESENTATION ON THE LIBRARY ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

Kayla Edwards showed everyone the new website and also briefed everyone on the new electronic features that the library now has to offer. She said that patrons are now able to download an app that allows you to check out audio books and movies.

She also said they would be offering a summer reading program for kids.

Ruby Gibbs Williams asked if patrons needed a new card if they had not used their card in a while. Ms. Edwards said they would just need to update their card.

Pat Carter asked about the streaming movies feature and asked if she had to have a library card to do this, and Ms. Edwards said that you do have a library card to utilize this feature.

Chairman Windham thanked her for her presentation and encouraged everyone to visit the library.

APPOINTMENT OF KIMBERLY MACK TO THE LEE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION FOR DISTRICT 3

Councilman Addison made the motion to approve Kimberly Mack to the Lee County Planning Commission for District 3. Vice-Chairman Eckley seconded the motion. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

APPOINTMENT OF MEOCEANIA LEWIS-WELLS FOR LIBRARY BOARD FOR DISTRICT 3

Councilman Addison made the motion to approve the appointment of Meoceania Lewis-Wells for Library Board for District 3. Vice-Chairman Eckley seconded the motion. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

Chairman Windham thanked Ms. Carrie Gass for her many years of service on the Library Board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE

Councilperson Josey not here.

B. PLANNING, TAXES & PERSONNEL

Councilman Beasley said that his committee did meet with an Executive Session on a personnel matter. He thanked Brandon Holloman for his hard work for making contact and getting land for District 6 fire station.

C. BUILDINGS, LAND & PROPERTY

Vice-Chairman Eckley said that the sidewalk and lighting project on Highway 15 is almost finished. He said that the County was able to do sidewalks on both sides and said that lighting would be installed to entrances shortly.

He also commented that the City/County Complex renovations were almost finished.

Vice-Chairman Eckley said that EMS project was coming along good and water sprinkler system has been taken care of.

He said that the Link is working with some active prospects on the spec building that looks promising.

Chairman Windham said he was getting questions from people about why sidewalks are being installed on the sides of the interstate.

Vice-Chairman Eckley said that a lot of people walk now and in order to get the funding for this project, the sidewalks and lighting had to be tied together. Chairman Windham added that this was a TAP grant for pedestrian enhancement and the funding had to be used this way. He said this was all state and federal money and no local money was used.

Eckley said that Phase 2 of this project will include lighting on Exit Ramp, comparable to Exit 98.

D. PUBLIC SAFETY

Councilperson Caughman said that she had no meetings. She recognized Brandon Holloman to give a report.

Mr. Holloman said they responded to 70 calls, of which was 18 were fire calls. He also recognized Levi James and said he was in training for additional duties in his job as a fireman.

E. RECREATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Councilman Addison said that he had no meetings. He said that he went by Chappell Park and spoke to Tron Reddick and Angela Simon about the progress being made on the tennis court and pickle ball courts and said they were really excited and looking forward to them being finished.

F. WAYS AND MEANS

Councilman Fountain said that he had no meetings. The Committee should start setting up budget meetings soon to work on the new budget.

G. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Watkins reported that the work on the tennis court is a little behind due to the weather. He said he will be meeting with the contractor and said that 80-90% of the pad is done.

He said that new playground equipment is being installed in six parks with the fall safety rubberized material. Mr. Watkins said this should be done within 30-45 days and also said that a walking trails are being installed in the Springhill and Woodrow areas.

Mr. Watkins said that Hogslat is in the process of locating in Lee County. They agreed to purchase a lot to open a retail business here that sells agricultural equipment for poultry farmers and hog farmers. This business is actually relocating from Hartsville and will be a \$2.5 million investment with 4-5 jobs. He said this has taken a while but the realtor for the company said they are prepared to close. He said this is located on Exit 120, so it is not located in the James Park, but adjacent to it.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mattie Mack – she wanted to advocate for her church in the Cedar Creek community and wanted to know the procedure for getting a walking path. She said the land is not being used and she would like to see a walking path for the residents of this community.

She also asked about using the City/County Complex and wanted to know who to contact. Mr. Watkins said the Chamber was handling the scheduling previously but said that he would have to talk to them to see if they would be willing to still do it. He also noted that this building would be for public business meetings, not anything like family reunions, etc.

Nathaniel Best – thanked the Council for their service. He also wanted to invite the Council to a breakfast that will address their vision for the Fleming Middle School. He said that they would like to use this building to be able to offer social services to residents, almost like a one-stop shop and possible food sharing with health checks.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. COUNCIL WILL ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION ON A LEGAL MATTER

Council entered Executive Session at 10:13 a.m. on a motion made by Vice-Chairman Eckley, seconded by Councilman Addison.

Council came out of Executive Session at 10:43 a.m. on a motion made by Councilman Beasley, seconded by Vice-Chairman Eckley.

Chairman Windham said they Council met on a legal matter and no votes were taken.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 10:44 on a motion made by Vice-Chairman Eckley, seconded by Councilman Addison.

CHAIRMAN

VICE-CHAIRMAN

CLERK TO COUNCIL

MINUTES APPROVED