

LEE COUNTY COUNCIL  
CALLED MEETING  
JUNE 22, 2021, 9:30 A.M.  
FAMILY COURT ROOM – SECOND FLOOR OF THE COURTHOUSE

Members present were Travis Windham, Chairman; Charles A. Beasley, member; Johnette Caughman, member; Ron Fountain, member. Staff present were Alan Watkins, Administrator; Julie Stokes, Assistant Administrator/Clerk to Council; Mike Bedenbaugh; Brandon Holloman, Gee Whetsel; Kareem Wilson.

**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 called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

**REQUEST FOR MOTION ON ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDED AGENDA**

Councilman Beasley made the motion to approve the agenda as written. Councilperson Caughman 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. ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING PURSUANT TO TITLE 12, CHAPTER 44 OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA 1976, AS AMENDED, THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF FEE-IN-LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES AGREEMENTS BY AND BETWEEN THE COUNTY AND CERTAIN COMPANIES, COLLECTIVELY, AS SPONSOR, IDENTIFIED COLLECTIVELY FOR THE TIME BEING AS PROJECT LIME, TO PROVIDE FOR FEE-IN-LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES INCENTIVES AND SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDITS; TO MODIFY A JOINT COUNTY INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS PARK OF LEE AND SUMTER COUNTIES AS TO AS ENLARGE THE PARK; AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS**

Mr. Watkins said this FILO is for a solar project that we have been working on. He said that Vice-Chairman Eckley has a connection to this project in regards to location and Mr. Watkins

read a recusal statement for the record and Eckley will not be participating in any discussion or votes regarding this matter.

Chairman Windham said there will be a public hearing prior to second reading on July 13.

Councilman Beasley made the motion to approve for first reading. Councilman Fountain 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. LEE COUNTY BUDGET FY 22**

Mr. Watkins said the budget being presented today was a balanced budget of \$13,920,584 with millage increase and no additional fees. He said that it did include 1.5 cost of living for employees, with 1% Christmas bonus with some additional salary increases for EMS, Fire and Public Safety.

Mr. Watkins said that public safety has been very competitive, and the County tried to enhance our pay scale to retain our current employees. He also said the Local Government Fund has been fully funded for the upcoming year. Mr. Watkins said the State did include a Rural Stabilization Fund for Rural Counties, and hopefully that will help offset any loss of funds due to our population decrease.

He thanked Ways and Means Committee, finance office and Wayne Capell for their hard work on the budget.

Councilman Fountain made the motion to approve the FY 22 budget for third and final reading. Councilman Beasley seconded the motion. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

### **B. LEE COUNTY SCHOOL BUDGET FY 22**

Mr. Watkins said the Lee County School District did not request a mill increase this year. Mr. Watkins said the school budget was being funded at 145.3 mills, which equates to approximately \$3.7 million.

Councilman Beasley made the motion to approve the Lee County School Budget FY 22 for third and final reading. Councilperson Caughman seconded the motion. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

## **RESOLUTION IDENTIFYING "PROJECT LIME", A PROPOSED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT LOCATED IN THE COUNTY; AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS**

Mr. Watkins said this project was called "Project Lime" and had three different locations with dollars amount of \$23.8 million, \$11.9 million, \$3.1 million, bringing the total investment to \$38 million in solar. He said this would generate 32 megawatts of energy.

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

**AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE EQUIPMENT FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Mr. Watkins said that Mike Bedenbaugh and Brandon Holloman were here to answer any questions. He said that the Planning, Taxes & Personnel Committee and met the recommendation to purchase two new engines and two new tankers to be purchased using funds from the capital penny sales tax.

Chairman Windham said he was thankful for the penny sales tax and said it has enabled the County to be in a place to get this equipment that we would not have been able to do. He also thanked Mike and Brandon for their research. He said the Committee had met and was making this recommendation to Council.

Councilman Beasley made the motion to approve the authorization to purchase equipment for fire department. Councilperson Caughman seconded the motion. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

**ADOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 a.m. on a motion made by Councilman Fountain, seconded by Councilman Beasley.

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CHAIRMAN

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VICE-CHAIRMAN

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CLERK TO COUNCIL

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MINUTES APPROVED